



**THE “STRIDES” PROGRAM**

**(Strategies That Result In Developing Emotional Stability)**

**A PROPOSAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**December 17, 2019**

**Adopted January 13, 2020**

## **Background Information:**

Problem-solving court programs seek to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for individuals, families, and communities by using methods that involve ongoing judicial leadership; a collaborative or team-based approach among criminal justice professionals including the prosecutor, defense attorney, pretrial services officer, probation officer, and treatment provider; the integration of treatment and/or social services with judicial case processing; close monitoring of and immediate response to behavior; multidisciplinary involvement; and collaboration with community-based and government organizations.<sup>1</sup>

## **Mental Health Courts<sup>2</sup> (MHC):**

MHCs originated in late 1997 and were fostered by the growth of drug treatment courts, which emerged a decade earlier in Dade County, Florida.<sup>3</sup> MHCs were developed in response to the increasing numbers of people with serious mental illness flowing into the criminal justice system. Modeled after drug treatment courts and predicated on the principle of therapeutic jurisprudence, MHC dockets consist mostly of criminal defendants with severe psychiatric problems, including substance use disorders.<sup>4</sup>

Recent estimates suggest that approximately 7% of federal prisoners had a serious Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) diagnosis (i.e. schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder, and severe post-traumatic stress disorder) and, of those inmates, 30.5% had a chronic suicide risk due to a history of two or more suicide attempts.<sup>5</sup> MHCs have focused on these individuals to assist in their reintegration into the community in an effort to coordinate resources and manage symptoms.

Studies on MHC outcomes, although still very limited, indicate that participants and the public can experience positive outcomes. By addressing the problems that underlie criminal behavior, problem-solving programs seek to decrease the “revolving door” that results when offender needs are not addressed. Problem-solving programs use a team approach among the judge, defense

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen E. Vance, Senior Attorney-Criminal Law Policy Division, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. (2016). Judge-Involved Supervision Programs in the Federal System: Background and Research. Federal Probation Journal, Volume 81 Number 1.

<sup>2</sup> “Mental Health Court,” or some variant, is a typical name for this type of program. Rather than suggest that a separate court has been created to deal with the target population, our district court has elected to emphasize that the STRIDES program is part of a continuum of innovative problem-solving programs designed to focus on participants with specialized needs and challenges.

<sup>3</sup> Jennifer Hodulik, Drug Court Model as a Response to Broken Windows Criminal Justice for the Homeless Mentally Ill, 91 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 1073 (2001). <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc/vol91/iss4/3>

<sup>4</sup> Monte D. Staton and Arthur J. Lurigio, Chicago Mental Health Courts in Illinois: Comparing and Contrasting Program Models, Sanction Applications, Information Sharing, and Professional Roles (2015) [https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/79\\_1\\_4\\_0.pdf](https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/79_1_4_0.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Committees. (2018). Federal Prisons - Information on Inmates with Serious Mental Illness and Strategies to Reduce Recidivism. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/690090.pdf>

attorney, prosecutor, pretrial/probation officers, and treatment providers, which is a paradigm shift in how the justice system treats offenders with special needs. Offenders in problem-solving programs are held accountable for their behavior while being provided with judicially supervised treatment designed to reduce the risk of reoffending.<sup>6</sup>

### **Local Efforts:**

In the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Board of Judges approved the Mental Health Protocol (“MHP”) on May 31, 2011. Adoption of the MHP was preceded by months of planning efforts spearheaded by U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy R. Rice, including input from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Federal Community Defender’s Office, the U.S. Pretrial Services Office, and the U.S. Probation Office, and in consultation with the mental health staff at the Federal Detention Center and through planning assistance by Drs. David DeMatteo and Kirk Heilbrun, faculty of the Joint JD/PhD Law-Psychology Program of Drexel University.

In adopting the MHP, the Board of Judges created a pilot protocol for two years, designed to handle a discrete class and limited number of cases, in which the defendant is suffering from a severe mental illness. Participating defendants receive more intensive supervision monitored by a U.S. Magistrate Judge. The stated goals of the MHP are to ensure the safety of the community by implementing a suitable resolution of pending charges that takes into account the mental health treatment needs of the defendant, and to help the parties resolve a case at the earliest possible stage of the proceedings. Thus, the key components of the Protocol are identifying appropriate participants and finding treatment options to maximize their likelihood of success in treatment with the support of intensive court supervision. In addition, as considered appropriate by the United States Attorney, the Protocol provides motivation to participants through the possibility of advantageous disposition of their charges.

Since its inception, the MHP team has been comprised of a Magistrate Judge and representatives of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Federal Community Defender’s Office, the U.S. Pretrial Services Office, and the U.S. Probation Office. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth T. Hey was designated by then Chief Judge Harvey Bartle III to oversee the MHP, and recently, current Chief Judge Juan R. Sánchez designated Magistrate Judge Richard A. Lloret to share oversight with Judge Hey. Each constituent office assigns its representative team members, and the program has enjoyed the full support of these offices. The MHP also enjoys the support of the Federal Detention Center, which works with the MHP team to plan for transition of potential participants from custody to treatment in the community. The MHP has been designated by the Department of Justice under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act for purposes of reporting to Congress on the efficacy of the program.

Judge Hey has reported annually on the progress of the program and its participants, and the Board of Judges has allowed the MHP to continue since its inception. As originally drafted, the MHP was directed primarily to pretrial defendants charged with misdemeanors. In practice, such cases arose

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<sup>6</sup> DeMatteo, D., Heilbrun, K., Thornewill, A., & Arnold, S. (2019). Problem-solving courts and the criminal justice system. New York: Oxford.

only rarely, and the defendants most often referred (by judges, lawyers, and supervising officers) are felony cases either post-conviction or post-violation. The team's goal in proposing new procedures is to best improve outcomes of both pretrial and post-conviction defendants with serious mental health issues by continuing the pretrial program and by adopting a post-conviction program to take advantage of what has been learned in the context of the court's other post-conviction problem-solving programs; Supervision To Aid Reentry (STAR) and the Relapse Prevention Court (RPC).

