

Treatment Courts: Saving Lives, Saving Money

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Mark Ireland

Second Judicial District

I FIND MY LIFE IS A LOT
EASIER THE LOWER I KEEP
EVERYONE'S EXPECTATIONS.



Learning Objectives

- Know The Goal Of Treatment Courts And How They Benefit All of Us, including the Mentally Ill And Chemically Dependent
- Understand The Difference Between The Treatment Court Model and the Traditional Correctional Approach
- Know The Three Ways That Treatment Courts Are More Effective In Assisting People With Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Issues

The Goal of Treatment Courts

“Though only 5 percent of the world’s population lives in the United States, it is home to 25 percent of the world’s prison population. ... Not only does the current overpopulated, underfunded system hurt those incarcerated, it also digs deeper into the pockets of taxpaying Americans.”

–Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.)

The goal of treatment courts are simple:

Stop the incarceration of people who have committed crimes primarily due to their mental illness or chemical dependency.

So what is going on?



Rates of serious mental illness among individuals in jail is three to four time higher than the general population.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
TREATMENT COURTS AND
TRADITIONAL CORRECTION RESPONSES

COMPARISON OF COURT INTERVENTIONS FOR MENTAL ILLNESS

Intervention	Defendant's Participation	Length of Participation
Treatment Court	Voluntary	1-3 years
Civil Commitment	Involuntary (created by statute)	6 months
Mentally Ill and Dangerous	Involuntary (created by statute)	Indeterminate
Sexually Dangerous	Involuntary (created by statute)	Indeterminate

COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL CRIMINAL COURTS AND MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

- Traditional Courts: focus on punishment and compliance with conditions of probation.
- Treatment Courts: focus on recovery and habilitation

THREE WAYS TREATMENT COURTS
ARE MORE EFFECTIVE

1. MOTIVATION TO CHANGE

2. INTEGRATED APPROACH

3. EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

What does this look like?

Taking a closer look at the
Ramsey County Treatment Courts

Problem Solving Court Unit

- Mental Health Court
- DWI Treatment Court
- Veterans Court
- Adult Substance Abuse Court (a/k/a Drug Court)

Different Courts for Different Populations

	Mental Health Court -- MHC	DWI Treatment Court -- DWI	Veterans Treatment Court – VTC	Adult Substance Abuse Court – ASAC (Drug Court)
Types of Cases	Misdemeanors, Gross Misd. and Felonies	Gross Misd. and Felonies	Misdemeanors, Gross Misd. and Felonies	Felonies
Criteria	Mental Health Disorder. May also be in need of CD treatment.	Charged with 3 rd DWI or more and in need of substance abuse treatment	Veteran (whether or not eligible for VA services) in need of substance abuse and/or Mental Health treatment.	In need of CD treatment. May also be in need of Mental Health treatment.
Coordinator	Brandi Stavlo	Tanya Jones	Tanya Jones	Brandi Stavlo
Risk/Need	?	Only high risk	Accepts both high risk and low risk	Only high risk

The Problem Solving Court Team

Team Member	Judge	Coordinator	Prosecutor	Defense Attorney	Case Manager	Providers/ Treatment reps	Other Team Members	Law Enforcement
Role	Supervises client progress. Leads team decision making, holds client accountable through sanctions and incentives.	Responsible running staffing and facilitating court processes. In charge of monitoring goals, objectives, and timelines; writes grants.	Gatekeeper for admission to court. Attends all staffings. Presents public safety perspective to team.	Advocate for client's continued participation in court. Attends all staffings. Assures confidentiality requirements met.	Provide individual, intensive supervision . Presents information to team through staffing updates and in staffing.	Attends staffing and provides information on treatment modes. Conducts Rule 25 assessments and facilitates rapid entry into treatment.	MET Facilitators, Psychiatric Court Clinic Staff,	

What Happens Prior to Staffing?

- Participants meet with case managers or Probation Officer.
- Participants attend treatment, programming and submit to random urinalysis testing.
- Case managers communicate with participant and treatment providers.
- The case manager communicates any urgent updates or questions to the team via email. All normal updates are added to the staffing sheets and sent to the team the day before court.

