What you Don't Know Can Hurt You:
Technical Assistance Panel

THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO

Learning About Your Treatment Court Practices and Measuring Your Program's Fidelity to Research Based Best Practices: The BeST

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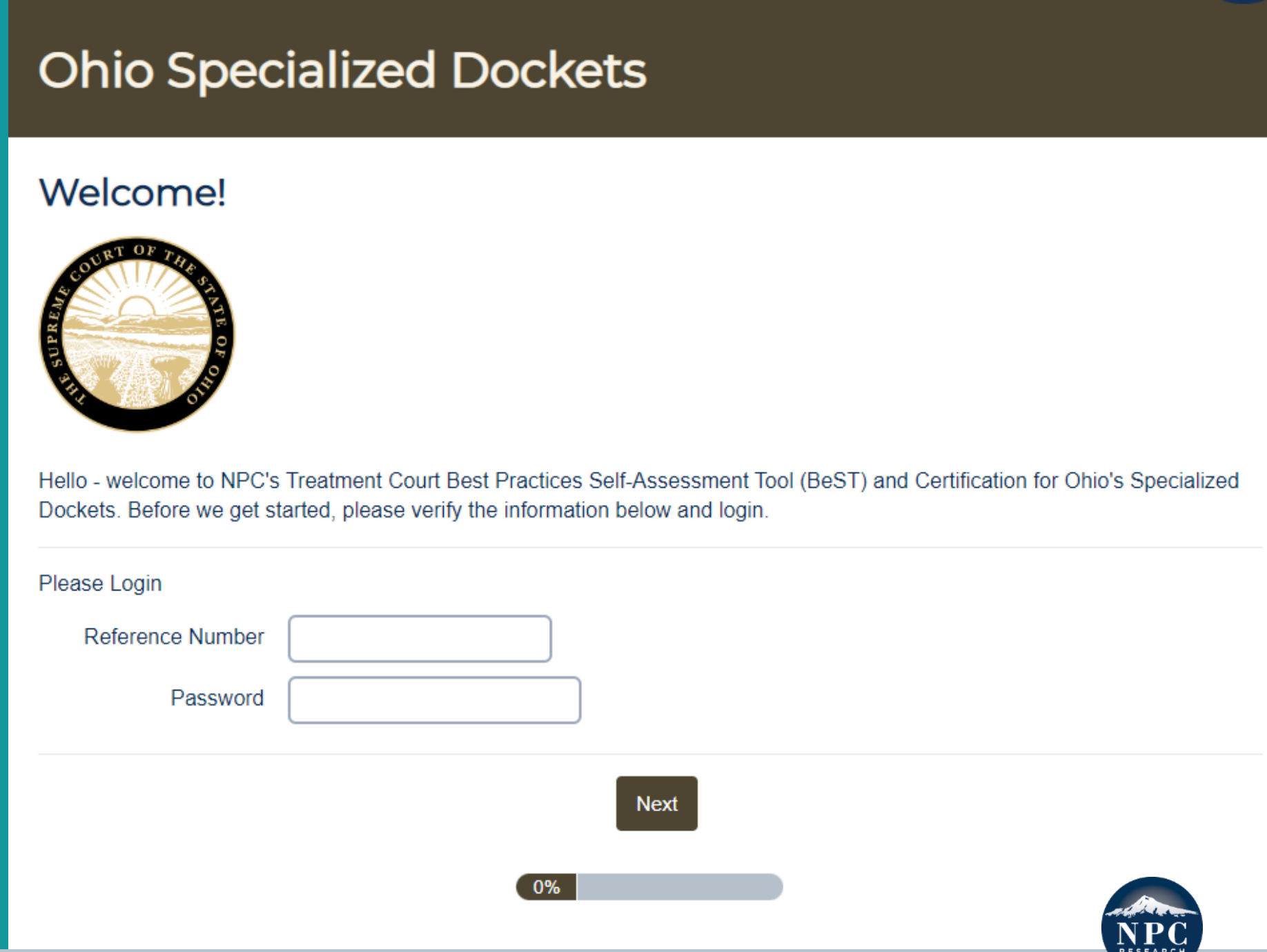
NPC Research



What is the BeST Assessment?

