

JSTEPS

**Massachusetts JSTEPS
CARE Program**

CARE Philosophy and Goals

- Public Safety and Rehabilitation Are Complementary Goals
- Help Participants Create and Maintain Sober, Employed and Law Abiding Behavior

CARE Structure

- Weekly Court Sessions
- Timely Sanctions and Rewards
- Close Supervision
- Integrate Services and Positive Encouragement
- Promote Responsibility, Recovery and Public Safety

CARE Program Requirements

- 52 Weeks of Credit
 - On Time For Court
 - Attended All Treatment Sessions
 - Negative Drug Tests
 - Complied with All Probation Requirements
- Complete Each of the Four Phases
- Continuous Sobriety Last 7 Months
- Employed No Later than Week 32

Existing CARE Rewards

- Weekly Applause For Success
- Praise from the Bench
- Phase Certificate/Graduation
 - Less frequent reporting
- Graduation – one year off
- Ultimate Reward
 - Sober, Employed, Law Abiding LifeAfter Care

Existing CARE Sanctions

- Judicial Reprimand
- No Credit for the Week
- Essay, Curfew, Increased Supervision/Reporting
- Demotion
- Community Service
- RRC Placement
- Jail
 - Max 7 Days cumulatively
 - Usually for drug use starting with one day sanction

Implementation Issues

- The Problem with Tangible Rewards and Gift Cards
 - History in Our District
 - Use Risks
 - Discomfort with the nature of the exchange
 - Concern about “Paying Felons to Do What Legally Required To Do”

Implementation Issues - 2

- Points as Program Basis
 - Change is hard
 - Too Many Points/Administrative Difficulties
 - Probation v Court control
 - Point Counting/Gaming System
- JSTEPS as Add On
 - Clear Simple Extra Focus
 - Sobriety
 - Treatment especially self-help meetings

Rewards - Process

- No Public Funds
 - FBA and JSTEPS fund Rewards
- No Officials Handing Out Rewards
 - FBA Attorneys Hand Out Rewards at Court Session
- No Gift Cards
- All Rewards Must Directly Advance Employment, Sobriety or Education

Rewards Approved

- Large
 - Voucher toward tuition or application fees
 - Uniform for work
- Medium
 - Recovery Book
 - Eyeglasses
 - Subway Pass
- Small
 - Calendar or Planner
 - Journal

CARE/JSTEPS Point System

- Drug Tests
 - 1 point per negative non-dilute
 - Points Escalate, 2 for 2nd, 3 for 3rd . . .
- Verified Activities 1 point per event
 - Self Help, Treatment, CARE Session
- Drug Test Bonus Points
 - 10 for 10 consecutive negatives
 - 20 for 20 etc.

Other Rewards Requirements

- Claim Rewards Only at the Big Monthly Court Session
- Participant Must be in CARE
- Participant Must Be in Good Standing on That Day
- Participants Never Lose Rewards

Evaluation To Date

- Participants seem interested and motivated
- Competitive Desire Stronger than Interest in Rewards
- I was surprised at how interested the participants are in their respective and comparative totals, completely apart from the available rewards.
- It also seems to motivate more interest in record keeping for things like AA attendance, which helps Probation
- More Work For Probation

Other Concerns and Benefits

- Competitive Instincts
 - Should We Post Chart Listing Everyone's Points
- Gaming Concerns
- Will Focus on Points
 - Trivialize Change
 - Focus Participants on Sobriety and Self-Help