



Information Technology Transfer in Drug Courts: Pilot Test of the eCourt System

Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance
to the National Institute on Drug Abuse's CJ-DATS Network

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Drug Court IT Problems & eCourt Solutions

- * **Main Question: Will a MIS assist in implementation of screening tools and other evidence-based practices, and enhance drug courts' ongoing efforts at quality improvement?**
- * **Little Research**
 - **Few studies on MIS implementation in justice and/or treatment agencies**
- * **Long-Standing Problems...**
 - **Automated, systemic client and court-level monitoring absent in many courts**
 - **Data often inadequate for evaluation and federal reporting**
- * **Potential eCourt Solutions...**
 - **Employs national web-based technology platform (WITS)**
 - **Addresses core functionality: assessment and treatment screens + court and case management modules**
 - **Supports interagency usage, data sharing driven by client consent**
 - **Focus on performance measures, built-in client & court reports**

eCourt Screen Example: Court and Other CJ Supervision

https://smart.bgr.umd.edu - eCOURT-Staging - Microsoft Internet Explorer

eCOURT-Staging User: Sherman, Stephen
Loc: Circuit Court, Prince George's County
Client: Kosinski, Rodney | M0101786789KO | Case #: 1

Print Report Print View Logout

Court and other Criminal Justice Supervision/Events for Kosinski, Rodney *Expo*

Date	Event	Type of Contact	Location	Outcome	Actions
2/15/2006	Parole Meeting	Face to Face	Probation Parole Office		Review Delete

Detailed Information *Add New*

Event Date: Staff Name:

Event: Outcome:

Type of Contact:

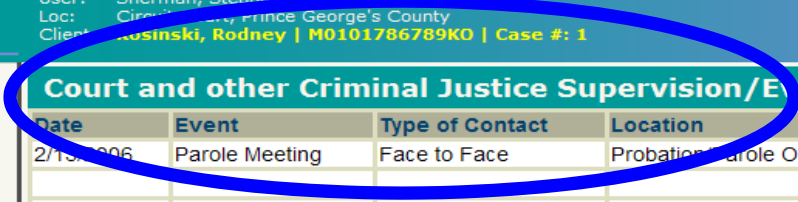
Location:

Signed Note:

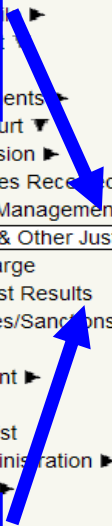
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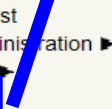
Internet



Court



Drug Test Results



eCourt Screen: Incentives & Sanctions

https://smart.bgr.umd.edu - eCOURT-Staging - Microsoft Internet Explorer

User: Sherman, Stephan
Loc: Prince George's County, Prince George's County
Client: **Kosinski, Rodney | M0101786789KO | Case**

Print Report Print Menu Logout

eCOURT-Staging

- Home Page
- Agency ▶
- Client List ▼
- Client Profile ▶
- Activity List ▼
 - Intake
 - Assessments ▶
 - Drug Court ▶
 - Drug Test Results
 - Incentives/Sanctions**
 - Notes ▶
 - Treatment ▶
 - Consent
- Episode List
- System Administration ▶
- My Settings ▶
- Reports

Incentives / Sanctions for Kosinski, Rodney (Export)

Behavior Date	Positive Behavior	Incentive	Behavior Date	Negative Behavior	Sanction	Actions
2/13/2006	Negative Urine		2/11/2006	Other Special Condition Violations		Review Delete

Graduated Incentives / Sanctions Details [Add New](#)

Positive Behavior Date: 2/13/2006 Positive Behavior: Negative Urine Incentive Date: 2/13/2006

Incentive/Reward: "Offender of the Month" Award, Letter of Support/Recommendation for Client, Other financial reward

Selected Incentive/Reward: [Empty]

Negative Behavior Date: 2/11/2006 Negative Behavior: Other Special Condition Violations Sanction Date: 2/13/2006

Sanctions: Administratively Terminated/Discharged, Area Restrictions Imposed or Extended, Arrest Warrant/Summons Requested

Selected Sanctions: [Empty]

Signed Note: [Greyed out]

Unsigned Note (Work in Progress): [Text area]

Sign Note

Cancel Save Finish

eCourt Screen Example: Court and Other CJ Supervision

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Print Report Print View Logout

Court and other Criminal Justice Supervision/Events for Kosinski, Rodney *Expo*

Date	Event	Type of Contact	Location	Outcome	Actions
2/13/2006	Parole Meeting	Face to Face	Probation/Parole Office		Review Delete