The Treatment Court Best Practices Self-Assessment Tool (BeST) Overview

- An online self-assessment tool developed by NPC Research
- Asks teams for basic, objective information about procedures and practices in their treatment court

- The answers generate a report with a list of best practices related to the Best Practice Standards and the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts
- The report identifies which best practices have been implemented and which have not
- The BeST assessment can help the team, the state of Ohio, TA providers and other stakeholders understand how the treatment court operates and help identify needs related to resources, training and technical assistance

States use the BeST to help determine technical assistance and statewide training needs

This is happening here in Ohio

- Ohio would like to be able to look across courts to see where Ohio is strong and where courts are challenged with implementing specific best practices to learn where to focus training topics and resource needs
- Individual courts can take the BeST and get coaching on best practices and assistance preparing for certification
- Peer Review and Certification

Who is NPC Research?

"Informing Policy and Improving Programs to Enrich Lives"

- NPC Research is a private research and evaluation firm. We work across the country and internationally.
- We perform research and evaluation intended to be used to enhance programs and assist with training and technical assistance.
- We work in treatment courts, public health, family well-being, substance use and mental health care, education, and community development.
- In the past 30 years, NPC has completed over 500 treatment court evaluations and research studies.

Where did the BeST come from?

- First, NPC's best practices studies
- All Rise's Best Practice Standards (2013/2015, rev. 2018)
  - "Deconstructed" the standards into individual best practices
- OJJDP Family Treatment Court Guidelines
- Other research updates (new Standards coming)
- Feedback from states and individual users

What topics does the BeST assessment cover?

The BeST assesses:

Program Background and Participant Population: Questions include when and how the program was implemented, primary drugs used by participants, and who is on the team.

Eligibility (Inclusion and Exclusion) Criteria: Specific inclusions and exclusions for entry into the program, such as what kinds of offenses are accepted, which charges are targeted for admission, family involvement, age restrictions, and whether clients are excluded for having mental health problems, a violent criminal history or gang involvement.

Treatment Court Team Activities: This area assesses how often the treatment court team meets, its composition, communication between team members and the roles of each member.

Treatment: This area measures the number of treatment providers involved with the court, their relationship with the court, the type of treatment services offered (residential, outpatient and detoxification) and ancillary services (parenting, anger management, acupuncture and educational training) as well as the use of evidence-based treatment practices.

Drug Testing: This section measures the types of drug tests, how they are performed and the frequency with which they are performed.

Judge and Courtroom: Questions including topics such as how the judge interacts with participants, training received, use of incentives and sanctions

Other practices related to best practice standards and the 10 Key Components: Participant statistics, case management, previous evaluation activities.

Sample Questions

TREATMENT COURT: TEAM

63. Is there a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place between the team members (and/or the associated agencies)?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

64. If your treatment court has an MOU, does it specify (define) team member roles?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Not Applicable

65. If your treatment court has an MOU, does it specify what information will be shared between team members?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Not Applicable

66. Is there a written policy and procedure manual for your treatment court program?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

How does the assessment process work?

New Survey Created for Best Practice Self-Assessment (BeST); BPtest2279 - Message (HTML) (Read-...

Search

File Message Help Mimecast Attachments

Share to Teams | All Apps | Mark Unread | Find | Zoom | Viva Insights

New Survey Created for Best Practice Self-Assessment (BeST); BPtest2279

Reply | Reply All | Forward

N

noreply+automations@airtableemail.com
To Sarah Rowse
Cc NPC Best Help

Tue 9/26/2023 10:10 AM

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

NPC ATC Assessment 2023.pdf
765 KB

Hello Sarah Rowse,

A new user has been created for your treatment court(s) in the Best Practices Self-Assessment Tool (BeST).

TEST Ohio T[illegible]

Reference Number: BPtest2279

Password: test6764

[illegible] use the following link to acces[illegible] assessment:

Thank you for participating in the BeST assessment process.

Please plan to complete the assessment no later than **10/24/2023**.

Ohio Specialized Dockets

Welcome!

Hello - welcome to NPC's Treatment Court Best Practices Self-Assessment Tool (BeST) and Certification for Ohio's Specialized Dockets. Before we get started, please verify the information below and login.

Please Login

Reference Number

Password

Next

0%

Best Practices Assessment: Navigation Menu

Click "Answer" to begin a section.

The following status options indicate:
Not Started: No questions in the section have been answered.
Answered: This section has at least one response completed, but is considered *Not Yet Finished* or *Still In Progress*.
Complete: This section has all questions filled in with a response.

