

LESSONS FROM 10 YEARS OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

OHIO SUPREME COURT SPECIALIZED DOCKET CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 21 - 22, 2019

THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS OF DRUG COURTS

Component #1: Drug Courts integrate alcohol and other drug court treatment services with justice case processing



Ashtabula County's program consists of participants who enter as a condition of

Diversion (Intervention in Lieu of Conviction)

Post Conviction (initially ordered to participate as a condition of probation)

Probation Violation or Judicial Release

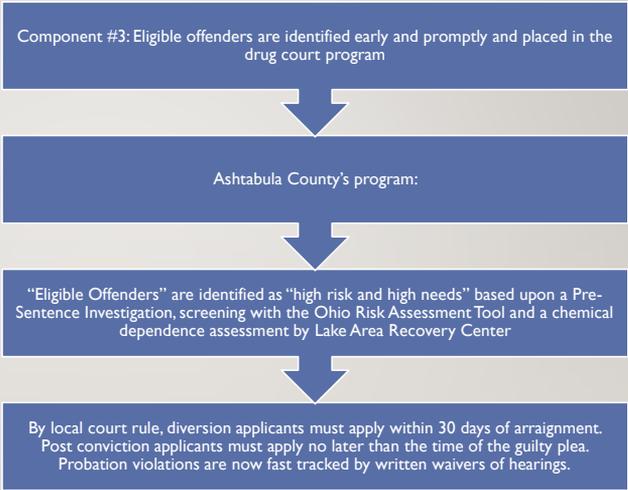
THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS

Component #2: Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights

Ashtabula County's program:

- Prosecutor reviews the application and determines legal eligibility
- Defense Counsel makes sure that the applicant understands the programs rules and constitutional rights
- Participants have the right to have defense counsel attend treatment team meetings, the right to a hearing prior to a jail sanction and the right to a termination hearing
- Both the prosecutor and defense counsel make recommendations regarding sanctions

THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS



HIGH RISK AND HIGH NEED OFFENDERS

“High Risk” for men are those who score 24 or higher on the ORAS. For women, those who score 29 or higher.

“High Need” are those diagnosed with Substance Use Disorder (Mod. to Severe), a Mental Health Disorder or Both.

Component #4: Drug Courts provide access to continuum of alcohol, drug and other related treatment and rehabilitation services

Ashtabula County's program:

Each participant receives a treatment plan based upon individual needs; the level of treatment is determined by level of risk of recidivating and the level of substance abuse

Treatment programs include:

Intensive Outpatient and Non Intensive Outpatient

Medication Assisted Treatment

Residential Treatment (Turning Point, N.E.O.C.A.P , Glenbeigh)

If indicated, a Mental Health Assessment and Treatment

THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS

TREATMENT SERVICES, CONT.

Intimate Partner Violence Program
Partial Hospitalization Program (S.U.D)
M.I.N.D. (Moving in New Directions)
Motivational Enhancement
Thinking for a Change
S.A.F.E. (Safety and Awareness of Fear of Emotions)
Aggression Replacement Training



TREATMENT SERVICES, CONT.

Relapse Prevention and Peer Recovery
Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse
Psychiatry
Therapy
Case Management
Supported Employment Services
Individual Counseling



THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS

Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing

Ashtabula County's program:

Random, frequent and observed

Each participant calls into an automated system everyday to find out if required to submit an urine screen

Each participant is randomly tested a minimum of 2 times per week

All tests are sent for confirmation testing

THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS

Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance

Ashtabula County's Program:

Treat Sick Behavior = Treatment Adjustments

Punish Bad Behavior = Sanctions

Reward Good Behavior = Incentives

THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS

Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential



Ashtabula County's Program:



Status hearings held every Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Yost

THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS

Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness

Ashtabula County's Program:

Monitoring of Graduates by Drug Court Coordinator

Quarterly Reports @ capacity, recidivism, successes and barriers

Comprehensive survey of Graduates and Focus Groups

May 2016 Self Assessment



THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS

Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation and operation



Ashtabula County's Program:



