

MEMO

TO: GREENBOOK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FROM: TERRY SCHWARTZ
RE: DVCM SURVEY RESULTS
DATE: APRIL 28, 2006

This memo reports the results of surveys assessing the utilization and impact of the Domestic Violence Case Monitor Position (DVCM). There were four respondent groups: judges, the District Attorney's office, probation officers, and treatment providers. All surveys were anonymous. Because the position has different functions and relevance for the different groups, surveys were customized¹ to capture issues determined to be important for each group. Therefore, only a few inter-group comparisons have been made. Key findings are highlighted below, with reports of the findings from each respondent group following.

Summary of Key Findings

- ❖ Representatives of all respondent groups see a primary impact of the DVCM position being increased offender accountability.
- ❖ Representatives of all respondent groups reported that their practice has changed in a positive way as a result of the DVCM position.
- ❖ All respondent groups rate the sustainability of the position as very important, with many using the word "essential."
- ❖ Judges, Probation Officers, and treatment providers all report positive change on multiple elements since implementation of the position (DAs were not asked this question; see DA section).
- ❖ While the survey asked respondents to consider the position, not an individual, there was considerable support expressed for the person currently in the position from all respondent groups. "Misty Young must stay and grow old in this position."
- ❖ Judges are much more confident that offenders are being monitored appropriately.
- ❖ Judges find it more typical to have timely and adequate information at revocation hearings than before the implementation of the position.
- ❖ Sustainability of the position is important to the Probation Department in terms of enhanced communication and provision of effective supervision by the DVCM resulting in fewer cases ending up with Probation.
- ❖ 100% of the treatment provider respondents report a positive impact of the DVCM. Two major areas were most frequently cited:
 - Increased offender accountability
 - Improved communication between the courts and treatment providers
- ❖ 91% of the treatment providers report that the position has had a positive impact on their practice.

¹ Surveys were designed in conjunction with the Greenbook Judicial Integration Committee; at least one representative of each respondent group gave input into the survey designed for that group.

The Bench

Judge Iuppa distributed nine surveys to the appropriate members of the bench; the LRP received six by return mail, for a response rate of 67%.

The first section of the survey completed by the judges asked them to think about domestic violence cases in their courts first retrospectively to before the DVCM position existed and then since the position has been implemented.

	Prior to DVCM			Since DVCM		
	Always or almost always	Sometimes	Rarely or never	Always or almost always	Sometimes	Rarely or never
Typical to receive written updates on offenders' participation in treatment at regular intervals prior to the end of the two year deferred sentence period	0	1/17%	5/83%	0	2/33%	4/67%
Typical for judge to require appearance to report on participation in treatment at least once prior to end of deferred sentence	0	1/17%	5/83%	0	0	6/100%
Typical to receive reports that include behavioral outcomes as well as attendance and payment data	0	1/17%	5/83%	0	1/17%	5/83%
Confidence that offenders are being closely monitored for compliance	2/33%	0	4/67%	5/83%	1/17%	0
Confidence that offenders are monitored with regard to positive behavioral change in treatment	1/17%	0	4/67% ²	4/67%	1/17%	0
Likely to receive motions for revocation when it becomes known that offenders are not complying with court orders	5/83%	0	1/17%	5/83%	1/17%	0
Typical to have adequate and timely information at revocation hearing	3/50%	2/33%	1/17%	5/83%	1/17%	0
Likely to grant motions for revocation	5/83%	1/17%	0	6/100%	0	0

While the total number of respondents is too small to employ tests of statistical significance between pre/post rankings, these results support the following conclusions.

- Judges are much more confident that offenders are being monitored appropriately.

² When total number of responses does not equal six, the missing responses are "don't know"

- Judges are less likely to require an appearance before the end of the deferred sentence, which may relate to the above finding.
- Judges find it more typical to have timely and adequate information at revocation hearings than before the implementation of the position.

Next, the judges were asked a series of questions asking for their assessment of the impact of the position. The following results were obtained.³

- Four respondents strongly agreed and one agreed that that the DVCM has been a catalyst for positive change in the handling of domestic violence cases in County Court. One respondent disagreed.
- Two respondents strongly agreed and two agreed that their decisions in domestic violence cases are more informed with comprehensive information since implementation of the position. Two disagreed with this position.
- Four respondents strongly agreed and one agreed that domestic violence offenders on deferred sentences are more accountable for complying with court orders with the DVCM in place. One disagreed.
- Three respondents strongly agreed and two agreed that domestic violence offenders on deferred sentences receive appropriate instructions from the DVCM. One disagreed.
- Three respondents strongly agreed and two agreed that domestic violence offenders on deferred sentences receive an appropriate level of monitoring from the DVCM. One had no opinion.
- Four respondents strongly agreed and one agreed that domestic violence offenders on deferred sentences are more likely to comply with court orders with the DVCM position in place. One disagreed.
- Two respondents strongly agreed and three agreed that treatment providers are more accountable for reporting on offender participation in treatment since implementation of the position. One had no opinion.
- One respondent strongly agreed and four agreed that treatment providers are more accountable for providing information on offender behavioral outcomes since the position has been implemented. One had no opinion.