Section	Status	Actions
Characteristics	Answered	Answer
Eligibility & Referral	Answered	Answer
Services	Not Started	Answer
Team	Not Started	Answer
Drug/Alcohol Testing	Not Started	Answer
Status Review Sessions	Not Started	Answer
Judge	Not Started	Answer
Phases	Not Started	Answer
Payment	Complete	Answer
Responses to Participant Behavior	Not Started	Answer
Completion	Not Started	Answer
Monitoring and Evaluation	Not Started	Answer
Training	Not Started	Answer
Partnerships	Not Started	Answer
Funding	Not Started	Answer
Statistics	Not Started	Answer

- Each treatment court fills out **ONE** assessment online. (It should **NOT** be filled out by individual team members.)
  - Complete assessment collaboratively with the team
  - Go over the assessment as a group (e.g., in a team meeting) or check answers with your team members
    - e.g., coordinator takes the first pass using a printed copy, then takes the survey to the team to verify answers and complete remaining questions
- Frequently beneficial to the whole team as each team member learns details about how the program operates

What happens after I complete the assessment?

Post Assessment

- NPC reviews individual assessments for completeness and illogical answers
- Answers on the assessment are translated into best practice report for your treatment court

ANYTOWN TREATMENT COURT BEST PRACTICE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Adult Treatment Courts

This report has been created using the results of NPC's treatment court assessment tool. The best practice ratings below are made based on how questions were answered on the assessment.

Treatment Court Background	
Implementation year	2001
Current active caseload / current capacity	71 / 100
Graduates (successful completions)	2,008
Non-graduates (unsuccessful completions)	1,000

The most commonly used substance(s) among participants is/are Opiates/Heroin (27%)

The treatment court serves high, moderate, and low risk and high and low need participants. The treatment court has separate tracks for participants of different risk/need levels.

Best Practices by Key Component - Quick Review:

The statistics in this summary table indicate the percent of best practices (BPs) met within each component. The intention is to help identify which components need additional focus and support. Note, some practices are easier to implement than others (e.g., require less time or fewer resources) and some practices are restricted by local and state policies. This summary is not intended as a score or a grade indicating the quality of your program, but rather a navigational tool to aid in guiding your attention in the report to where you can celebrate best practices met and where you may require more assistance.

KC1.	*Team Collaboration*	70%
KC2.	*Public Safety & Due Process*	100%
KC3.	*Participant Eligibility & Program Entry*	90%
KC4a.	*Treatment Practices*	90%
KC4b.	*Treatment & Auxiliary Services*	71%
KC5.	*Drug Testing*	88%
KC6.	*Responses to Participant Behavior*	50%
KC7.	*Role of the Judge*	80%
KC8.	*Monitoring & Evaluation*	60%
KC9.	*Team Training*	0%
KC10.	*Program Support and Sustainability*	0%

KC Review Key: Meeting most practices | In progress, room for improvement | Priority area for discussion

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ANYTOWN TREATMENT COURT

Results as of March 2022

The tables below provide a list of treatment court best practices and whether your program is meeting that best practice, based on the answers in your assessment. The results for your treatment court on the key best practices listed in the table are meant to serve as a *starting point* for discussion about how you are implementing best practices in your program including what you are doing well and what you would like to do better. We hope that it will be useful for beginning or continuing conversations with your team.

The answers to the best practices below are compiled based on the treatment court's responses to one or more questions on NPC's Treatment Court Assessment:

- "Yes" indicates that the treatment court reports performing the practice.
- "No" indicates that the treatment court reports not performing the practice.
- "Missing" indicates that the treatment court did not respond to the question, or set of questions, necessary to determine whether the treatment court is performing the practice.

Key Component 1:

Treatment courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing

7 of 10 practices met (70%)

		Performing this practice?
1.1	The treatment court has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place between the treatment court team members (and/or the associated agencies)	Yes
	i. MOU specifies team member roles	Yes
	ii. MOU specifies what information will be shared	Yes
1.2	The treatment court has a written policy and procedure manual	Yes
1.3	All key team members[1] attend pre-court team meetings (staffings)	Yes
1.4	All key team members[2] attend court sessions/status review hearings	Yes

[1] Key team members include the judge, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a substance use disorder treatment representative, the treatment court coordinator, and a representative from probation Best practice research currently defines supervision as represented by someone from probation. However, treatment court programs where participants enter pre-plea or pre-conviction may not have a representative from probation on the team. Probation may not have legal authority or jurisdiction over participants in these situations, and the role of supervision monitoring may fall under a case manager or other team member. NPC recognizes that the role of supervision may be met by someone from an agency other than probation, and NPC commends programs who have this role identified and actively engaged in staffings and court sessions.
[2] See previous footnote.