### **Proposal for a Two-Track Program:**

This memorandum proposes modifying the MHP into a two-track program, hereafter known as Strategies That Result In Developing Emotional Stability ("STRIDES"). This program will consist of a pretrial track and a post-conviction supervision ("post-conviction") track in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. This would be a program in which a judge(s) sits at the designation of the Chief Judge and would assist the U.S. Pretrial Services and U.S. Probation Offices with the supervision of certain persons under pretrial and post-conviction supervision with a significant history of severe mental illness. Specifically, the judge(s) would conduct court sessions every two weeks attended by all participants in the program, at which the judge(s) would review and respond to the achievements and deficiencies of each participant. Based on the experiences with our Supervision to Aid Reentry (STAR) program and the Relapse Prevention Court (RPC), this program has the potential to reduce the number of revocations proceedings before District Judges and improve the participants' compliance with the conditions of supervision. However, we propose that with STRIDES, the improvement with compliance would be centered around the successful completion of mental health treatment and we would concentrate our efforts on stabilizing, treating, motivating, and building social supports for the participants so that they can manage their mental health symptoms and lead law-abiding lifestyles.

The proposal is modeled after programs implemented in other courts including the Eastern District of Missouri. Additionally, with respect to the post-conviction STRIDES track, the crux of this program stems from the success that this U.S. District Court has experienced with the origination of two STAR programs, one in 2007 and another in 2008, as well as RPC in 2018. We believe STRIDES would allow us to concentrate on a certain percentage of our post-conviction population who do not qualify for STAR or RPC participation and who account for a considerable amount of revocations per year.

It is noted that in calendar year 2018 alone, there were a total 178 probation and/or supervised release revocations in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Of those cases, there were 95 revocations involving cases that had a mental health aftercare condition and which the person's mental illness may have served as a barrier to their success on supervision.

We have developed a model to enable participants to transition from a life dominated by mental health instability to a lifestyle of symptom management in furtherance of their compliance with the Court-imposed conditions of supervision.

# EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA STRIDES PROGRAM

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The STRIDES Program in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is designed to address the distinctive needs of individuals diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness as well as those with co-occurring symptoms of mental illness and substance abuse where mental health is the primary diagnosis. The program consists of a pretrial track and a post-conviction supervision track. Program participants are screened and monitored commensurate to the seriousness of the participant's mental health concerns and relative to a variety of risks and needs as calculated on respective assessment instruments utilized separately by the U.S. Pretrial Services Office and the U.S. Probation Office.<sup>7</sup>

### MISSION STATEMENT:

*The goal of STRIDES is to maximize opportunities for long-term mental health stability with an emphasis of treating, coaching, and building pro-social supports for the participants so that they can best benefit from effective symptom management through treatment while successfully meeting the conditions of their pretrial release or completing the term of post-conviction supervision. Additionally, the program seeks to prevent recidivism, promote public safety, and assist participants with the many social, familial, and logistical issues they face so that they can be better prepared to address their needs during supervision and beyond the conclusion of that term. Through their involvement in STRIDES, the participants will gain greater sustainable independence and healthy decision-making skills to aid in the process of their life-long mental health recovery.*

A portion of STRIDES efforts will be directed toward recovery-oriented care and recovery support systems, which help people with mental and substance use disorders manage their conditions successfully.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), recovery is a process of change through which people improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential. There are four major dimensions that support recovery:

- **Health** - overcoming or managing one's disease(s) or symptoms and making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional well-being.

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<sup>7</sup> The Pretrial Risk Assessment (PTRA) is an online tool for pretrial services officers to predict risk of failure to appear, new criminal arrest, and revocations due to technical violations while on pretrial release. The instrument provides officers with a standardized risk score of the individual and provides standardized risk score to assist officers in developing a pretrial release recommendation for the court.

The Post-Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA) is a scientifically based instrument developed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of post-conviction supervision. The PCRA makes it possible for probation officers to focus their efforts on the people who are at the greatest risk of failing on supervision and committing new crimes. The U.S. Probation Office embraces evidence-based practices (EBP), which employ the best available scientific data to influence supervision decisions. A key element of the evidence-based approach is the use of the PCRA to achieve maximum, measurable reductions in recidivism.

- **Home** - having a stable and safe place to live.
- **Purpose** - conducting meaningful daily activities and having the independence, income, and resources to participate in society.
- **Community** - having relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, and hope.<sup>8</sup>

In an effort to help participants achieve these goals, the post-conviction STRIDES track offers incentives and support from judges, probation officers, attorneys, and reentry coordinators, as well as connection to community treatment and other needed and available resources. Incentives are utilized to reward adherence to the treatment plan, the conditions of supervision, and the expectations of STRIDES. The post-conviction track also imposes sanctions for violating supervision conditions, especially treatment noncompliance, and/or STRIDES expectations. Nonadherence is sanctioned with various consequences. Failure to abide by the mandates of the program may result in the participant being discharged from the program or could result in additional consequences, including a recommendation to the District Judge for a revocation of supervision. The STRIDES Program is a completely voluntary program, and participants can withdraw at any time. However, participants must be able and willing to abide by all the rules and phases of the program, which include regularly scheduled court sessions in order to report on participants' development and for STRIDES to provide participants with guidance and feedback relative to their progress.

Each participant's involvement in the program will be confirmed in a written agreement to be signed by the participant and representatives from either the U.S. Pretrial Services or U.S. Probation Offices. The agreements, as set forth in Attachment 1 for the pretrial track and Attachment 2 for the post-conviction track, explain the expectations and obligations of the participants.

The STRIDES Program team (hereafter, "team") consists of the Court, U.S. Pretrial Services Officers, U.S. Probation Officers, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, a Reentry Coordinator, an Assistant Federal Community Defender and, if appropriate, community treatment providers. Each member has a unique role.

### **TEAM MEMBER DUTIES:**

**The Role of the Court:** The active involvement of the Court with program participants is essential. When participants are excelling, the Court will provide positive reinforcement. When participants are in noncompliance or in violation of supervision, the Court, after receiving the recommendation of the team, will make a determination as to the appropriate sanction based on the nature of the participant's noncompliant behavior. If appropriate, sanctions should be progressive in terms of severity. When the participant has exhausted his or her opportunities to continue in the program, the team will make the final decision to remove the participant from the STRIDES Program. The participant will then return to traditional supervision, if appropriate, or Court action may be warranted. All participants will be required to appear at court sessions based on their phase level. By entering this program, the participant understands that a United States Magistrate Judge may act as the STRIDES Judge and consents to the authority and jurisdiction of a Magistrate Judge to preside and to impose sanctions authorized by the program.

