



Creative application of GPS monitoring technology:

Boone County Community Corrections, Indiana

Combining technologies provides effective graduated sanctions and great efficiencies

SYNOPSIS:

- Small agency supervises between 55-60 adults and juveniles with various legal classifications each month
- Depends on technology to help ensure participant success and community safety
- Uses combination of GPS (BluTag) and alcohol/drug (SleepTime) monitoring technology
- Some participants request SleepTime technology to help stay clean and sober
- Approximately 85 percent of participants successfully complete the program
- Extensive support for the program from within the criminal justice community

Because Boone County (Indiana) Community Corrections (BCCC) interfaces with so many aspects of the criminal justice system on a daily basis, technology is a critical component to ensuring an appropriate sanction level for every participant. The small office of five supervising officers works with the Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, Juvenile Justice, Pretrial Services and, occasionally, Parole.

The extensive interaction between so many agencies presents the BCCC with a mixed caseload of adults and juveniles with varying legal classifications. The office averages a monthly caseload of 55-60 adults and juveniles who need a broad array of sanctions to help them successfully complete the terms of supervision.

Combined GPS and alcohol/drug monitoring offers more options

The BCCC, a technology-centric agency, has used Satellite Tracking of People's GPS system to supervise participants for approximately four years. The need for GPS technology became evident when supervising officers were disappointed with the limited information Radio Frequency technology provides. GPS technology was a welcomed and needed tool for supervising officers to establish areas that were off-limits for participants, as well as areas the participants needed to enter and remain for a specified length of time.

About one year before GPS was integrated into the BCCC's suite of supervision tools, the agency began using SleepTime technology for alcohol and drug monitoring. When the BCCC learned the accelerometer in STOP's BluTag GPS monitoring device had the capability of using the SleepTime alcohol/drug monitoring system, supervising officers were excited because it helped simplify some of their responsibilities. The combined technologies have provided more options for participant sanctions and the ability to continue using a single piece of equipment.

Some participants are initially placed only on GPS monitoring with BluTag and SleepTime is activated later if alcohol and/or drug issues emerge. Other times they are placed only on SleepTime, but BluTag is added after a period of time. Regardless of how SleepTime monitoring is included in a participant's supervision requirements, his/her alcohol/drug usage is monitored for at least 90 days.

What is SleepTime?

When the participant sleeps, the BluTag's accelerometer measures the frequency and intensity of the participant's sleep and subconscious waking movements and intensity. The consumption of alcohol and use of drugs, disrupts sleep and either increases or decreases movement during sleep and waking periods. For example, consuming alcohol decreases total sleep time, increases the length of deep sleep and interferes with the REM sleep mode.

The body quickly metabolizes alcohol and drugs during sleep. When the body has metabolized all of the substance, it looks for more of it to maintain the level of sleep. When the body does not find more of the substance, it goes into withdrawal, which creates subconscious waking episodes. It is these subconscious waking episodes BluTag and SleepTime record and report every hour.

Successful program for many constituents

Boone County's Probation Department and Community Corrections are located in a single building across from the County Courthouse, which plays a significant role in the success of the BCCC and its supervision program. Supervising officers can quickly respond to requests for new enrollments. This close proximity of all of the agencies with which BCCC routinely interacts provides a solid framework for success. Probation and BCCC are able to communicate easily and share information about participants to help them complete the program and maintain community safety.

Judges, law enforcement officials, prosecutors and defense attorneys support the BCCC program because of the many tools available to help participants turn their lives around. The ability to increase or decrease sanctions is a key component of their support. They do not want the program or its supervision tools to over restrict or under restrict participants, which is why the BCCC uses many different tools.

From a participant's perspective, the BCCC program can appear severe because of the zero tolerance policy. But that policy has also motivated some participants to request placement in the program because they have trouble resisting triggers on their own. This happens

especially for participants involved with alcohol and drug usage. The program gives participants the needed structure and support to remain clean and sober, as well as not recidivate. Each year approximately 85 percent of the participants successfully complete the program, which clearly demonstrates its benefits and strength.

About STOP

Satellite Tracking of People LLC (STOP) provides GPS and RF monitoring equipment and services to government agencies responsible for supervising adults and juveniles in the community. We developed and successfully deployed BluTag, the first one-piece GPS monitoring device. BluTag is the only device with the ability to detect, record and report when an individual deliberately shields its ability to receive GPS signals. It is the only device capable of detecting and reporting instances of jamming, which electronically interferes with the GPS signal.

More than 220 government agencies use our comprehensive monitoring system. The programs range in size from an average of five supervised individuals each month to as many as 4,800. Regardless of the program size, STOP focuses on the needs and expectations of the customer. We host an annual Training Institute for all customers enabling all attendees to learn from each other how they use our system, resulting in the development of better protocols.

Learn more about either STOP's monitoring system or the Boone County Community Corrections supervision program by calling STOP at 866-525-8824 or emailing info@stopllc.com.



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