Thus it is seen that, with the exception of the second item, five of six respondents (83%) agree or strongly agree that they have seen positive impact on several dimensions that are important to the bench since the implementation of the DVCM position.

Next the judges were asked to indicate which of the DVCM functions they have utilized and the importance they place on that function. The table on the following page shows the results of that section.

³ Note that one individual disagreed or had no opinion on every item.

Function	Total # Reporting Use	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Little to No Importance
Providing criminal history prior to FastTrack appearance	3	1	1	1	
Attending FastTrack	3	1	2		
Providing instructions to offenders receiving deferred sentences	5	2	3		
Monitoring initial enrollment in treatment	6	5	1		
Monitoring continued enrollment in treatment	6	6			
Issuing warning letters for non-compliance	6	5	1		
Preparing motions for revocation for continued non-compliance	6	6			
Attending revocation hearings	6	3	1	3	
Acting as an "information hub among involved parties"	4	2	2		
Providing information on domestic violence dynamics, self-defending victims and other related issues	3		1	2	
Providing outcomes data for offenders in treatment to the court	3			2	1
Serving as a link to training opportunities	4		2	2	

The following themes emerged in analysis of responses to open-ended questions.

- The increased monitoring, and therefore increased accountability, of offenders is seen as essential.
- The majority of the respondents believe the sustainability of the position is crucial.
- Not every respondent believes the court is the best location for the position; when an alternative was suggested it was Probation.
- The majority of respondents stated that the position has impacted their practice in that they feel better informed. "I have a high degree of confidence in the information supplied and am more willing to act on it."
- The importance of sustaining the position with regard to impact on batterer accountability is highly rated.
- The judges are not sure what impact the position has on victim safety.
- More respondents were interested in maintaining the current responsibilities of the position than adding to them, but more client contact and monitoring of treatment providers were suggested.

District Attorney's Office

When surveying deputy DA's was discussed in Judicial Integration, the representative of that office, Doug Miles, felt that there had been too much turnover in the office to make any type of pre/post assessment. Therefore, these respondents were only asked about current use of the position's functions and importance of those functions and the open-ended questions. At Mr. Miles' suggestion, one additional question was added –"If the DVCM position were eliminated, what do you think the consequences would be?" Mr. Miles provided twelve copies of the survey to the DA's office for distribution; four were returned by direct mail to the LRP for a 33% response rate.

Two respondents did not indicate which of the DVCM's functions they had personally utilized, but one did rank all but two as "essential." S/he ranked "Providing criminal history prior to FastTrack appearance" and "Serving as a link to training opportunities" as "very important." The other respondent in this group did mark the majority as "essential," with the exceptions of providing criminal history prior to FastTrack appearance, providing treatment outcomes data, and serving as a link to training as only "somewhat important."

The ratings of the other two respondents are shown below (only selected functions are included and the ratings "somewhat important" and "little to no importance" were never selected).

Function	Essential	Very Important
Providing criminal history prior to FastTrack appearance	1	
Attending FastTrack	1	1
Providing instructions to offenders receiving deferred sentences	1	
Monitoring initial enrollment in treatment		1
Monitoring continued enrollment in treatment		1
Issuing warning letters for non-compliance		1
Preparing motions for revocation for continued non-compliance		2
Attending revocation hearings	1	1

These respondents assessed the impact of the position as more offenders participating in treatment due to being monitored and providing better information for revocation hearings. The monitoring function is also seen as key, as well as having a designated person to explain requirements to the offenders. One respondent emphasized importance of sustainability of the position with regard to offender accountability – "The judges really listen to Misty's reports." That same respondent indicated that the DVCM has affected his or her practice in that, "I don't just revoke or close a case without talking to Misty." Another stated, "The DVCM has had a large impact on offender accountability." With regard to consequences of losing the position, one stated, "Offenders would slip through the cracks." It is apparent through the responses that at least this group of DA respondents feels that sustaining the position is extremely important with regard to offender accountability.

Probation Officers

Surveys were distributed to appropriate probation officers by P.O. Bridget Collins and were returned to the LRP by mail. Eleven surveys were distributed and nine were returned, for a response rate of 85%.

The first section of the survey completed by the probation officers asked them to think about domestic violence offenders on their caseloads first retrospectively to before the DVCM position existed and then since the position has been implemented. The table on the following page shows the results.