Key Component 2:

Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights

4 of 4 practices met (100%)

		Performing this practice?
2.1	A prosecuting attorney attends pre-court team meetings (staffings)	Yes
2.2	A prosecuting attorney attends court sessions (status review hearings)	Yes
2.3	A defense attorney attends pre-court team meetings (staffings)	Yes
2.4	A defense attorney attends court sessions (status review hearings)	Yes

Key Component 3:

[No Title]

Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the treatment court

9 of 10 practices met (90%)

		Performing this practice?
3.1	The time between arrest (or the incident that prompts a referral) and treatment court entry is 50 days or less	Yes
3.2	Current treatment court caseload/census (number of individuals actively	Yes

The results of the assessment can be used for many purposes, including

1) improvement of program procedures and practices for better participant outcomes (the primary purpose),
2) Grant applications to demonstrate program needs or illustrate the program's capabilities

3) Requesting resources from boards of county commissioners or other local groups
4) Requesting training and TA from the state
5) **Certification and Peer Review**

CERTIFICATION!

- Ohio has moved their certification application online
- When you complete the BeST, your answers will automatically populate the new certification application
- When it's time for you to renew or apply for certification the first time, your application will already be partially completed

PEER REVIEW

Peer Review is a process that consists of peers (team members) from different treatment courts observing one another's programs

- Measure alignment to best practices
- Share successful practices
- Address challenges
- Help identify ideas for improvement

Benefits of peer review

- ✓ Supports and enhances alignment with Best Practice Standards.
- ✓ Creates a learning community and connections between team members in different programs.
- ✓ Disseminates programs' innovative and successful practices.
- ✓ Demonstrates program needs for grant applications, resource requests, and requests for technical assistance and training

NPC RESEARCH

QUESTIONS?

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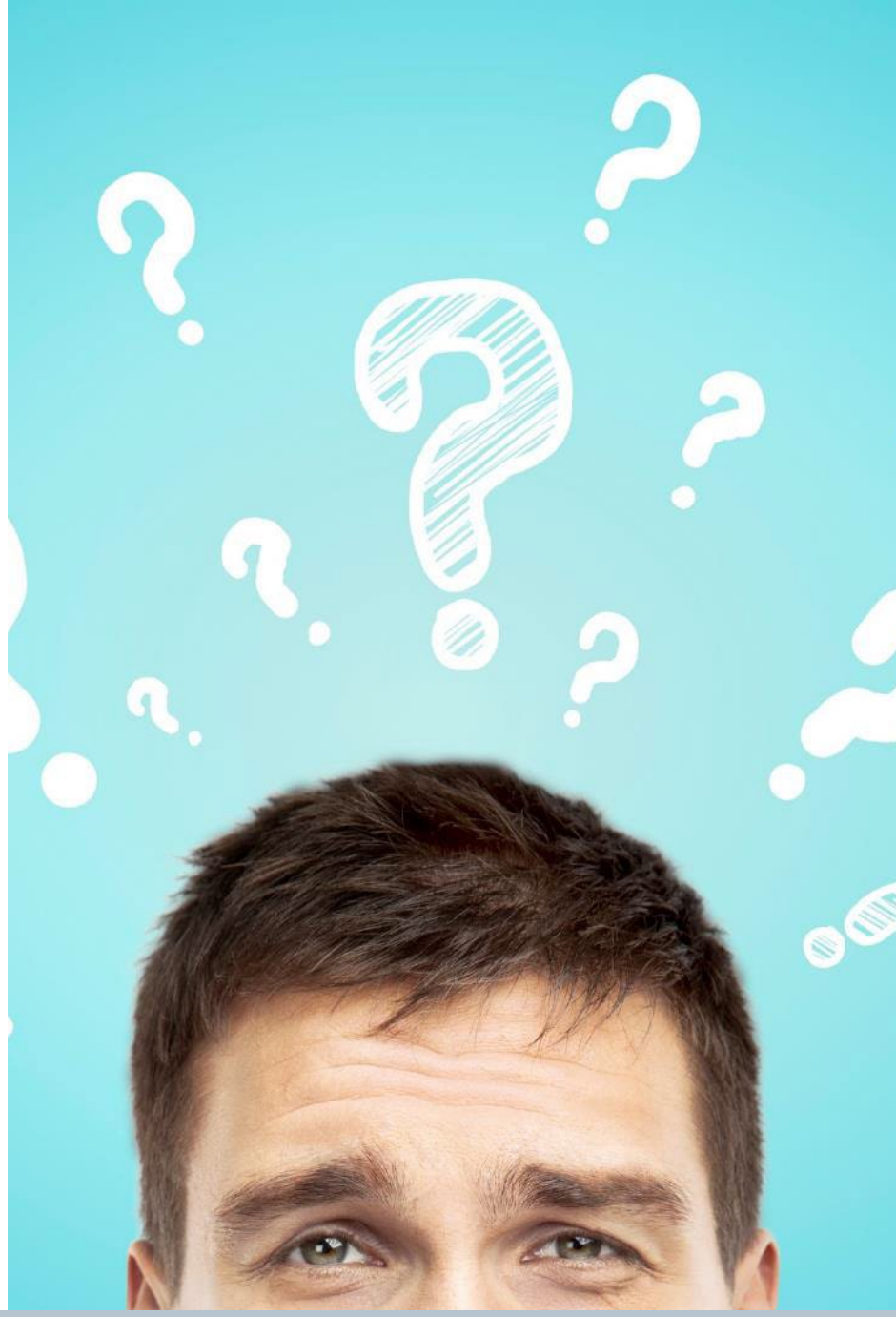
Informing Policy, Improving Programs to Enhance Lives



SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC

American University's Racial & Ethnic Disparities Assessment Tool

Matt Collinson, MHS

The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or grant-making component.

Ohio Statewide RED Initiative

The Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Program Assessment tool is designed to capture information about treatment courts' **operations and procedures**, with an emphasis on examining areas where **racial and ethnic disparities** may exist.

https://redtool.org/

Goals of the RED Assessment

Raise awareness of disparities in treatment court operations

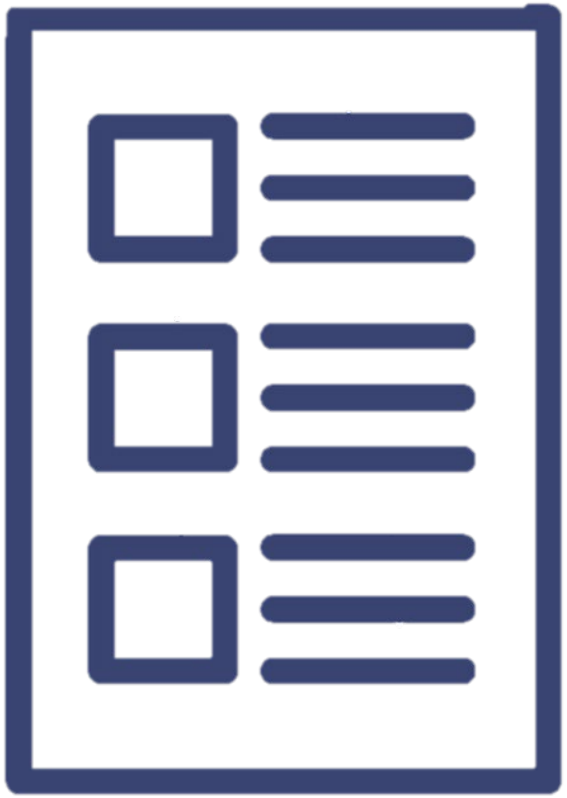
Assist courts in identifying disparities in their policies & practices

Offer recommendations to alleviate inequities in programs.

https://redtool.org/

What's on the Assessment?

- Court Information
- Intake
- Assessments
- Demographics
- Team Members
- Training
- Drugs/Treatment/Support Services
- Evaluation and Monitoring



https://redtool.org/

How to complete the RED Assessment

- Request login from AU (email redtool@american.edu or come & see us today!)
- Complete the assessment as a team
- Assessment asks about policies and practices your court is using to address disparities
- Some data entry required – in line with the Best Practice Standard 2
- Coming next year:
  - Tracks for FTCs, MH Courts and JDTCS
  - Online learning modules based on RED Assessment

https://redtool.org/

Data Security

- Data stored on AU's secure server.
- No individual / client level data collected.
- Court response data will only be reported in aggerate.

What do you get from the assessment?