**U.S. Probation Officer's Duties:** A Senior U.S. Probation Officer (USPO), Mental Health Specialist, is charged with making appropriate treatment referrals with contract and appropriate

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<sup>8</sup> "Recovery and Recovery Support." SAMHSA, 17 May 2019, [www.samhsa.gov/find-help/recovery](http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/recovery).

noncontract treatment agencies and community resource agencies based on the needs of the individual. The USPO also addresses any crisis situations that may arise with participants. In preparation for court sessions, the officer prepares reports in order to inform the team of the participants' status via the program progress report (see Attachment 2). Through weekly contact with the treatment provider, the officer works with the treatment providers to ensure effective communication between the treatment providers and the Court. The USPO supervises the participant according to the PCRA risk level and will ensure that home, office, or community visits are conducted per the requirements of each phase.

When serious problems arise in supervision compliance or mental health decompensation, the officer will work with the team in order to provide immediate intervention and address issues with the participant. The team's efforts will be detailed in the progress report. The progress reports and attachments, if any, are to be distributed to the team members at least one (1) business day prior to the team meeting/Court session. The USPO may report on the participant's progress during the Court session. The USPO should be involved in all decisions about program planning.

Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer's Duties: Provides direct oversight of the USPO and serves as a liaison to community partners, handles administrative duties of STRIDES, coordinates strategic planning, is available to assist during Court sessions, assists probation officers with crisis management and other participant needs that may arise, monitors consistency of vendors with contract obligations and reviews data to evaluate how well the goals of the participants and STRIDES are being met. The Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer should be involved in all decisions about program planning.

U.S. Pretrial Services Officer Duties: A Senior U.S. Pretrial Services Officer (USPSO), Intensive Supervision Specialist, is charged with making appropriate treatment recommendations and referrals with federally contracted or noncontract treatment providers and community programs, based on the needs of the defendant. The USPSO addresses any mental health decomposition and crisis situations that may arise with the defendant. The specialist is tasked with preparing a Status Report to the team to include the defendant's treatment status, case background and overall supervision progress. The specialist shall maintain monthly contact with the treatment provider to ensure that the defendant's treatment status is updated with the Court. The USPSO supervises the defendant in accordance with the bail supervision conditions to include home, office, or community visits.

Should any problems or issue arise during bail supervision, the specialist will work with the team, as much as is feasible, in order to provide immediate intervention and address issues with the participant. The Status Reports and any supplemental reports are distributed to the team members up to 3-7 business days prior to the team meeting and subsequent Court appearance. The USPSO may report on the defendant's progress during Court sessions and should be involved in all decisions about program planning.

Assistant United States Attorney's Duties: The role of the Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) is unique in this program context. The AUSA's role is to participate in a team effort to encourage the participant's success in the program and to provide insight during times of need. The AUSA may report on the participant's progress during the Court session. The AUSA should be involved in all decisions about program planning.

Reentry Coordinator's Duties: The Reentry Coordinator is a representative of the U.S. Attorney's Office with the role of providing access to and knowledge of community-based resources and

assisting in appropriate referrals for those needed services. Also, the Reentry Coordinator is to participate in a team effort to encourage the participant's success in the program and to provide insight during times of need. The Reentry Coordinator should be involved in all decisions about program planning and will assist in disseminating planning information to the team.

Assistant Federal Community Defender's Duties: The Assistant Federal Community Defender (AFD) is available to assist the probation officer in encouraging program participants to succeed in treatment, discourage bad decisions and disinterest in the program at their first sign, and provide guidance to the participant in times of need. The AFD may report on the participant's progress during the Court session. The AFD should be involved in all decisions about program planning.

Contract Treatment Provider's Duties: The contact treatment provider will assess the participant and determine the appropriate level of mental health treatment as well as provide treatment and case management services. Participants will be periodically reevaluated to ensure that the proper level of treatment is being provided. Treatment providers will provide monthly progress reports to the probation officers.

### **PROGRAM ADMISSION:**

Each prospective participant may be referred to STRIDES by, but not limited to, a team member, excluding a treatment provider, a private defense attorney in the case of a pretrial defendant who is not represented by the Federal Community Defender's Office, and a District or Magistrate Judge. Each person referred to STRIDES will be screened by a respective pretrial or post-conviction specialist to determine their eligibility as detailed below. This will ensure that prospective participants are stable enough to engage in outpatient treatment prior to beginning STRIDES. A person who is actively experiencing severe mental health symptoms and is refusing to participate in treatment and/or take prescribed medication designed to manage mental health symptoms will likely need a greater level of intervention/support, such as a Crisis Response Center or inpatient treatment, to stabilize them before starting the program.

Prospective participants will be considered if they meet the following criteria<sup>9</sup>:

1. Offense: Persons convicted of any offense, except those in the post-conviction STRIDES track subject to sex offense supervision are excluded;
2. Risk level for the pretrial track: The risk level for the pretrial track has no effect on a defendant's participation in the STRIDES Program. All participation is considered on a case-by-case basis;
3. Risk level for the post-conviction track: PCRA scores of moderate to high risk that have a noted mental health responsivity factor on the PCRA Interpretation Report. Potential participants scoring lower than moderate with a mental health barrier can be considered on a case-by-case basis;
4. Supervision: With respect to the post-conviction STRIDES track, the defendant should have at least three (3) years of supervision at the time of the evaluation for STRIDES;

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<sup>9</sup> If a prospective participant does not qualify for one or more of these criteria, the team has the discretion to discuss and unanimously determine on a case-by-case basis to accept participants who do not strictly fit the criteria.

5. Mental Health Diagnosis: The prospective participant should have a serious mental illness which is defined as a mental disorder that interferes with some area of social functioning such as work, school, family, etc. or a severe and/or persistent mental disorder which includes those diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other severe forms of depression or a panic disorder. Offenders who are identified in these categories will likely have a documented Axis I diagnosis as defined in the DSM-IV-TR or a comparable diagnosis from the current publication, DSM-5. Although substance abuse disorders are considered a mental illness, persons will only be considered for STRIDES if the substance abuse disorder co-occurs with a non-addictive mental illness which is the primary barrier. Available documents outlining diagnosis as well as the person's case material will be forwarded by those having access and reviewed by the team to determine appropriate eligibility.
6. Enrollment: The STRIDES Program is entirely voluntary and there will be no negative consequences resulting from a decision not to participate. Potential participants must agree to enter the program, consent to modifications of their conditions to include mental health treatment/evaluation as well and drug and alcohol testing and treatment if he/she does not already have these conditions imposed, agree to all requirements and stipulations of the program, and sign the participant agreement.

