



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON ALCOHOL MISUSE AND CRIME

Consensus Statements Regarding Sanctions, Monitoring, Accountability and Risk Management for Offenders Who Misuse Alcohol

November 10, 2009 Meeting

Consensus Statements

On November 10, 2009, the National Partnership on Alcohol Misuse and Crime (NPAMC) convened a diverse meeting of leaders and stakeholders to discuss sanctions, monitoring, accountability and risk management for offenders who misuse alcohol. During the meeting, the group identified several areas of agreement. The following statements reflect the sense of the group. They do not represent the views of any particular participants or their associations, organizations, agencies or companies and should not be attributed to them.

Community Corrections and Incarceration

- Incarceration is a form of incapacitation that protects the public during the period of incarceration. When used appropriately, it can be a tool for general and specific deterrence.
- Incarceration alone seldom changes the behavior of offenders¹ with substance misuse issues for the long term. Comprehensive community correction programs that include appropriate sanctioning, supervision, monitoring, behavior modification and treatment can be far more effective at rehabilitating offenders and reducing recidivism than incarceration alone.
- Community corrections works best when offenders are effectively supervised and held accountable for violating conditions of their release and/or supervision with swift, certain and proportionate responses.

Supervision and Monitoring

- Relapse is common for offenders with significant substance misuse issues. Therefore, close and consistent monitoring supported by appropriate sanctioning for violations is critical. It is important that justice officials effectively monitor offenders for compliance with conditions of their release and/or supervision, such as abstinence from alcohol and other non-prescribed drug use.
- Offenders with significant alcohol misuse issues should be required to maintain abstinence from alcohol and other drug use during the entire period of their community supervision.
- Because alcohol is metabolized relatively quickly, offenders with significant alcohol misuse issues should be required to participate in continuous alcohol monitoring programs or be tested often enough to ensure that they cannot drink a significant amount of alcohol without being caught.²

Contingency Management (Responsive Management)

- Justice professionals should abide by the principles of contingency management, which provides that they should reward offenders who follow court orders with praise, reduced supervision, certificates and/or other appropriate benefits and sanction those who violate them.
- Offenders who test positive for alcohol and/or other drug use and/or otherwise violate the conditions of their supervision should face swift, certain and meaningful, but fair and proportional, consequences. Additionally, they should be afforded opportunities to obtain intensified treatment, if appropriate.

Self-Disclosure of Violations of Release or Supervision

- Depending on the nature, timing and frequency of relapse, self-disclosure of proscribed alcohol or drug use in the absence of other new criminal activity should be addressed with treatment responses rather than incarceration or other severe sanctions if public safety is not compromised.

Maximization of Resources

- Probation officials should develop comprehensive coordinated programs that offer an array of services (e.g. treatment, mental health, monitoring) when possible to minimize costs and to better facilitate offender participation.

Alcohol Ignition Interlock Devices and Other Monitoring Technologies

- Ignition interlocks significantly reduce recidivism when installed in offender vehicles. Courts should require DUI offenders to equip their vehicles with ignition interlock devices in accordance with their respective state laws.
- If an offender violates the terms of an interlock restriction by driving an unequipped vehicle, being prevented from starting a vehicle by an interlock device, or tampering with the device, the violation should be reported promptly so that the justice system may respond timely and appropriately.
- Courts should consider using abstinence monitoring technologies for DUI and other offenders with significant alcohol misuse issues to ensure compliance with court ordered conditions, including orders of abstinence.

¹ The term "offenders" refers to adults in the criminal justice system.

² While we aspire to ensure that offenders with alcohol misuse issues refrain from drinking for a period of time (abstinence is addressed in a statement above), current technology does not allow for that.

Participants

Alcohol Monitoring Systems
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Alcohol Monitoring Systems
Alcohol Monitors of Illinois
Alkermes
American Beverage Licensees
American Probation and Parole Association
American Probation and Parole Association
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Century Council
Century Council
Coalition of Ignition Interlock Manufacturers
Distilled Spirits Council
 Draeger Safety Diagnostics
Institute of Police Technology and Management
International Community Corrections Association
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Justice Management Institute
Kane's Beverage News Daily
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Ladybug Teknologies and SipSmart
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
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National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Center for Community Prosecution
National Center for DWI Courts
National Center for State Courts
National Center for Victims of Crimes
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National District Attorneys Association
National Traffic Law Center
National Traffic Law Center
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Bureau of Justice Statistics
DC Court Services and Offender Supervision Agenc
DC Pretrial Justice Institute
DC Pretrial Services Agency
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DC Pretrial Services Agency
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
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National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
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National Institute of Corrections
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