

DOSAGE PROBATION

Dosage Probation Policy Questions

The following questions reflect critical policy discussion and decision points around which the Dosage Probation Policy Team and Dosage Probation Workgroup will reach agreement during the preparation and planning phases of the dosage probation implementation model. This list is not exhaustive, as your jurisdiction may identify additional policy considerations. Keep in mind the following:

- Dosage probation is a **probation-wide model of adult supervision** for people assessed as having a moderate to high or very high likelihood of recidivism. All people on probation meeting these criteria, regardless of their eligibility for early discharge, receive effective intervention and supervision according to the dosage probation model. All adult probation supervision staff, regardless of their caseload, deliver effective case management and intervention according to the dosage probation model.
- The **dosage probation targets are 100/200/300 hours**. People assessed as having a moderate likelihood of recidivism must complete 100 hours of dosage-eligible interventions to earn early discharge. People assessed as having a moderate/high likelihood of recidivism must complete 200 hours. People assessed as having a high/very high likelihood of recidivism must complete 300 hours.
- **Dosage-eligible interventions are cognitive behavioral and address the five most influential criminogenic needs** that, according to the person's risk/needs assessment, place the person at a higher likelihood of recidivism. The five most influential criminogenic needs are: (1) antisocial cognition, (2) antisocial personality or temperament, (3) procriminal companions, (4) family/marital relationship challenges or stressors, and (5) substance abuse.

Questions Initiated by the Dosage Probation Policy Team

The following questions are in no particular order. The policy team is encouraged to review all questions and prioritize them according to the needs of their jurisdiction. The Dosage Probation Workgroup is encouraged to provide input on these questions.

- Who is not eligible for early discharge through dosage probation?
- When does dosage probation begin?
- Can people eligible for early discharge through dosage probation receive credit for dosage hours completed before sentencing (e.g., through a pretrial program, as recommended by their attorney)?
- How and when will people eligible for early discharge through dosage probation be identified?
- Will placement on dosage probation require a revision to the court's probation order?
- Will placement on dosage probation require a (revised) probation agreement?

DOSAGE PROBATION

- How will the court handle the early discharge of people who have met their dosage target should they have outstanding fines, fees, or restitution?
- What performance measures will the jurisdiction adopt to evaluate whether dosage probation is achieving its desired impacts?
- How will the policy team monitor the performance of dosage probation and develop or refine policy decisions based on the results demonstrated by the data or other information gathered?
- What education and communications strategies will the jurisdiction put in place to ensure accurate, timely, and consistent information and messaging regarding dosage probation?
 - How should system stakeholders (e.g., judges, prosecutors, defenders, representatives of people harmed, law enforcement, and possibly others) receive introductory and ongoing information pertinent to dosage probation?
 - How will the jurisdiction respond to possible critical incidents among people who are on supervision or have been discharged early through dosage probation?
 - Will the public receive information about dosage probation?
 - What feedback loops should be established to ensure all stakeholders have ongoing opportunities to ask questions, share concerns, or offer input after implementation (e.g., a forum to discuss and understand case decisions, etc.)?

Questions Initiated by the Dosage Probation Workgroup

The Dosage Probation Workgroup shares its decisions on the following questions with the Dosage Probation Policy Team for feedback. Questions are in no particular order. The workgroup is encouraged to review all questions and prioritize them according to the needs of their agency and staff.

- When and how will people eligible for early discharge through dosage probation be made aware of their dosage hour expectations?
- How will early discharge be handled for people who meet their dosage target?
- Can people ineligible for early discharge through dosage probation still be considered for early discharge? If so, how will probation ensure that incentive is not taken away from those eligible for early discharge through dosage probation?
- What (if anything) will happen to a person's dosage target if their assessed risk level or their supervision level changes during the course of dosage probation?
- How will prosocial behaviors be effectively addressed for people on dosage probation? Although the research does not provide direction on handling dosage hours in response to prosocial behavior, is it acceptable to decrease hours in response to prosocial behaviors?

DOSAGE PROBATION

- How will noncompliant behaviors be addressed for people on dosage probation? Although the research does not provide direction on handling dosage hours in response to noncompliant behavior, is it acceptable to increase hours in response to noncompliance?
- Through what circumstances (if any) will a person convicted of a new offense while on dosage probation be permitted to continue on dosage probation?
- Will an assessment of behavior change be conducted during a person's term of dosage probation? If so, what behavioral indicators will be utilized? How will the assessment results be used?
- How will the probation department tailor the *Dosage Probation Staff Manual* and *Counting Dosage Manual* templates to meet your jurisdiction's needs?
- What cognitive-behavioral programs currently exist in the community for populations who are justice-involved? What gaps exist? How will probation determine with which community service providers to partner? How will probation support providers in delivering high-fidelity, dosage-eligible programming?
- What in-house cognitive-behavioral programming does probation currently facilitate? What gaps exist? How might probation strengthen its program offerings to ensure people can earn a sufficient number of dosage hours in conjunction with those earned through dosage-eligible programming in the community?
- What refresher training do probation staff need to deliver effective supervision practices through the dosage probation model? What are management's expectations of staff following training in preparation for dosage probation implementation? What additional training do staff need to understand and apply the department's new policies and expectations surrounding dosage probation?
- What continuous quality improvement (CQI) strategies (e.g., booster training, coaching, performance measures, etc.) will probation include in a *Dosage Probation CQI Manual* to ensure staff deliver supervision, programming, and dosage with fidelity?
- What communications strategies will probation put in place to ensure accurate, timely, and consistent information and messaging to all staff regarding dosage probation?
- Does probation have the capacity to support data collection, integrity, analysis, and communication specific to the logic model outcomes and impacts or other measures of interest? How will probation ensure these data needs are addressed? What policies and procedures should be put in place?
- Following implementation, how will probation operate internally and collaboratively with the policy team, other system stakeholders, and community service providers to support the long-term sustainability of dosage probation?