

Juvenile Drug Courts:

- 1) Why are they important?
- 2) Effective Strategies
 - A. Tarrant County Juvenile Drug Court

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Why are they so important?

- The Problem
 - Adolescent Substance Use
 - Statistics
 - Trends
 - Treatment
- The Response
 - Nothing
 - Voluntary treatment
 - Juvenile Justice System
- An Answer?
 - Juvenile Drug Courts



Adolescent Substance Use Statistics

- Age of onset
 - 11.6 (Tarrant County – alcohol)
 - 13.5 (DC Drug Impact Index - marijuana)
 - 12.9% 14 and younger
 - Earlier is not better
 - Likelihood of dependence is much higher the younger you start
- Use
 - 12th grade
 - Marijuana – 42% have used marijuana
 - Alcohol – 72% have used alcohol
- Complications
 - Academics
 - Extracurricular
 - Familial
 - Peers



Adolescent Substance Abuse Trends

- Changes in use
 - Statistics show modest decline
 - Still prevalent
 - Increase in use of pharmaceuticals
- Adolescent Brain Development
 - 12 to 24 – Second major development stage
 - “Use it or lose it” - pruning
 - Back to Front
 - Prefrontal Cortex
 - Lots of green light, little red light
 - Susceptible to damage
 - Memory
 - Brain chemistry



Substance Abuse Treatment

- Who goes? <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k7NSDUH/2k7results.cfm#Ch7>
 - 23 million 12 and older need treatment (2007)
 - Only 10% (2.4 million) got it (2007).
 - 53% used their own earnings or savings to receive it.
- What happens?
 - Treatment works <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/govstudy/027/drug.aspx>
 - 50% reduction in use of substance 1 year after treatment
 - \$18 in benefits to the community for every \$1 spent.
 - 64% reduction in arrest
 - \$4 to \$7 saved on drug related crime for every \$1 spent.
 - Near as or more effective than treatment of other problems
 - Medical or change of habit
- Evidenced Based Practices
 - Increase in using programs/practices that actually work

The Juvenile Justice System

- Juveniles, Substance Use, and Delinquency
 - 78.4% (1.9 of 2.4 million) have a link to substance abuse
 - Positive Drug test, admit to use, under influence at offense, or commit an offense involving alcohol or drugs
 - 54% positive at time of arrest
 - 37.8% admit being under the influence of alcohol – generally not tested
 - 44% meet DSM IV criteria for dependence
 - More likely to be re-arrested than non substance abusing delinquents
 - Juvenile Arrest for Drug Offenses Up 105%
 - Over previous decade
 - Overall arrest rate – decreased by 12.9%
- Defacto Treatment System
 - Majority of adolescent referrals to treatment are from juvenile justice system
- Traditional Response
 - Punitive -if punishment alone - affect on change is transitory
 - Inconsistent
 - Only 3.6 % of those 1.9 million in juvenile justice system received treatment
 - \$14.4 billion in 2000 for JJ – 1% for SA treatment



The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. (2004). *Criminal Neglect: Substance Abuse, Juvenile Justice and The Children Left Behind.*
www.casacolumbia.org/absoluten/articles/files/379-Criminal%20Neglect.pdf

Juvenile Drug Courts

- First Adult Drug Court – 1989 - Miami - Dade County
 - Non Adversarial
 - Treatment focused
 - Intensive case management/Judicial oversight
 - Alternative to Traditional response
 - Incarceration
 - Residential treatment
 - Traditional probation
- 1995 - Juvenile Drug Court (400-500)
- 1999 - Texas
 - 17 programs
 - 14 counties

Effective Strategies

Tarrant County Juvenile Drug Court

- History
 - 1st implemented in Texas – March 1999
 - Cast in a new mold
 - Administrative Hearing Process
 - Juvenile Drug Court Team
- Approach
 - Diversion (early intervention) – consistent with Tarrant County departmental goals
 - Divert young people from further penetrating the justice system
 - Post Plea
 - Pre Adjudication

Juvenile Drug Court

Effective Strategies (1-8) (<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/197866.pdf>)

- 1. Collaborative Planning
 - Engage all stakeholders in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated, and systemic approach to working with youth and their families.
- 2. Teamwork
 - Develop and maintain an interdisciplinary, non adversarial work team.
- 3. Clearly Defined Target Population and Eligibility Criteria
 - Define a target population and eligibility criteria that are aligned with the program's goals and objectives.
- 4. Judicial Involvement and Supervision
 - Schedule frequent judicial reviews and be sensitive to the effect that court proceedings can have on youth and their families.
- 5. Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Establish a system for program monitoring and evaluation to maintain quality of service, assess program impact, and contribute to knowledge in the field.
- 6. Community Partnerships
 - Build partnerships with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth and their families.
- 7. Comprehensive Treatment Planning
 - Tailor interventions to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families.
- 8. Developmentally Appropriate Services
 - Tailor treatment to the developmental needs of adolescents.