Any potential participant will be invited to observe a STRIDES session. Following this observation and with the person's continued interest, a STRIDES Pretrial Services or Probation Officer will interview the potential participant and explain the program in detail and subsequently provide a recommendation to the team regarding the person's participation. The team must unanimously approve an offender being admitted to the STRIDES Program. If the person is accepted into the program, the participant must sign the Contract for Participation in STRIDES.

### **PROGRAM PHASES – PRETRIAL TRACK:**

The pretrial STRIDES track will continue to operate much as it does in current practice, with the modification of bi-weekly (rather than monthly) court hearings, based upon the team's understanding that this schedule is most typical and effective. The case can be referred to STRIDES from any source, and referrals should be made at the earliest opportunity.

Upon receiving a referral, the team will gather relevant information to allow an informed discussion. If there is no recent mental health evaluation available, the STRIDES Magistrate Judge(s) may direct Pretrial Services to obtain a mental health evaluation. Acceptance into the program is by a unanimous determination.<sup>10</sup>

To participate in STRIDES, a defendant must be out of custody under conditions of release, although the team may monitor cases in which otherwise eligible participants are in custody and being considered for release to treatment in the community. Participants shall execute a written participation agreement and agree to necessary Speedy Trial Act waivers. No statements concerning prior conduct made by the defendant as part of the defendant's involvement in STRIDES can be used as a basis for a violation of conditions of pretrial release.

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<sup>10</sup> If a question of competency arises, the Magistrate Judge will order a competency evaluation and the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 4241 apply. Defendants found not competent to proceed to trial are not eligible to participate, but the team can monitor the case to prepare for participation should competence be restored.

If a participant is charged by complaint, the STRIDES Magistrate Judge(s) will take jurisdiction of the case from the duty Magistrate Judge. If a participant is charged with one or more felonies in an Indictment or Information, the assigned District Judge will maintain jurisdiction, with supervision under STRIDES remaining with the STRIDES Magistrate Judge(s) subject to the District Judge's discretion to remove the defendant from STRIDES. The STRIDES Magistrate Judge(s) does not have sanction authority in cases that are assigned to a District Judge unless such authority is specifically granted by the assigned District Judge. In the case of a participant charged with a petty offense, or a Class A misdemeanor, where the defendant consents to the jurisdiction of a Magistrate Judge, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(a)(5), the case shall be assigned to the STRIDES Magistrate Judge(s) for all purposes.

When the parties agree on a recommended resolution of the case, they will inform the STRIDES Magistrate Judge(s), or the assigned District Judge. Options may include: trial (bench or jury); a plea to an agreed-upon or recommended sentence; or, in extraordinary cases, alternative resolutions that may include pretrial diversion. Crime victims must be consulted, as required by law.<sup>11</sup>

Participants in the pretrial STRIDES track do not move through the phases applicable to the post-conviction STRIDES track described below. However, pretrial STRIDES participants who later are accepted into the post-conviction STRIDES track may have their prior participation considered, and the team may determine that the participant may be accelerated through the post-conviction STRIDES track based upon the length and success of the pretrial participation.

### **PROGRAM PHASES – POST-CONVICTION TRACK:**

The post-conviction STRIDES track includes four phase levels. Each participant must successfully complete all levels in order to graduate from the program. The phases will assist participants in developing resources and strategies to effectively address their mental health challenges, participating in healthy decision-making and ultimately moving towards sustainable independence. Each phase has distinct, achievable goals outlined and advancement to a new phase will be determined by the team. The program phases can be modified by the team if necessary. The participant will be required to prepare and present a comprehensive plan relative to sustaining their progress to the program team prior to graduation.

#### **PHASE 1:** (at least 3 months)

1. The probation officer will have a minimum of weekly contact with the participant and the participant will be available for at least one monthly home visit conducted by the probation officer;
2. Weekly meetings with assigned case worker, if appropriate, or as directed;
3. Cooperate with all treatment providers to determine a mental health treatment plan. Remain or become compliant with ***all*** mental health treatment directives to include, but not limited to, timely arrival for all treatment sessions and medication monitoring throughout Phase 1;
4. Compliance with prescribed medications to include a written schedule/plan of the dosages and frequency at which these medications are to be taken. This schedule must be provided

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<sup>11</sup> As required by Fed. R. Cr. P. 11(c)(1), the Magistrate Judge will not participate in any plea negotiations.

during each STRIDES session and also be readily available to the probation officer during home visits;

5. If there is also a substance abuse disorder, participate in co-occurring treatment as directed;
6. Submit to drug/alcohol testing, including but not limited to urinalysis (UA) and sweat patches, as directed by the probation officer or treatment provider. If enrolled in the U.S. Probation Office's Random Urine Testing (RUT) program, the Code-A-Phone drug testing line should be called daily to learn if a UA will be required that day;
7. If there is also a substance abuse disorder, participation may be required in recovery meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)/Narcotics Anonymous (NA);
8. Obtain a sponsor/mentor within thirty (30) days if deemed appropriate;
9. Identify meaningful daily pro-social activities that will be conducted;
10. Attend Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) classes as directed;
11. Develop a plan to address disability, employment, housing, financial, family-related, and/or educational and vocational goals;
12. Complete process to obtain Medicaid or private medical insurance; and
13. Attend STRIDES hearings once every other week, or as scheduled.

**Criteria for Phase Advancement:**

1. Cooperate with the treatment plan which may include any of the following: mental health treatment/co-occurring treatment, CBT, consistent medication compliance, UAs, and relationship with sponsor/mentor;
2. Achieve 12 weeks of credited time during this phase;
3. Compliance with all other supervision conditions; and
4. Present a written plan to the team to address disability, employment, housing, financial, family-related, and/or educational and vocational goals.

**PHASE 2:** (at least 3 months)

1. The probation officer will have contact at a minimum of twice per month with the participant and the participant will be available for at least one monthly home visit conducted by the probation officer;
2. Weekly meetings with assigned case worker, if appropriate, or as directed;

3. Cooperate with all treatment providers and the mental health treatment plan, including any changes. Remain or become compliant with all mental health treatment directives to include, but not limited to, timely arrival for all treatment sessions and daily medication monitoring throughout Phase 2;
4. Compliance with prescribed medications to include a written schedule/plan of the dosages and frequency at which these medications are to be taken. This schedule must be provided during each STRIDES session and also be readily available to the probation officer during home visits;
5. If there is also a substance abuse disorder, participate in co-occurring treatment as directed;
6. Submit to drug/alcohol testing, including but not limited to UAs and sweat patches, as directed by the probation officer or treatment provider. If enrolled in the U.S. Probation Office's RUT program, the Code-A-Phone drug testing line should be called daily to learn if a UA will be required that day;
7. If there is also a substance abuse disorder, participation may be required in recovery meetings such as AA/NA;
8. Maintain weekly contact with a sponsor/mentor if same was deemed appropriate;
9. Engage in meaningful daily pro-social activities;
10. Identify a network of prosocial peers that provide support, friendship, and hope. These peers may be associated with the self-defined purpose.
11. Attend CBT classes as directed;
12. Completed agreed upon tasks associated with a disability, employment, housing, financial, family-related, and/or educational and vocational goals.
13. Attend STRIDES hearings once every other week, or as scheduled.