Recommendations

Section 1: Court Information

- Create an information sheet that discusses racial/ethnic equity.
- Create a website that discusses racial/ethnic equity.
- Create a written participant handbook that discusses racial/ethnic equity.
- Consider implementing policies to assess for racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes.
- Consider implementing policies to employ a diverse staff that is representative of the treatment court's population.
- Consider implementing policies to support staff in providing culturally responsive interventions.
- To ensure participants understand the legal implications of participation in the treatment court, consider employing a community-based outreach specialist (e.g., cultural broker, community liaison, client outreach, peer-support).
- Continue assessing your court's policies and procedures in this category to further reduce racial and ethnic disparity.

Section 2: Intake

- Provide all referral agencies with a copy of the treatment court's eligibility requirements to ensure they have concrete guidance on prospective participants who can be referred to the program.
- Eliminating barriers like having access to transportation make programs more accessible to participants who may be from lower socioeconomic groups.
- Continue assessing your court's policies and procedures in this category to further reduce racial and ethnic disparity.

https://redtool.org/

What do you get from the assessment?

https://redtool.org/

Questions?

Email: redtool@american.edu

Statewide RED Training & Technical Assistance Strategic Planning Model

Karen Otis, Deputy Director

Center for Justice Innovation (The Center)

Our mission is to make the legal system fair, effective, and humane. We create OPERATING PROGRAMS to test new ideas and solve problems, perform original RESEARCH to determine what works (and what doesn't), and provide TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to justice reformers around the world.

The technical assistance (TA) team provides specialized support to multidisciplinary criminal legal stakeholders and organizations. As thought partners, we take time to identify and understand stakeholders' needs and address those needs with targeted training or specialized assistance from appropriate experts in the field. The Center provides remote and on-site support on a wide variety of criminal legal topics ranging from crime prevention and adjudication; mental health and substance use disorder treatment within the legal system; and fidelity to best practices in court operations, roles and responsibilities, and recovery program models. We are guided by transformation, anti-racism and anti-oppression, equitable collaboration, and person-centered practices.

Center for Justice Innovation

www.innovatingjustice.org

First things first…

The opinions, findings, and recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the Bureau of Justice Assistance or the Center for Court Innovation State-Based Adult Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Program.

BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Center for Justice Innovation

Racial & Ethnic Disparities TTA Strategic Planning Model

The RED TTA five-phase statewide step-up model

1. Assess and identify racial and ethnic disparities
2. Provide report and detailed recommendations based on the assessment
3. Review report data and recommendations & facilitate RED trainings
4. Analyze and review criminal justice data
5. Disseminate “decision points” action plan to effectuate change

Statewide Curriculum

An interactive multidisciplinary series that addresses the interpersonal, organizational, and structural processes of treatment court practitioners. All trainings include equitable engagement activities.

Session 1: History of race and the war on drugs

Session 2: Introduction to cultural humility/bias training

Session 3: Developing cultural humility/anti-bias skills

Session 4: Identifying and addressing data collection

Session 5: Decision points workshop

Decision Points Action Planning

1. A statewide workshop for all treatment court staff or administrators
2. The strategic planning exercise empower staff to identify "decision points," areas of change that address racial and ethnic disparities in court operations.
3. An identified decision point can be micro or macro and is based on the multidisciplinary team members' role, responsibilities, and experience in treatment courts.
4. The National Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards will be the decision point framework that will be examined for areas of subjectivity that impact racial and ethnic disparities in the courts. Team members will be assigned to one of ten groups to work collaboratively on one best practice standards.
5. The exercise will result in an action plan that will provide the courts with an implementation structure for policy and program change.

Statewide Recommendations

1. Identify statewide working group (a diverse multidisciplinary group) to prioritize and implement the recommendations
2. Schedule yearly anti-racist, racial & ethnic disparities, cultural competency/cultural humility regional and statewide trainings
3. Include anti-racist and racial & ethnic disparities components in all training initiatives including judges' trainings
4. Develop statewide racial & ethnic disparities mission and vision statements and other equity language for local treatment courts
5. Develop a statewide racial & ethnic disparities data dashboard

Lessons Learned

1. State administrators should incentivize courts to engage in an RED assessment
2. Training is good; however, accountability moves implementation along faster
3. Normalizing RED conversations helps to ensure RED is considered in all aspects of a treatment courts operations
4. Buy-in comes when a multidisciplinary team comes to together to prioritize RED initiatives
5. Data speaks volumes, use it