Juvenile Drug Court Effective Strategies (9-16)

- **9. Gender-Appropriate Services**
 - Design treatment to address the unique needs of each gender.
- **10. Cultural Competence**
 - Create policies and procedures that are responsive to cultural differences and train personnel to be culturally competent.
- **11. Focus on Strengths**
 - Maintain a focus on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between the court and those it serves.
- **12. Family Engagement**
 - Recognize and engage the family as a valued partner in all components of the program.
- **13. Educational Linkages**
 - Coordinate with the school system to ensure that each participant enrolls in and attends an educational program that is appropriate to his or her needs.
- **14. Drug Testing**
 - Design drug testing to be frequent, random, and observed. Document testing policies and procedures in writing.
- **15. Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions**
 - Respond to compliance and noncompliance with incentives and sanctions that are designed to reinforce or modify the behavior of youth and their families.
- **16. Confidentiality**
 - Establish a confidentiality policy and procedures that guard the privacy of the youth while allowing the drug court team to access key information.

Collaborative Planning

- **Cast in a Different Mold**
 - Juvenile Judges
 - Prosecutors
 - Defense Attorneys
 - Treatment Providers
 - Juvenile Justice
- **Specific unit within department**
- **Differences**
 - Prosecutors
 - File petition
 - Agree to allow entry into Drug Court
 - Present for stipulation at Drug Court Adjudication
 - Defense Attorneys
 - Present for Judicial Reviews
 - Individual for each client
 - Private
 - Ad - Item
 - Judicial
 - Juvenile Court Judge and 3 Associate Judges
 - Allow entry into Drug Court
 - Preside over Drug Court Adjudication, and 3 month reviews.
- Ability to observe success

Teamwork

- **Drug Court Unit**
 - Supervisor
 - 2 Intake Officers
 - 4 Field Officers – 3 Regional, 1 specialized
 - 30 maximum cases
 - 20 to 25 average
- **Contracts with local providers**
 - Assessments
 - Meet at least monthly
 - Treatment team is present for Administrative Review
- **Others**
 - Parents/Clients
 - Mentors
 - School Officials

Clearly Defined Target Population and Eligibility Criteria

- Juvenile Justice Referrals (10-17)
 - Prefer 13 years or older
- Possession Offenses
 - Felony or Misdemeanor
 - Many of the cases have previous referrals, but have not had supervision.
- 2nd time referrals
 - Volatile Chemicals
 - Public Intoxication
 - Drug Paraphernalia
- Voluntary
- Early Identification/Intervention
 - 45 day average from Intake to Program entry
- District Attorney Approval
- Disqualifiers
 - Gang
 - Handgun
 - Violent offenses (some simple assaults are exceptions)
 - DWI – District Attorney's office

Judicial Involvement and Supervision

- 6 to 12 months
- Cast in a Different Mold
 - Supervisor as an Administrative Officer
 - Administrative Reviews (status hearings)
 - Monthly minimum
 - 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings
 - Clients and treatment team evaluate progress
 - Incentives for Recognized Clients
 - Individual
 - Special Administrative hearings
- Judicial Oversight
 - Post Plea/Pre-Adjudication
 - Reviews
 - 3 month (midpoint)
 - 6 month (graduation)
 - As needed



Monitoring and Evaluation

- Extensive Database
 - 38 items collected for data per client
 - Not including UA information
- Monthly Audit/Evaluation/Report
- Oversight – Reports due to Governor's Office
- Ongoing Training
 - Enhancing Juvenile Drug Courts
- Outside Research
 - MHMR
 - Local Doctoral/Graduate students

Community Partnerships

- Volunteer Work
 - Homeless Coalition – Census
 - Speaking engagements
 - Red Ribbon Week
- Community Treatment Providers
- Community Coalition
- Collaborative Efforts
- Community Service

Comprehensive Treatment Planning

- Comprehensive Assessment
 - 1 hour intake – PACT – evidenced based assessment instrument (criminogenic needs) – Guided Motivational Interview
 - Strength Inventory
 - Voluntary Drug Test
 - MAYSI II
 - 1-2 hour assessment – AccuCare (ASI)
 - Individualized Treatment Plan
- Continuum of Treatment Services
 - Treatment Team (Education/Intervention/Treatment)
 - Evidenced Based Practices/Programs
- Re-Assessment
- Ancillary Services
 - Psychological, Psychiatric, Family Preservation, MST
- Action Plan
 - Client guided
 - Monthly Plan review

Developmentally Appropriate Services

- Adolescent Specific Providers
 - Group Settings
 - Individual Treatment
- Age based Curfew
- Psychological/Psychiatric
 - Evaluation
 - Counseling
 - Medication management

Gender Appropriate Services

- Training
 - Adolescent Female Brain Development
- Local resources
 - Girls Incorporated
 - Big Brothers/Big Sisters
 - Safe Haven