**Criteria for Phase Advancement:**

1. Cooperate with the treatment plan which may include any of the following: mental health treatment/co-occurring treatment, CBT, consistent medication compliance, UAs, and relationship with sponsor/mentor;
2. Achieve 12 weeks of credited time during this phase;
3. Compliance with all other supervision conditions;

4. Show consistent progress relative to the agreed upon steps to address disability, employment, housing, and/or educational and vocational goals; and
5. Attend CBT classes as directed.

**PHASE 3:** (at least 3 months)

1. The probation officer will have contact at a minimum of twice per month with the participant and the participant will be available for at least one monthly home visit conducted by the probation officer;
2. Weekly meetings with assigned case worker, if appropriate, or as directed;
3. Cooperate with all treatment providers and the mental health treatment plan, including any changes (i.e. reduction in sessions). Remain compliant with all mental health treatment directives to include, but not limited to, timely arrival for all treatment sessions and daily medication monitoring throughout Phase 3;
4. If there is also a substance abuse disorder, remain compliant in co-occurring treatment as directed;
5. Submit to drug/alcohol testing, including but not limited to UAs and sweat patches, as directed by the probation officer or treatment provider. If enrolled in the U.S. Probation Office's RUT program, the Code A-Phone drug testing line should be called daily to learn if a UA will be required that day;
6. If there is also a substance abuse disorder, participation may be required in recovery meetings such as AA/NA;
7. Maintain weekly contact with a sponsor/mentor if same was deemed appropriate;
8. Maintain meaningful daily pro-social activities;
9. Develop and engage with a network of prosocial peers that provide support and friendship
10. Attend CBT classes as directed;
11. Obtain employment or begin community service by end of phase, as appropriate, continue with educational pursuits or complete agreed upon tasks associated with housing needs, family reunification, financial literacy, or a disability application if disability status is still pending;
12. Attend STRIDES hearings once a month, or as scheduled.

### **Criteria for Phase Advancement:**

1. Cooperate with the treatment plan which may include any of the following: mental health treatment/co-occurring treatment, CBT, consistent medication compliance, UAs, and relationship with sponsor/mentor, who appeared at a STRIDES session during this or the next phase;
2. A representative of the prosocial group will present on the participants' behalf at STRIDES;
3. Achieve 12 weeks of credited time during this phase;
4. Compliance with all other supervision conditions;
5. Present to the team a concrete plan to address maintaining employment or educational pursuits, financial planning, maintaining relationships with family, or continuing to pursue housing options or disability benefits. If employable, and without work, community service hours must have commenced, the total hours of which will be determined by the team.

### **PHASE 4: (at least 3 months)**

1. The probation officer will have contact at a minimum of once per month with the participant and the participant will be available for at least one monthly home visit conducted by the probation officer;
2. Meetings twice per month with assigned case worker, if appropriate, or as directed;
3. Cooperate with all treatment providers and the mental health treatment plan, including any changes (i.e. reduction in sessions). Remain compliant with all mental health treatment directives to include, but not limited to, timely arrival for all treatment sessions and daily medication monitoring throughout Phase 4;
4. If there is also a substance abuse disorder, remain compliant in co-occurring treatment as directed;
5. Submit to drug/alcohol testing, including but not limited to UAs and sweat patches, as directed by the probation officer or treatment provider. If enrolled in the U.S. Probation Office's RUT program, successful complete this program;
6. If there is also a substance abuse disorder, participation may be required in recovery meetings such as AA/NA;
7. Maintain appropriate contact with a sponsor/mentor if same was deemed appropriate;
8. Maintain meaningful daily pro-social activities;
9. Continue to engage with a network of prosocial peers that provide support, friendship, and hope;

10. Successfully complete CBT classes;
11. Maintain employment or complete a number of community service hours determined by the team, continue with educational pursuits or complete agreed upon tasks associated with housing needs or a disability application if disability status is still pending;
12. Prepare goal statement and mental health/relapse prevention plan four weeks before you are scheduled to graduate;
13. Prepare a presentation for graduation that outlines how STRIDES impacted your ability to successfully manage your mental illness and sustain greater independence with a law-abiding lifestyle that will benefit you after STRIDES; and
14. Attend STRIDES hearings once a month, or as scheduled.

**Criteria for Graduation:**

1. Cooperate with the treatment plan which may include any of the following: mental health treatment/co-occurring treatment, CBT, consistent medication compliance, UAs, and relationship with sponsor/mentor, who appeared at a STRIDES session during this or the previous phase;
2. A representative of the prosocial group will present on the participants' behalf at STRIDES;
3. Achieve 12 weeks of credited time during this phase;
4. Compliance with all other supervision conditions;
5. Present to the team your mental health/drug relapse prevention plan;
6. Present to the team your graduation presentation;
7. Maintain employment or completed community service and continue with educational pursuits, if appropriate; and
8. Demonstrate residential stability.

Program graduation is determined by the team. Recommendations for graduation must be submitted 30 days prior to the anticipated graduation date.

**WAIVERS AND HEARINGS:**

To effectuate the intent of the program to make it a less adversarial system and provide more support to the participants, all parties agree that conduct which would otherwise constitute a supervision violation (technical, Grade C violations) will be handled in an informal manner. Except as noted below, all conduct that could otherwise be considered a violation and lead to a supervision hearing will be presented to the District Court and the participant through the USPO's Progress

Report to the Court. Any “sanction” on such violation, short of a term of incarceration will be handled through a court directive issued at the Court session.

