

**THE COURT SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
SUPERVISION AGENCY**

Testimony of
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Before the
District of Columbia Council
Committee on Human Services

***ROUNDTABLE ON JUVENILE ABSCONDENCE
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA***

Monday, June 14, 2010
11:00 AM
John A. Wilson Building
Room 412

Good afternoon Chairperson Wells, members of the Committee and participants at this Roundtable on Juvenile Abscondence. I am Adrienne Poteat, Deputy Director of the Court Services and Community Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA). CSOSA is an independent Federal agency. On any given day, CSOSA is responsible for the management and supervision of more than 16,000 probationers, parolees and supervised releasees in the District of Columbia. This includes approximately 875 under the age of 21, of which 66 are young adults that we jointly supervise with the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. CSOSA receives its probation cases from the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, its parole and supervised release cases from the United States Parole Commission (USPC), and we are also responsible for the supervision of cases that come to us through the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision.

CSOSA is committed to assisting those under supervision to change and to establish and support productive, crime-free lives. To do this, CSOSA has implemented a model supervision program that is based on assessment-driven case planning, evidence-based interventions, offender accountability and a range of treatment and support services that we partner with the community to provide.

Specifically, all individuals under our supervision, including juveniles, undergo an auto-screener which provides our Community Supervision Officers (CSOs) with a comprehensive understanding of the offender's risk and needs and informs the development of the offender's supervision plan.

We have incorporated a system of graduated sanctions to address non-compliant behavior. Sanctions include placing the individual on global positioning system (GPS) monitoring, requiring daily reporting and placing the offender in the halfway back program. Although any non-compliant offender can be subject to both GPS and halfway back placement, we make extensive use of those sanctions for our highest risk offenders to closely monitor their behavior and movement in the community.

High risk offenders whose non-compliance includes substance abuse behavior and who are in danger of being revoked to incarceration can be placed in our 28-day residential assessment and pre-treatment program at the Re-Entry and Sanctions Center.

I would now like to provide an overview of our procedures for responding to clients who fail to report for supervision appointments as directed and are determined to be in a loss of contact status. In addition, I will report on the collaborative work that is underway across the supervision agencies in the District of Columbia to improve the management of juveniles with dual adult and juvenile jackets.

If an offender fails to report for a scheduled office visit, CSOSA's Failure to Report/Loss of Contact policy (#4010) requires their CSO to initiate failure to report procedures no later than the next business day. These procedures include telephoning the offender, running a WALES/NCIC/Triple I check, sending the offender a certified letter instructing him or her to report, and conducting a home visit within five business days of the initial missed appointment. If contact cannot be reestablished within seventeen calendar days of the initial missed appointment, the case shall be designated in loss of contact status on the 18th day. For persons who are found to be in loss of contact status, our policy directs their CSO to implement the following protocol:

For Probation Cases: Within three business days, the CSO submits an Alleged Violation Report (AVR) to the Court requesting the issuance of a warrant.

For Parole and Supervised Release Cases: Within three business days, the CSO submits an AVR recommending the issuance of a warrant to the US Parole Commission (USPC).

While awaiting Judicial or USPC action on the warrant request, efforts are made to contact the offender either through their family or other known associates. CSOs also contact local hospitals and perform monthly criminal history record checks. Upon notification that a warrant has been issued, the CSO follows the provisions of the Warrant

Issued Status Cases policy statement (#4011). This requires them to continue performing criminal record and other checks.

If the offender reports for supervision prior to the issuance of a warrant, order to show cause, notice to appear at a hearing, or other action, the CSO sends the appropriate notice to the Court or the USPC advising of the changed status of the offender. The CSO also implements appropriate sanctions for the failure to report.

We document all efforts to locate the offender and/or to bring him or her into supervision compliance in our case management system.

As you can see from these steps, several District criminal justice agencies are involved in issuing warrants and apprehending offenders who are out of compliance with their conditions of supervision. It is our policy to respond immediately when a loss of contact occurs.

We are presently working with the Pretrial Services Agency (PSA), DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), Court Social Services (CSS) and the DC Superior Court to improve our processes for managing and supervising cases that have both adult and juvenile jackets.

It is our hope that this effort will improve the effectiveness of our continuum of support, structure and supervision of juvenile offenders. Case management teams from each agency have met to discuss strengthening case management protocols. Legal teams from each agency have been meeting to consider the impediments to the sharing of information on juveniles across our systems and determine if these impediments can be overcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today. I am prepared to answer any questions you may have.