Cultural Competence

- Bilingual Capacity
 - Intake and Field
 - Treatment Providers
- Training
- Individualized Treatment Plan
- Evaluation/Monitoring

Focus on Strengths

- PACT Assessments
 - EBP
 - Balanced Perspective
- Strength Inventory
- Motivational Interviewing
- Client guided Action Plan
 - Monthly Review – Client/Parent directed
- Solution Focused Therapy



Family Engagement

- Critical to Success of a Juvenile Drug Court



- Required at Intake/Assessment
- Reinforced regularly: Administrative Reviews
- Family component with Treatment Providers
- Motivational Enhancement/Interviewing
- Mediation

Educational Linkage



- Nurture established relationships
- Search for opportunities to partner
 - Red Ribbon Week
- Encourage/Assist Parents
- Ancillary services

Drug Testing


- Comprehensive
 - Collected by Officers
 - Each contact
 - Minimum – by level of supervision
 - Every intake, judicial hearing, administrative review
- On site testing
 - Confirmations
 - Positive test with denied use
 - suspicious samples
 - Alcohol

Goal Oriented Incentives and Sanctions

- Goal Oriented – increasing desired behaviors
 - Set clear expectations
 - Terms of Supervision
 - Drug Court Notebook
 - Individual
 - Immediacy – near the event
 - APPA – within 7 days
 - Certainty
 - Each infraction and goal
 - Opportunity for incentive at every Administrative Review for significant progress
 - Severity
 - In proportion to the infraction or goal
 - Graduated

Confidentiality

- Texas Statute
 - Family Code
- Consent/Release Forms
- Closed Administrative/Judicial Review Hearings
- Records Sealed at Graduation



Tarrant County Statistics

- Retention
 - 80% successfully complete the requirements of the program.
- Use
 - About 3,000 drug tests per year – approximately 200 clients
 - UA's 93% negative/clean
 - 33% positive at Intake; 15% positive at Initial Hearing
 - Compare to 49% clean for all other department UA's.
- Exit Surveys (2007 graduates)
 - Prior to entry
 - 69% of parents rated client behavior as horrible, poor, or fair
 - 58% of clients rated client behavior as horrible, poor, or fair
 - Graduation
 - 97% of parents rated client behavior as good or great at graduation
 - 92% of clients rated client behavior as good or great
 - Customer Satisfaction
 - 97% of parents reported good or great experience
 - 95% of clients reported good or great experience
- Recidivism
 - 96% - Free from Juvenile Referral
 - 98% - Free from Juvenile Adjudication


Tarrant County

Where are we now? (Taking it to Scale)

- 10th year anniversary - May 2009
 - Celebration
 - Drug Court Program
 - Program graduates
- High School Drug Court model
 - Keller High School – treatment on campus for those with alcohol related issues on campus.
- Post Adjudication/Substance Abuse Unit?

Steps in Developing a Juvenile Drug Court

- Identify program goals
- Develop the planning committee
- Identify target population
- Identify resources necessary to implement the program
- Determine existing resources and gaps
- Develop procedures for program operation
- Develop program management and operating capacity
- Develop a plan for program evaluation
- Delineate the key roles and responsibilities for the Drug Court team
- Gain community support by involving a broad range of community organizations



JAGB Bulletin – May 2001
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/184744.pdf> page 8
http://spa.american.edu/justice/publications/TADCP_Planning&ImplementingDCinTX_Jan05.pdf

Standards of Proof (Douglas Marlowe – The Verdict is In)

	Law				
		↑			
Beyond a Reasonable Doubt		> 95%			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimental Studies • Replicated • Independent Meta-Analyses • Dismantling / Matching
Adult Drug Courts					
Clear and Convincing Evidence		≈ 75%			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quasi-Experimental Studies • Replicated
Family Dependency Courts					
Preponderance of the Evidence		51%			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quasi-Experimental Study
DWI Courts					
Probable Cause		≈ 25%			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-to-Post Studies • Case Studies • Mixed Results
Juvenile Drug Courts					
Mental Health Courts					
Reasonable Suspicion			●		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anecdotes • Analogies

Conclusion

- > Questions: Greg Sumpter gsumpter@tarrantcounty.com
 - Contact information on front of presentation
- > Resources
 - NADCP (www.nadcp.org)
 - Resource materials – National support, membership, conferences
 - TADCP (www.tadcp.com)
 - Resource materials – State support, membership, conferences, networking
 - Reclaiming Futures (www.reclaimingfutures.org)
 - Monitoring the Future (www.monitoringthefuture.org)
 - NIDA (www.nida.nih.gov)
 - Adolescent addiction research
 - SAMHSA (www.samhsa.gov)
 - Grant opportunities, Addiction research
 - NCJFCJ (www.ncjfcj.org)
 - Training and Technical Assistance
- > Thanks
 - Thank you for the opportunity to share about our program and the Juvenile Drug Court Model.