## **STRIDES INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS:**

### **Overview of Incentives (including but not limited to):**

- Up to one (1) year supervision reduction upon program completion
- Graduation certificate presented upon program completion
- Extra credit for completion of Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) program
- Extra credit for gaining/sustaining employment
- Extra credit for assisting another STRIDES participant in obtaining employment
- Extra credit for obtaining GED or completion of vocational program
- Extra credit for repeated AA/NA/Self-Help attendance
- Extra credit for obtaining advanced degree or certificate
- Extra credit for participating in preapproved community service
- Other incentives to be determined by the court

### **Acts that will result in sanction (including but not limited to):**

- Unexcused absence from STRIDES session
- Unexcused absence from meeting with probation officer
- Unexcused absence from any scheduled treatment session
- Positive alcohol/drug screen
- Missed alcohol/drug screen
- Attempt to submit or submission of an adulterated or diluted urinalysis
- Attempt at subterfuge to pass off urine that is not their own
- Refusal to submit urinalysis/delaying submission of urine sample
- Failure to comply with referral for increased/intensified treatment
- Failure to secure and maintain employment (if participant is responsible for failure)
- Failure to participate in life-skills, employment, or education program as directed
- Disruptive or disrespectful behavior
- Failure to complete assignments
- Failure to complete a sanction
- New arrest
- Failure to comply with court-ordered financial obligations if deemed able
- Failure to provide accurate and current contact information
- Other violation of supervision condition or court order

### **Overview of Sanctions (including but not limited to):**

- Verbal Reprimand
- Increased STRIDES session attendance, including but not limited to, attending emergency STRIDES sessions
- Increased frequency of meetings with Probation
- Reduction in phase, no credit earned, loss of credit, and/or placed on pause
- Increased frequency of UA collection or use of an alternative drug testing procedure
- Curfew, home detention, placement in a Residential Reentry Center (RRC), and/or

periods of incarceration not to exceed a total of 7 days

*It is also noted that a participant may be ordered to serve community service (the site of which will be arranged by the Probation Office). The purpose of ordering community service is to build resumes, network with prospective employers, and make productive use of their time while they are underemployed or unemployed.*

### **Guidelines for STRIDES Incentives and Sanctions**

The following rewards and sanctions are applied to all participants for the accomplishment and conduct listed below. For other types of extraordinary performance, more serious noncompliance, or multiple instances of noncompliance, the STRIDES team will impose rewards or sanctions that are tailored to the individual circumstances and performance history of the participant. Participants are limited to earning a total of 10 weeks extra credit.

#### **Accomplishments**

#### **Reward**

Completion of pre-approved CBT program	2 weeks extra credit
Gaining initial employment	1 week extra credit
Sustaining same employment for 6 months	1 week extra credit
Helping another STRIDES participant obtain employment	1 week extra credit
Obtaining GED	2 weeks extra credit
Repeated AA/NA/Self Help attendance (# of meetings TBD)	2 weeks extra credit
Obtaining a Sponsor (sponsor must come to session)	1 week extra credit
18 weeks without a missed, diluted, or +UA (only in Phases 1-2)	2 weeks extra credit
Obtaining advanced degree or certificate	2 weeks extra credit
Phase completion	Certificate earned
Successful program completion	Up to 1 year off
Other unspecified accomplishments (determined by the STRIDES team)	TBD extra credit

#### **Conduct**

#### **Sanction**

Unexcused - missed scheduled home/office visit (first instance)	No credit earned
Unexcused - missed scheduled home/office visit (second instance)	No credit earned & 1 week loss of credit
Unexcused tardiness for court session	No credit earned
Excused - missed court session	No credit earned
Unexcused - missed court session	2 weeks loss of credit
Excused - missed treatment session	No credit earned
Unexcused - missed treatment session	1 week loss of credit
Medication noncompliance	No credit earned
Medication noncompliance - repeated	1 week loss of credit
Repeated general noncompliance (e.g. late payments)	1 week loss of credit
No employment or community service at end of Phase 3	Pause at Phase 3

New criminal conduct – pending disposition<sup>12</sup>

Placed on pause  
District Judge notified

**Drug Testing Noncompliance**

**Sanction**

Missed drug test (1st)  
Missed drug test (2nd)  
Subsequent missed drug tests  
Repeated missed drug test calls

Verbal Reprimand  
No credit earned  
No credit earned &  
1 week loss of credit  
No credit earned

**Positive UAs**

**Response Options**

Positive UA (Phase 1)  
  
Positive UA (Phase 1 repeated)  
  
Positive UA (Phase 2)  
  
Positive UA (Phase 2 repeated)  
  
Positive UA (Phase 3)  
  
Positive UA (Phase 4)

Increase in treatment freq./modality<sup>13</sup>  
  
Increasing custodial sanction<sup>14</sup>  
Increase in treatment freq./modality  
  
Increasing custodial sanction  
Essay and increase in treatment  
freq./modality  
  
Increasing custodial sanction  
Essay and increase in treatment  
freq./modality  
(Repeat Phase 2)  
  
Increasing custodial sanction  
Essay and increase in treatment  
freq./modality  
(Repeat Phase 3)  
  
Increasing custodial sanction  
Essay and increase in treatment  
freq./modality  
(Repeat Phase 4)

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<sup>12</sup> Alleged Grade A or B violations of the supervision conditions must be heard by the District Court. The STRIDES Magistrate Judge can preside over alleged Grade C violations.

<sup>13</sup> The change in frequency of treatment attendance or modality of treatment must be supported by a clinician in these response options.

<sup>14</sup> In these response options, other responses may be used, such as curfew, home detention, and/or placement at an RRC.

## **PROGRAM REWARDS:**

Participants who successfully complete STRIDES by achieving **52 credited weeks** in the program earn up to a one-year reduction in their term of supervision. This one year is vested at the time the participant graduates from STRIDES. Understanding that some participants may have well over one year left on their supervision, those participants must still adequately comply with all terms of supervision. NOTE: If there are subsequent violations of supervision, the participant will be subject to traditional modification and revocation proceedings post-graduation.

The STRIDES graduation will occur subsequent to the participant's completion of STRIDES at a date/time determined by the Court so that U.S. District and Magistrate Judges may attend. In addition to STRIDES participants, their family members, clinicians, and friends are invited to attend the graduation. The U.S. Probation Office will prepare an Order for the District Judge's approval of the one-year reduction in supervision which will be signed at the graduation. To commemorate their achievement in STRIDES, the participant will receive a Certificate of Completion at the graduation.

## **DISCHARGE PROCEDURES:**

The STRIDES participant may be discharged as successful, unsuccessful, or be administratively discharged.