Detailed Information *Add New*

Event Date Staff Name

Event Outcome

Type of Contact

Location

Signed Note:

Unsigned Note (Work in Progress):

javascript:fireStateMachineEvent(null, 'New');

Internet

eCourt Report Example: Client Progress Report

Court Name

Client Progress

Printed 07/11/2008

Client Information

Court Case #		Employment Status	In Skills Development Training
Client Id	M0101749877BL	Name of Employer	abc
Client Name	Blow, Joe	Highest Grade	12/ HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/ GED
Address		Date of Birth	1/1/1974
		Age	34
School/Vocational Training Enrollment	12/ HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/ GED	Drug Court Admission Date	01/07/2008
Community Service Hours Remaining		Date of Last Positive Drug Test	
Current Phase		Phase Start Date	

Treatment Attendance

Start Date	Outcome	CPT Description	Staff	Action
3/27/2008	Attended	DRUG/ALCOHOL EDUCATION	Fogg, Heather	Administrative Agency
3/22/2008	Excused	DISPENSING METHADONE	Fogg, Heather	Administrative Agency
1/7/2008	Attended	INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING	Variables, Usage	Administrative Agency

Drug Test Results

Test Date	Action	Specimen #	Agency
3/21/2008	Refused Test	301	Administrative Agency
1/7/2008	FTA	288	Administrative Agency

Criminal Justice Contacts

Event Date	Outcome	Event Description	Staff	Agency
3/25/2008	Attended	DC Coordinator Meeting	Variables, Usage	Administrative Agency

Case Management Contacts

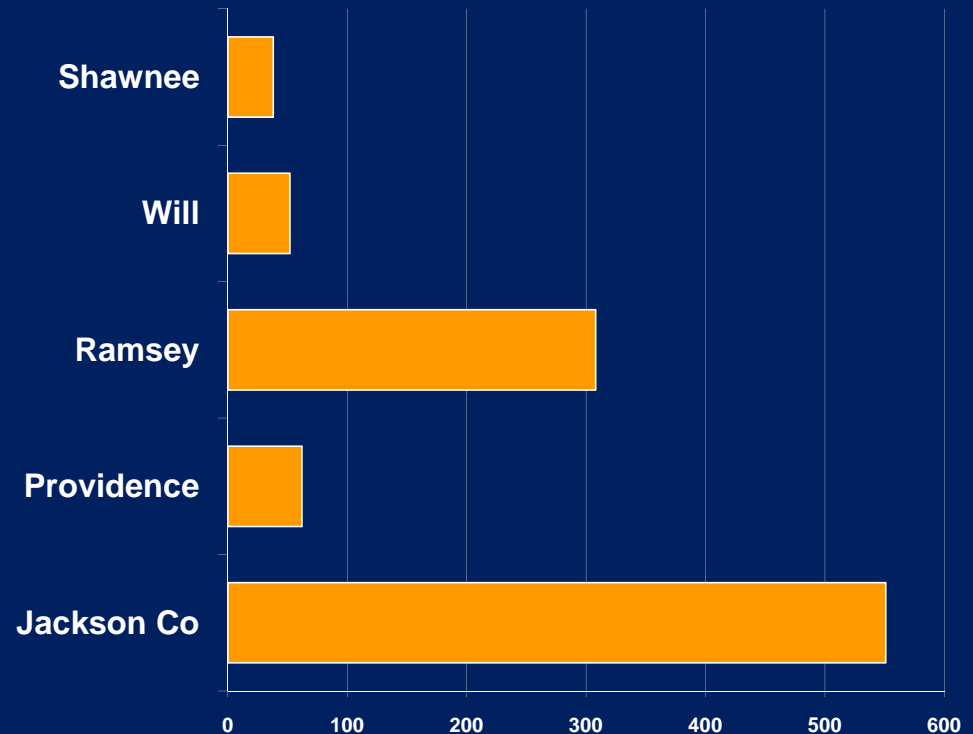
Event Date	Outcome	Event Type	Event Description	Staff	Location	Agency
3/27/2008	Unknown	Referral to Services	Life Skills Training	Variables, Usage	Other Court Office	Administrative Agency
3/21/2008	Attended	Services Attended	Life Skills Training	Variables, Usage	Client's Home	Administrative Agency
1/7/2008		Referral to Services	AA/NA Support Groups	Variables, Usage		Administrative Agency

