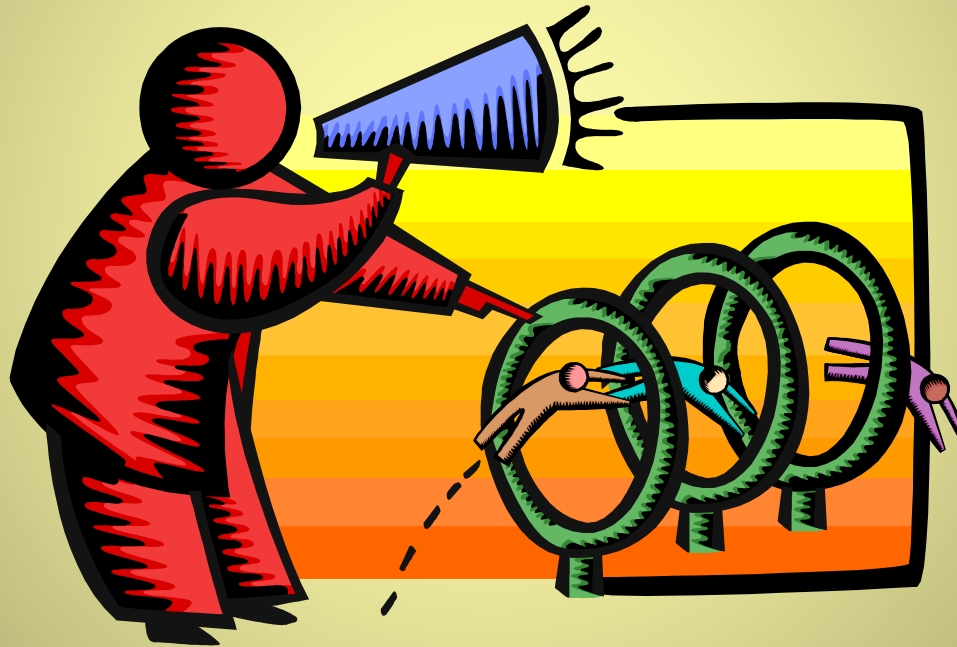


The Role of the Community Supervision Officer in Drug Courts



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Core Competencies

A drug court community supervision officer actively monitors drug court participants outside of the drug court setting including conducting home and job visits. All client contact is documented and visits logged to help encourage positive participant behavior.

The National Drug Court Institute and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals have identified 8 core competencies for the Drug Court community supervisor. The following tasks associated with an operational drug court are intended to be illustrative and not all inclusive.

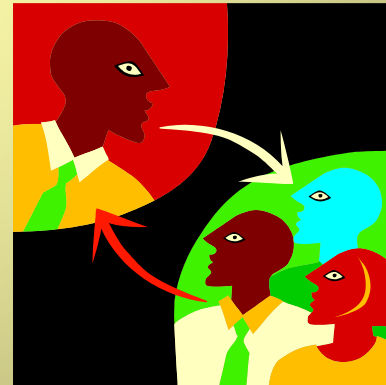
Competency 1: Participates fully as a Drug Court team member, committing him or herself to the program mission & goals and works as a full partner to ensure their success.

- Promptly recommends offenders to drug court when appropriate
- Assists in executing all participant waivers and contracts
- Executes criminogenic risk needs assessment and assessments on-going and ensures that a case plan is developed and modified based upon assessments
- Shares the criminogenic risk needs assessment with the team
- Advocates for prompt incentives and sanctions in response to client behavior
- Maintains up-to-date records of participant performance
- Attends and participates in client staffings by providing progress reports, making recommendations, and identifying supervision and ancillary services needed



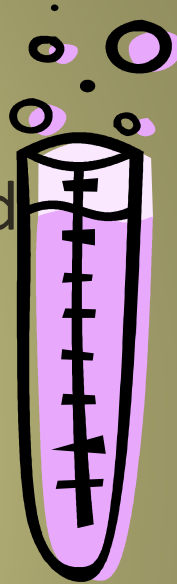
Competency 2: Provides coordinated and comprehensive supervision so as to minimize participant manipulation and splitting of program staff. Develops post program services, client outreach, mentor programs and alumni associations.

- Coordinates continuum of care through regular contact with treatment provider
- Advocates for continuum of care beyond treatment continuum to be inclusive of other community-based sources.



Competency 3: Develops effective measures for drug testing and supervision compliance reporting that provide the team with sufficient and timely information to implement incentives and sanctions systems.

- Provides progress reports prior to client staffings.
- Conducts home and field visits using strength's based approach
- Collects alcohol and drug testing in accordance with policy and reports results to team in a timely fashion
- Recommends appropriate incentives and sanctions based upon information gleamed from supervision
- Continually assesses and reviews supervision and drug testing protocols and terms and conditions of supervision/probation regularly to ensure they are still working for the target population



Competency 4: Coordinates the utilization of community-based services such as health and mental health services, victim's services, housing, entitlements, transportation, education, vocational training, job skills training and placement to provide a strong foundation for recovery.

- Makes on-going referrals for target population that is consistent with the treatment case plan



Competency 5: Is knowledgeable about addiction, alcoholism, and pharmacology generally and applies that knowledge to respond to compliance in a therapeutically appropriate manner.

- Continues to participate in on-going training to remain knowledgeable about addiction, alcoholism, and pharmacology
- Utilizes motivational interviewing techniques when interacting with the target population
- Notes relapse triggers and behaviors in the target population and reports in a timely manner to the team



Competency 6: Is knowledgeable of gender, age and cultural issues that may impact the offender's success.

- Continues to participate in on-going cross training to remain knowledgeable about gender, age and cultural issues of the community and target population



Competency 7: Contributes to the team's efforts in the community education and local resource acquisition.

- Acts as a spokesperson to community leaders and organizations
- Provides statistical information to use for grant writing or other funding acquisition



Competency 8: Contributes to education of peers, colleagues and judiciary in the efficacy of drug courts.

- Acts as a spokesperson to peers, colleagues and the judiciary



Frequently Asked Questions

- How is my role as a probation officer of a drug court participant different than my role as a probation officer of a probationer who is not in drug court?
- What are my overriding concerns as a probation officer for an addict that continues to use and/or commit new crimes?

Resources and Training Opportunities

- National Drug Court Institute: Community Supervision Training: This four-day comprehensive training is designed for community supervision officers (to include probation, parole, pre-trial services, and law enforcement personnel). NDCI uses an expert panel of probation officers and law enforcement officers to deliver the best in team approaches and strategies for building community support. Topics include incentives and sanctions, drug testing protocols, intervention and enforcement strategies and the role of community supervision in drug court. Dana A. Jenkins, Project Director, Phone: 571-384-1868; Email: djenkins@ndci.org.