4	Prior to DVCM			Since DVCM		
	Always or almost always	Sometimes	Rarely or never	Always or almost always	Sometimes	Rarely or never
Typical to receive and review updates when receiving a revoked deferred sentence offender.	1/11%	0	4/44%	6/67%	1/11%	0
Typical to have a reliable source of information on offenders' prior patterns of behavior while on the deferred sentence.	1/11%	0	5/56%	6/67%	1/11%	0
Typical to feel immediately prepared to provide effective supervision for offenders.	2/22%	0	4/44%	6/67%	1/11%	0
Typical to receive treatment provider reports that included behavioral outcomes as well as attendance and payment data.	1/11%	0	5/56%	4/44%	2/22%	0

While the total number of respondents is too small to employ tests of statistical significance between pre/post rankings, these results support the following conclusion.

- Probation officers have experienced positive change on each of the elements in the above table.

The next section of the survey asked the probation officers to assess the impact of the position. The following results were obtained (these do not include the two individuals who marked “don’t know,” for every item in this section). Of those who did indicate an opinion about all or most items in this section,

- 71% strongly agreed and 29% agreed that the DVCM has been a catalyst for positive change in the handling of domestic violence cases in County Court.
- 43% strongly agreed and 29% agreed that their supervision of domestic violence cases is informed by more comprehensive information since the implementation of the DVCM position. One response (14%) was a “no opinion” and one (14%) was a “don’t know.”
- 57% strongly agreed and 43% agreed that treatment providers are more accountable for reporting on offender participation in treatment since implementation of the position.
- 57% strongly agreed and 43% agreed that treatment providers are more accountable for providing information regarding offender behavioral outcomes since implementation of the position.
- 57% strongly agreed and 29% agreed that related community task forces and committees have improved capacity to address their tasks effectively with DVCM participation. One respondent (14%) chose “don’t know” for this item.

⁴ When the total number of responses does not equal nine, the missing responses are “don’t know.” Two respondents entered “don’t know” for every question in this section. One respondent entered “don’t know” for the retrospective section, but other values for the post-implementation section.

Next the probation officers were asked to indicate which of the DVCM functions they have utilized and the importance they place on that function. The table below shows the results of that section.

Function	# Reporting Use	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Little to No Importance
Providing criminal history prior to FastTrack appearance	5	1	4	0	0
Attending FastTrack	6	3	3	0	0
Providing instructions to offenders receiving deferred sentences	4	2	2	0	0
Monitoring initial enrollment in treatment	6	4	1	1	0
Monitoring continued enrollment in treatment	5	4	0	1	0
Issuing warning letters for non-compliance	4	2	2	0	0
Preparing motions for revocation for continued non-compliance	6	5	1	0	0
Attending revocation hearings	7	6	1	0	0
Acting as an "information hub among involved parties	7	3	4	0	0
Providing information on domestic violence dynamics, self-defending victims and other related issues	4	0	4	0	0
Providing outcomes data for offenders in treatment to the court	5	2	3	0	0
Serving as a link to training opportunities	6	3	2	0	1
Attendance at monthly probation meetings	8	4	3	0	1
Participation in team orientation	2	2	0	0	0
Other: Providing important information in FastTrack	1	1	0	0	0

These results demonstrate that Probation Officers are users of most of the functions of the DVCM and rate almost all of those functions as essential or very important.

Five of the respondents replied to the open-ended questions; the following themes emerged.

- The primary impact of the DVCM has been in increasing offender accountability. "Holding offenders accountable is very important and that is what Misty does."
- Sustainability of the position is important to the Probation Department in terms of enhanced communication and provision of effective supervision by the DVCM resulting in fewer cases ending up with Probation.
- Those respondents who feel the position has impacted their practice feel better informed and therefore more ready to provide effective supervision right away.
- 100% of these respondents feel sustainability of the position is important for both offender accountability and victim safety.
- Two respondents suggested more staff is needed in this role.

Treatment Providers

Thirty treatment providers were identified through the Colorado list of certified domestic violence treatment providers and were mailed surveys with stamped return envelopes addressed to the LRP. Four were returned unopened marked “addressee unknown,” therefore the total number assumed received is 26. The LRP received 11 surveys, for a response rate of 42%.

The first section of the survey completed by the providers asked them to think about domestic violence offenders on their caseloads first retrospectively to before the DVCM position existed and then since the position has been implemented. The table below shows the results.