Training received by the National Drug Court Institute (operational tune up), the National Drug Court Conference and the Ohio Supreme Court

Component #10: Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies and community based organization generates local support and enhances drug court program

The Advisory Committee consists of 9 members and includes Representatives from:

Job and Family Services

Private Defense Bar

Sheriff's Department

Samaritan House

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

Kent State Ashtabula

ACMC

Two community members, including one program graduate

THE TEN KEY COMPONENTS

STATISTICS OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY FELONY DRUG COURT PROGRAM COVERING 10 YEARS

As of August 31, 2019, 601 drug court applications have been submitted:

264 were rejected from the program (did not meet legal or clinical criteria, or decided they did not wish to participate)

179 have successfully completed

88 have been unsuccessfully terminated

4 have been neutrally discharged

58 are currently in the program

8 are currently involved in the application and screening process



FOUR OFFENDERS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM TWO SEPARATE TIMES

1 successfully complete both times

2 terminated during the first time, but then successfully completed the second time

1 terminated the first time and is currently active in the program



STATISTICS OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY FELONY DRUG COURT PROGRAM COVERING 10 YEARS



Primary Drug of Abuse:

- Heroin = 54%
- Methamphetamine = 22%
- Prescription Drugs (Opiates) = 8%
- Marijuana = 5%
- Cocaine = 6%
- Alcohol = 3%
- Other (Barbituates/Benzodiazepene/Inhalants) = 2%

STATISTICS OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY FELONY DRUG COURT PROGRAM COVERING 10 YEARS



Gender and Race/Ethnic Background:

Men = 59%

Women = 41% (16 have been pregnant when entering the program or became pregnant during the program, and completed the program with healthy babies)

Caucasian = 90%

African American = 6%

Hispanic = 2%

Bi-Racial or Unknown = 2%

BREAKDOWN OF THE CURRENT 53 PARTICIPANTS

39 Males and 19 Females (1 pregnant)

54 Caucasian

2 African American

2 Bi-Racial

1 is 19 years of age

35 are in their 20's

25 are in their 30's

2 are in their 40's

3 in their 50's

Primary Drug of Abuse:

Heroin = 30

Meth = 24

Prescription Opiates = 1

THC = 2

Xanax (Benzo) = 1

RECIDIVISM RATES OF GRADUATES

Recidivism = any new criminal charge,
except minor traffic

Since 2010, 179 participants have
successfully completed the program

Overall, 97 of these participants have
had no further contact with the
criminal justice system



RECIDIVISM RATES OF GRADUATES

The first two years are the most important!

For graduates from 2010 – 2015:

44% of those who completed program have not re-offended

Of the 56% who re-offended:

- 74% within first two years, 26% after two years or more



RECIDIVISM ISSUES ADDRESSED IN 2016, AND SIGNIFICANT ENHANCEMENTS IMPLEMENTED



Added Mental Health

Added Medication Assisted Treatment

Added a phase focused on Maintenance

Added S.A.F.E. (Trauma)

Law Enforcement Officer on Treatment Team

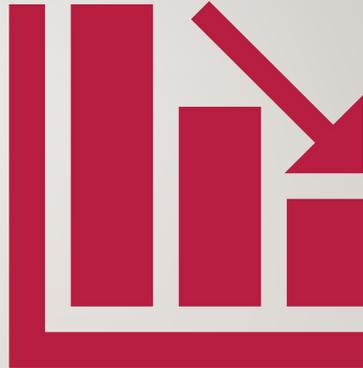
RECIDIVISM SINCE 2016 ENHANCEMENTS

2016 – present:

70% have not re-offended

Of the 30% who have re-offended:

- 83% re-offended within the first year
- 17% during the second year
- So far, 0% recidivism after 2 years



ALSO IMPROVED RATE OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

2008 – 2015:

52% of those who entered the program successfully completed

2016- Present:

59% of those who entered have successfully completed the program

Also an increase of 7.5% in number of participants



2017 - 2018 ENHANCEMENTS

Commencement Interviews

Alumni Group

Restorative Justice

More Comprehensive Surveys of
Graduates

Focus Groups of Current Participants



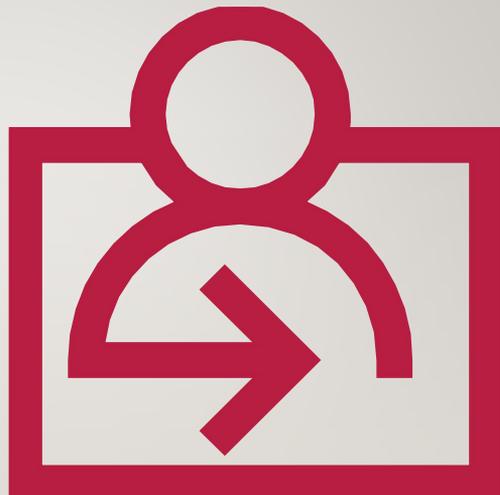
NEW FOR 2019

Supported Employment Services as a Treatment Team Member

- Evidence based practice that helps adults with behavioral health conditions find and work at regular jobs of their choosing. It is individualized, focusing on a person's strengths and operates on the philosophy that work promotes recovery and wellness

Addiction Treatment Program Funding

- \$200,000 provided by O.M.H.A.S. to provide access to time limited recovery supports that help eliminate barriers to treatment and are specific to the participant's needs.



ALSO NEW FOR 2019

Partial Hospitalization Program (S.U.D.)

- level of care between traditional residential treatment and intensive outpatient (M- F, four hours per day), allowing participants to continue maintain employment and support their families

The Connection Center

- highly structured non-residential facility that offers daily reporting, integrated cognitive-behavioral interventions, supported employment, substance abuse treatment and linkages to community resources

Data Submissions to the Ohio Supreme Court



WHAT HAVE THE PARTICIPANTS TOLD US?



What works well in Drug Court?

- The Accountability
- Commitment by Team to people in Drug Court
- It's a "chance giver", dodging a felony or receiving a second chance to not go to prison
- Introduction to programs that are helpful

WHAT HAVE THE PARTICIPANTS TOLD US?

What can be improved?

- Fairness of sanctions
- Child care during treatment
- Educating families about Drug Court
- More Smart Recovery Meetings and no Sponsors
- Policy regarding medications



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

Strengthening the Mentor and Alumni Programs through the formation of a not for profit organization supporting all four of the specialized docket courts in the county.

Federal Health and Human Services Grant enhancing evidence based practices in prevention, treatment and recovery support programs

DRUG COURT PROGRAM WRITTEN MATERIALS

Program materials are available on the
Ashtabula County Court System
webpage under the Court Office tab

Additional questions can be directed
to Stephanie Belconis, Drug Court
Coordinator,

sibelconis@ashtabulacounty.us



SPECIAL THANKS

- The Honorable Gary L. Yost, Drug Court Judge

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO

State of Ohio,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Defendant.

CASE NO. _____ CR _____

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

You have violated the following conditions/requirements of drug court, to wit:

The proposed sanction for this violation is: _____

DATE: _____

Drug Court Probation Officer

I have reviewed the defendant's due process rights, including the right to a hearing, with the defendant.

DATE: _____

Attorney

STIPULATION AND WAIVER

I understand that I have: 1) the right to a hearing at which the State would have to prove the violation; 2) the right to hear, see, and cross-examine the witnesses against me; 3) the right to have an attorney represent me; 4) the right to testify, to call witnesses, and present evidence.

Understanding these rights, I hereby waive my right to consult with counsel and to have a hearing. I admit the violation and I accept the proposed sanction.

I request a hearing.

DATE: _____

Defendant

ORDER

The Court finds that the defendant has violated the conditions/requirements of drug court, as set forth above. The defendant is sanctioned as follows:

DATE: _____

JUDGE