1. **Successful Discharge:** Participants who complete STRIDES will be given a Certificate of Completion. The participant will then be transferred to traditional supervision.
2. **Unsuccessful Discharge:** In recognition of the reality of mental health setbacks or "relapses" as a part of recovery from mental illness, and/or drug or alcohol addiction, every effort should be made to continue to work with STRIDES participants. All parties realize, however, that there will be some circumstances in which it is appropriate to discharge as unsuccessful a participant from STRIDES. Unsuccessful discharge may be of two types:
  - (A) Discharge with Return to Regular Supervision - Discharge may result from a participant revoking his/her interest in the STRIDES or by a joint decision that although the participant has not committed a serious violation of supervision or the STRIDES rules, the program is not having its desired effect. This type of discharge from STRIDES occurs simply with a transfer to a supervision caseload without a violation charge or a hearing.
  - (B) Discharge with A Formal Violation Charge - Discharge may result from serious or chronic misconduct by the participant. The Court will make the ultimate decision that a participant must be terminated from STRIDES. Under these circumstances, the participant will terminate from STRIDES, return to traditional supervision, and may appear before the sentencing District Court Judge for a hearing. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to:
    - 1) New law violations, as ultimately determined by the Court;
    - 2) Repeated noncompliance with treatment (i.e. attendance or medication);

- 3) Illicit substance use;
- 4) A chronic pattern of refusal to cooperate with the supervising USPO;
- 5) Repeated refusal to cooperate with the Court's sanction or participate in a meaningful manner.

As set forth in this section, upon discharge from STRIDES, the Probation Office may file a formal violation charge. It will be the policy of the Probation Office not to allege as a formal violation conduct that occurred during STRIDES and which was previously addressed. After the individual is outside of STRIDES, however, the Court presiding over the violation hearing will be advised of all conduct that has taken place during the period of supervision, including successes, failures, and sanctions that occurred during STRIDES participation.

**3. Administrative Discharge:** There may be occasions in which discharge from STRIDES cannot simply be considered successful or unsuccessful. Such circumstances may arise when a participant becomes too ill to participate or has to relocate and it is no longer practical for them to participate. In these situations, the participant would be administratively discharged and would be welcome to participate again in the event their circumstances change.

### **EXIT INTERVIEW:**

Upon successful graduation, discharge, or voluntary withdrawal from the STRIDES Program, the participant will be required to complete an Exit Interview with a member of the STRIDES team to provide feedback on their experiences while participating in the program.

NOTE: For participants who have successfully graduated from the program, the paperwork granting the participant of up to one (1) year off of supervision will not be filed with the court until the Exit Interview has been completed.

## **Attachments**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR STRIDES  
PRETRIAL TRACK**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Offense: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrest: \_\_\_\_\_

Bail Conditions:

**INTRODUCTION**

You have been invited to participate in Strategies That Result In Developing Emotional Stability (“STRIDES”). Participation is entirely voluntary, and there will be no negative consequence if you do not wish to participate.

**STRIDES BASICS**

Participants in STRIDES will be under the supervision of a STRIDES Pretrial Services Officer (USPSO). Participants agree to participate in mental health evaluations for mental health and drug and alcohol services, including required treatment. Participants also agree to comply with all required bail conditions.

You have either been appointed an attorney or retained private counsel. While a participant in STRIDES, assigned counsel will be permitted to have access to the treatment records and pertinent information. Counsel from the U.S. Attorney’s Office will also have access to your treatment information. Defense Counsel and the AUSA will work with the STRIDES U.S. Pretrial Services Officer (USPSO) in order to provide additional support and encouragement for your mental health stability and success in STRIDES.

**COURT APPEARANCES**

You will be attending STRIDES twice per month, at a date and time to be determined. You will be required to attend all court appearances before the sitting STRIDES Judge, to evaluate your progress. Every effort will be made to ensure the time of the appearance does not conflict with your employment or treatment sessions. The USPSO, Defense Counsel, and AUSA will be present during STRIDES. Progress reports from your USPSO and your treatment provider will be provided to the Court and attorneys. These reports will describe both successes and problems you have experienced during your bail supervision, either treatment related, or otherwise.

**PRETRIAL PARTICIPATION IN STRIDES**

You will participate in STRIDES as a pretrial defendant. If you transition to post-conviction supervision and continue with your participation in STRIDES, your progress on the pretrial track, may be taken into consideration.

**DISCHARGE FROM STRIDES**

You may be terminated from STRIDES if you fail to comply with the conditions of your release. You may also voluntarily discontinue the program. If the program is discontinued voluntarily, there will be no consequence to your decision.

**AGREEMENT**

I Participant's Printed Name, have read, or had someone read the participant agreement to me and I understand the expectations of the STRIDES Program. I voluntarily agree to participate in the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Representative of the U.S. Pretrial Services Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
CONTRACT FOR PARTICIPATION IN STRIDES  
POST-CONVICTION SUPERVISION TRACK**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Offense of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sentence Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Conviction: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sentence/Special Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

**INTRODUCTION**

You have been invited to participate in Strategies That Result In Developing Emotional Stability (“STRIDES”). Participation is entirely voluntary, and there will be no negative consequence if you do not wish to participate. If you successfully complete STRIDES, your term of supervision will be reduced by up to one (1) year.

**STRIDES BASICS**

STRIDES will last *at least* one year. Participants in STRIDES will be under the supervision of a STRIDES U.S. Probation Officer (USPO) rather than a traditional probation officer. Participants agree to participate in evaluations for mental health and drug and alcohol services, and in any and all treatment recommended. Participants also agree to submit to drug testing as directed by the USPO or treatment provider. In addition to the requirements of actively engaging in treatment, you will also be required to comply with the general conditions of supervision.

You will be appointed an attorney from the Federal Community Defender Office who is assigned to STRIDES. In STRIDES, the Federal Community Defender Office will be permitted to have access to the treatment provider and treatment records. An Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) will also be assigned to STRIDES. An Assistant Federal Defender (AFD) and an AUSA will work with the USPO in order to provide additional support and encouragement for your mental health stability and success in STRIDES.

**LENGTH OF STRIDES**

STRIDES will last *at least* one year. Participants who struggle in treatment, but remain dedicated to recovery, may be given extensions in STRIDES to complete their term of treatment and may still be rewarded with the one-year reduction in supervision.

**COURT APPEARANCES**

Initially, twice per month, at a time to be determined, you will be required to appear before the STRIDES Judge to evaluate your progress. Every effort will be made to ensure the time of the appearance does not conflict with your employment or treatment programming. The USPO, AFD, and AUSA will be present. Progress reports from your USPO and your treatment provider will be provided to the Court and attorneys. These reports will describe both successes and problems you have experienced on supervision, either treatment related, or otherwise.