Staffing Updates

All four courts use the same staffing update form. While much of the form stays the same week to week, problems are highlighted and sanctions are noted cumulatively.



Offense	File Number(s)	Offense Date	Sentencing Date	Expiration Date
Phase		Sentence/Disposition		

<u>OFFENDER INFORMATION</u>				
	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Date of Birth
Picture/No Image Available	Street Address	City	State	Zip
	Phone Number	Mobile Number		
	Initial Risk	Initial LS/CMI	Current LS/CMI	Final LS/CMI
<u>Housing</u>		<u>Placement</u>		
<u>Employment Status</u>		<u>Education</u>		
<u>COURT STATUS</u>				
Accepted Date/Track	Phase 1 Date	Phase 2 Date	Phase 3 Date	
Fines Owed/Paid	Fees Owed/Paid	Restitution Owed/Paid	CWS Owed/Completed	
<u>INFORMATION</u>				
MH Diagnosis	Medications	Case Manager/Psychiatrist/Court Clinic/Other		
Treatment Location	Type	Start	End	Physical/Behavioral/Treatment/Trauma Issues? Y/N History of Suicide/Danger to Others Y/N
CD Diagnosis	CHA Date	Result		
Sobriety Date	Substance(s) of Use		Sponsor	
<u>COGNITIVE</u>			<u>NONCOMPLIANCE</u>	
Curriculum	Start Date	End Date	<u>Date</u>	<u>Behavior</u>
Other Programs	Start Date	End Date	<u>Response</u>	
<u>COURT INFORMATION</u>				
Next Court Date:	Fishbowl	Medallion		
Special Conditions –				
Positives –				
Challenges –				

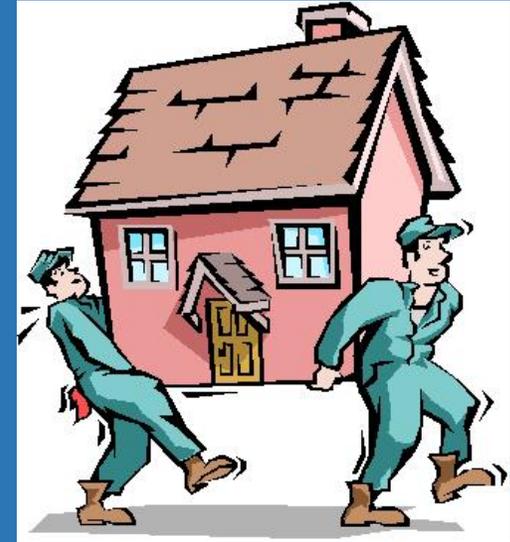
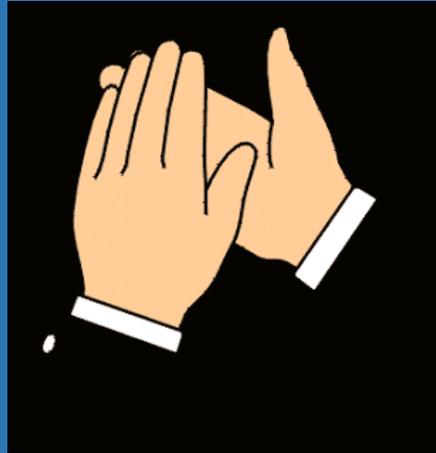
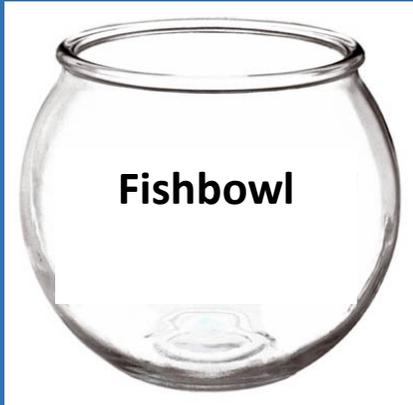
What Happens in Staffing?