Pilot Site Implementation

- * **10 drug courts**
 - 2 sites signed the MOU but never implemented system
 - 5 drug courts completed 6-month pilot data collection and are basis of data reported here
 - Jackson Co (MO) largest (340 clients) site
 - Ramsey CO (MN), Providence RI midsize (80-110)
 - Will (IL) & Shawnee Co (KS) small (40-55)
 - 3 ongoing
- * **57 DC team members completed baseline interview**
 - 52% female; 79% white; median of 5 years working in drug court
- * **4 sites will sustain use of eCourt after pilot: Jackson Co & Seminole Co (FL) and 2 others in Maryland; 1 site planned to use eCourt but the court was recently defunded**
- * **System used by all drug court coordinators ; in 5 sites, treatment providers used the system**

Overall Use of eCourt IT System

- * Use varied widely by drug court
- * The Jackson Co court used system at much higher rates than smaller courts; each user averaged 67 "hits" on eCourt per day; total hits=187,222
- * Users at other sites averaged 8 hits per day, ranging from 18 (St. Paul - 15,447 total) to 2 hits (Joliet - 2,851 total)

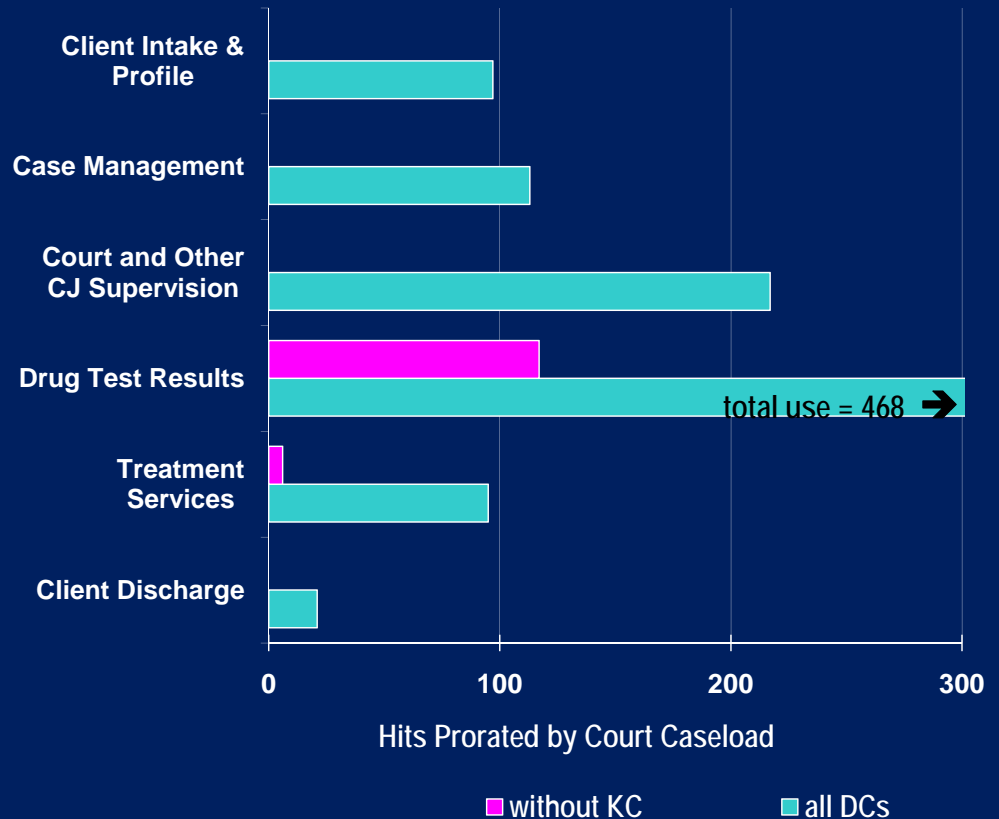


eCourt "Hits"

Prorated for Size of Court Caseload
(6 month pilot phase)

Use of eCourt Screens

- * Heavy use of drug testing screens tied to Jackson Co site
- * Most common use was to track court hearings, sanctions/incentives, case management activities
- * Jackson Co used assessment and treatment screens; others did not tend to do so
- * 6 months to acquaint staff with eCourt system; insufficient time to use of performance reports



eCourt Technology Transfer: Implications

- * Use of eCourt affected by overall funding of DC
- * eCourt use related to size, scale of court
- * More complex, high quality innovations raise expectations & sophistication among adopters
- * Sustained use may require shared favorable perceptions of utility & satisfaction held by users

Next Steps in Research

- Assess effects of booster trainings on use of eCourt performance reports and focus on quality improvement
- Examine how EBPs could be used to advance clinical practice in DC
- Understand how users perception of utility of the system and other factors affects implementation and sustained use