5	<u>Prior to DVCM</u>			<u>Since DVCM</u>		
	Always or almost always	Sometimes	Rarely or never	Always or almost always	Sometimes	Rarely or never
Typical to receive information about the deferred sentence.	3/27%	2/18%	5/45%	10/91%	1/9%	0
Typical to receive information about the offender.	1/9%	3/27%	7/64%	10/91%	1/9%	0
Confidant that reports are received, reviewed and processed.	2/18%	2/18%	6/54%	11/100%	0	0
Typical to have contact person for easy connection for information after the referral was received.	2/18%	6/54%	2/18%	11/100%	0	0
Safe resource in place for discussion and venting about stresses of providing offender treatment.	3/27%	3/27%	4/36%	11/100%	0	0
Confident in offender accountability.	4/36%	1/9%	5/45%	10/91%	1/9%	0
Confident that clients have resource person in the system.	2/18%	1/9%	7/64%	11/100%	0	0
Available resource person for information about training and other community events relevant to my work.	4/36%	2/18%	3/27%	11/100%	0	0
Confident that my information is presented to judge when appropriate.	2/18%	3/27%	4/36%	11/100%	0	0

⁵ When the total number of responses does not equal eleven, the missing responses are “don’t know.” One respondent entered “don’t know” for every item in the retrospective section, but other values for the post-implementation section.

While the total number of respondents is too small to employ tests of statistical significance between pre/post rankings, these results support the following conclusions.

- Treatment providers are more likely to receive information about the offender since implementation of the DVCM position.
- Treatment providers are more confident that their reports are received, reviewed, and processed since implementation of the DVCM position.
- Treatment providers see the DVCM as a safe resource.
- There is increased confidence about offender accountability.
- There is increased confidence that offenders have a resource person within the criminal justice system.
- Overall, satisfaction on elements identified as important to treatment providers has increased.

The next section of the survey asked the treatment providers to assess the impact of the position, yielding the following results.

- 91% (10) of the treatment providers strongly agreed that the DVCM has been a catalyst for positive change in the handling of domestic violence cases in County Court.
- 91% (10) of the treatment providers strongly agreed (8) or agreed (2) that their treatment of domestic violence offenders is informed by more comprehensive information since implementation of the DVCM position. One (9%) strongly disagreed.
- Six (54%) strongly agreed that treatment providers are more accountable for reporting on offender participation in treatment since implementation of the DVCM position. Two (18%) agreed, one (9%) strongly disagreed, and two (18%) marked “don’t know.”
- Five (45%) of the respondents strongly agreed that treatment providers are more accountable for reporting on offender behavioral outcomes since implementation of the DVCM position, with two (18%) agreeing. Two (18%) marked “don’t know,” and one (9%) strongly disagreed.
- Six (54%) strongly agreed that community task forces have improved capacity to address their tasks effectively with DVCM participation, with another three (27%) agreeing. One (9%) did not know, and one (9%) strongly disagreed.

Next the treatment providers were asked to indicate which of the DVCM functions they have utilized and the importance they place on that function. The table on the following page shows the results of that section.

Function	# Reporting Use	Essential	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Little to No Importance
Providing criminal history prior to FastTrack appearance	6	6			
Attending FastTrack	7	4		2	
Providing instructions to offenders receiving deferred sentences	9	8	1		
Monitoring initial enrollment in treatment	10	9	1		
Monitoring continued enrollment in treatment	11	10	1		
Issuing warning letters for non-compliance	9	6	3		
Preparing motions for revocation for continued non-compliance	9	6	3		
Attending revocation hearings	5	2	1	2	
Acting as an "information hub among involved parties"	10	8	1	1	
Providing information on domestic violence dynamics, self-defending victims and other related issues	9	7	2		
Providing outcomes data for offenders in treatment to the court	8	8			
Serving as a link to training activities	8	6	2		
Other: attending DV Task Force Meetings	3	2	1		

All respondents replied to four or more of the open-ended questions; the following themes emerged.

- 100% of the respondents report a positive impact of the DVCM in two major areas:
 - Increased offender accountability
 - Improved communication between the courts and treatment providers
- Providers hope that the long-term vision for the position will include maintaining and enhancing all current functions as well as increasing coordination and communication functions.
- 100% of the respondents stated that sustaining the position was important to them as treatment providers. "The support from Misty Young is incredible, effective, and essential."
- 100% of the respondents believe the sustainability of the position is important with regard to both offender accountability and victim safety.
- 91% of the respondents state that the DVCM has had a positive impact on their practice. The following ways in which this has occurred were cited:
 - More available and accurate resource regarding client history and other questions that arise
 - "Look at the list of her functions. Because she does these things, I can put more time into treating the offender."
 - "Having a point person is critical."
 - Helps maintain offender accountability – "I have observed offenders take more responsibility for their actions in a lot less time as a result of the involvement of the DVCM position."
 - Helps bridge gaps with the court.
 - The DVCM is an important hub for communication and information exchange that benefits all parties involved with a case.
- The majority of the respondents would like either an assistant for the current DVCM or at least one more person in the position.