Reform in Action

SBBMS provides incentives for positive youth behavior. Staff recognize, reinforce and increase prosocial actions of youth with incentive coupons for behaviors based on Character Count’s pillars of fairness, citizenship, responsibility, trustworthiness, respect and caring. These coupons are placed into weekly, monthly and quarterly drawings, and both youth, and the staff who awarded the coupons, can earn a variety of rewards.

As we continue to enhance programming, unit management and strategies for managing youth resistance, we anticipate a reduction in use of force incidents and injuries, leading to safer facilities for staff and youth.

Strength-based Behavior Management

Many reforms are underway within the DYS facilities including a new approach to managing youth behavior. The Strength-based Behavior Management System (SBBMS) is a multi-level behavior motivation system that is designed to increase positive youth behaviors through the use of reinforcements and decrease unwanted behaviors through a menu of appropriate sanctions. The system has begun to be introduced over the past couple months and will be put in place in all facilities by spring 2010.

Within SBBMS, every staff person is considered an integral part of the treatment process.

SBBMS Overview

SBBMS:

- Teaches staff to "catch kids doing things right"

- Works on the basis that staff will shape a youth’s behavior by providing a structured reinforcement and sanction process

- Uses effective interventions, with the two primary principles of addressing behavior immediately and consistently

- Creates consistent standards for incentives and sanctions for all institutions

- Provides a clear structure for youth so that they can understand what they can earn if they behave appropriately

- Supports the development of the treatment plan and focuses on long-term change