- Team discusses each participant scheduled for court that day.
- The Case Manager highlights important issues to discuss and points out things the Judge can praise or advise the participant about in court.
- Team discusses and approves or rejects applications to travel, change living situations, move phases.
- Team decides appropriate rewards or sanctions based on behavior.
- Team discusses new referrals and their needs.

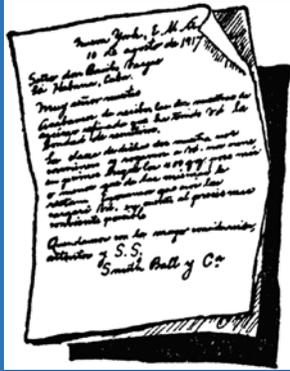
What Happens in Court?

Incentives and Sanctions

Specific to the individual and graduated.



Incentives may be in-court recognition, entry into the weekly fishbowl drawing for a gift card or other prize, approval to move or travel.



Sanctions may include in-court reprimands, not being “fishbowl,” paying a fee, attending additional support group or case management meetings, community service work, STS, enhanced monitoring or testing, journaling, writing a letter, or making a report to the court. Sanctions can be as severe as a night, weekend, or week in jail or termination from the court.

Progressing Through the Phases

- Observation
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Graduation

Does It Work?

Reduce Crime and Save Lives

- The best Treatment Courts reduced crime by as much as 45 percent over other dispositions.

Decrease Recidivism

- Graduates from Ramsey County Treatment Courts have 12-16% recidivism rate compared to over fifty percent for high risk/high need offenders.

Does It Save Money?

Save Money

- Economic benefits ranging from approximately \$2 to \$27 for every \$1 invested.
- The net result has been economic benefits to local communities ranging from approximately \$3,000 to \$13,000 per drug court participant.

Outcomes Evaluation

Recidivism					
New Charges within 1 Year			New Conviction within 1 Year		
Comparison Group	Graduates	Terminations	Comparison Group	Graduates	Terminations
ASAC	5.2%	16.7%	20.9%	1.9%	13.5%
DWI	6.0%	13.3%	9.2%	5.5%	11.1%
MHC	6.8%	21.4%	13.8%	4.5%	10.0%
VTC	0.0%	40.0%	9.0%	0.0%	20.0%

- Control group comparison developed from Anoka County Defendants which meet Ramsey County Treatment Court Eligibility adjusted for demographics.

Outcomes Evaluation



Recidivism

	Terminations						Graduates						Non-Treatment Court*					
	New Offense			New Conviction			New Offense			New Conviction			New Offense			New Conviction		
	1 YR	2 YRS	5 YRS	1 YR	2 YRS	5 YRS	1 YR	2 YRS	5 YRS	1 YR	2 YRS	5 YRS	1 YR	2 YR	3 YR	1 YR	2 YRS	3 YRS
	ASAC	16.7%	40.0%	52.6%	13.5%	32.0%	43.9%	6.3%	19.4%	21.6%	6.3%	13.6%	17.6%	44.2%	49.3%	67.5%	21.9%	37.2%
DWI	13.3%	34.2%	48.5%	11.1%	31.6%	45.5%	5.9%	15.2%	16.1%	5.3%	12.0%	13.8%						
MHC	21.4%	37.5%	43.1%	10.0%	29.7%	35.3%	6.3%	14.9%	15.5%	5.0%	13.4%	13.8%						
VTC	40.0%	N/A	N/A	20.0%	N/A	N/A	0.0%	N/A	N/A	0.0%	N/A	N/A						

* Non-Treatment Court Data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoner Recidivism Analysis

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To Do: INVEST IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Addressing persons with mental health issues who engage in criminal behavior and endanger public safety is low-hanging fruit. Make use of existing resources and divert people with mental health issues from the criminal justice system into treatment and stable lifestyles. Advocate for:

- Community mental health centers
- Mental health crisis teams
- Supportive housing and employment
- Mental health training for law enforcement officers
- Criminal-justice mental health initiatives

THANK YOU