## SUPERVISION VIOLATIONS & SANCTIONS

Supervision violations and sanctions will ordinarily be handled on the regularly scheduled STRIDES calendar. The Court, however, can schedule an appearance at any time. Additionally, sanctions and modifications regarding treatment may be handled on an expedited basis with the consent of the parties. If a monthly Progress Report contains an allegation of noncompliance, you may choose to agree that the allegation is true and waive the traditional protections and procedures afforded to those on supervision when they are accused of violating supervision. There will be no hearing on whether the allegation is true. The STRIDES Judge will decide whether a program sanction is appropriate. As noted above, noncompliance can also be handled outside the presence of the STRIDES Judge if all parties agree. Noncompliant behavior by you, the participant, will result in sanctions. The range of possible sanctions has been drafted broadly to assure that some level of sanction is available for every violation. Factors which will influence the type of sanction employed include the seriousness of the violation, the number of violations, and the amount of time you have remained compliant, either before a first violation, or between violations. In addition, an important factor will be whether you voluntarily disclose the violation. Dishonesty on your part will result in enhanced sanctions. Depending on these factors, any of the sanctions listed below - including discharge from STRIDES is available. As a general rule, when there are repeated violations, more serious sanctions will be applied. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Participant receives a judicial reprimand in open court;
- Participant loses one or two weeks of credit or credit is “paused;”
- Participant phase is adjusted or re-evaluated;
- Participant is ordered to provide an explanation for their noncompliant behavior, either in writing or some other means (such as why participant failed to attend treatment or tested positive, or about the thing that most often causes participant to relapse and why, or about what participant will do differently this time so that participant will not fail again, or about someone participant admires and why);
- Participant is ordered to comply with curfew restrictions or home confinement with electronic monitoring; Participant is ordered to complete a term at a Residential Reentry Center (RRC);
- Participant is ordered to spend up to seven (7) days in jail; and
- Participant is terminated from STRIDES with or without filing of a formal violation.

If appropriate, sanctions may be ordered more than once during the course of STRIDES. If you admit to the violation, you may be able to complete the sanction and remain in STRIDES. When expedited action is appropriate and the parties agree, a sanction or adjustment in treatment can be imposed through a modification and without an appearance before the Court. The USPO’s report at the next Court appearance will inform the STRIDES Judge whether you properly completed the sanction ordered at the last appearance. Failure to complete ordered sanctions may result in added sanctions, or discharge from STRIDES. If you wish to contest the sanction allegation, you may do so. The only permissible contested sanction hearing in STRIDES, however, is a claim of actual innocence of the alleged violation. If you wish to have a contested hearing, the AFD will assist you in contesting the allegations. The STRIDES Judge will ultimately decide whether the allegation is true. It is important to note the USPO need not wait until your scheduled Court appearance to address problems in supervision. If you fail to abide by the directions of the USPO, the USPO will contact you to address the problem. Minor violations may be dealt with by either the USPO, or by a team including the USPO, the AFD and the AUSA. If you commit a major violation, a warrant will immediately be issued for your arrest.

## DISCHARGE FROM STRIDES

You may be terminated from STRIDES if you fail to participate in treatment and supervision including repeated technical violations of general conditions of supervision, failure to make your Court appearances, or a new law violation. If you are terminated from STRIDES, you will return to regular supervision status, and may face a violation hearing. If the U.S. Probation Office chooses to pursue a formal violation charge, it will be the policy of the U.S. Probation Office not to allege as a formal violation conduct that occurred during STRIDES and that was previously addressed. After the participant is outside of STRIDES, however, the Court presiding over the violation hearing will be advised of all conduct that has taken place during the period of supervision, including successes, failures, and sanctions which occurred during STRIDES.

You may also voluntarily discontinue the program and return to traditional supervision status. If the program is discontinued voluntarily, you will not face an allegation of violation unless it is determined that serious violations of supervision have occurred.

## GRADUATION & ONE YEAR REDUCTION IN SUPERVISION TERM

Upon successful completion of STRIDES, your total term of supervision will be reduced by up to one (1) year. After completing STRIDES, most participants have an additional amount of time to spend on traditional supervision. If this is true in your case, you will be required to continue to comply with any and all conditions of supervision. If you violate the terms of your supervision, you will be subject to revocation.

## AGREEMENT

I, Participant's Printed Name, have read, or someone has read to me, this Agreement and I understand the expectations of the program. I voluntarily agree to participate in the program. I understand I must agree to a modification of supervision conditions to add the conditions for mental health and drug and alcohol evaluations/testing/treatment if the condition is not already a part of my Judgment and Commitment Order.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Representative of the U.S. Probation Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**STRIDES Progress Report**

**Date**

**Name:**

**DOB:**

**U.S. District Judge:**

**Probation Officer:**

**AUSA:**

**Defense:**

**Supervision Start Date:**

**Scheduled Supervision  
Completion Date:**

**STRIDES Start Date:**

**# of credited weeks: (# out of # weeks)**

**Treatment Provider Information:**

**Treatment Level/Modality:**

**MH Diagnosis:**

**D&A History:**

**Other clinical/medical information:**

**RUT PHASE:**

**Date of Last Use:**

**Sanctions:**

**Rewards/Incentives:**

**Comments:**

**Things that have gone well:**

**Things that have not gone well:**

**Next recommended STRIDES reporting date:**

**Areas for progress prior to the next STRIDES date:**

**Participant's Goals:**

**Offense:**

**Sentence Information:**

**Special Conditions:**

**Violation of Supervision:**

**Status of Monetary Penalties:**

**Address:**

**Family Information/Children: Employment:**

**Education/Training:**

**PCRA RISK LEVEL:**

**Dynamic Risk Factors:**

**Responsivity Factors:**

**Thinking Styles:**

**Strategies That Result In Developing Emotional Stability (“STRIDES”)  
OBSERVER AGREEMENT**

Observer:

I, Observer's Printed Name, understand that the information presented during my in-court visit to observe the proceedings of STRIDES will be held confidential. I understand that I am bound by the applicable law, including Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, governing confidentiality of protected information. I further understand that I am not permitted to disclose this information, including but not limited to any health information and the identity of the participant, at any future date except as approved by the program Judge. I understand that, if I do not fully understand and agree to these limitations, then I should not attend the court session. By signing this agreement, I agree that I fully understand the terms of this document.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Observer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Representative of STRIDES:

The undersigned representative witnessed the above-noted person read and sign this Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date