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Drug Court Treatment Issues in Rural America

WELCOME

Wednesday, January 29th 2014

3:00 – 4:30PM Eastern Time

PANELISTS



Hon. Katherine Bidegaray
(Sidney, Montana)



Hon. Phil Britt
(Kennett, Missouri)



Marilyn Kesner
(Sandpoint, Idaho)



Jeffrey Kushner
Montana



Angela Plunkett
Missouri

FACILITATOR:

Caroline S. Cooper, Director
BJA Drug Court Technical Assistance Project
American University, School of Public Affairs





Rural Drug Courts Challenges and Solutions

An Interactive Webinar to
Share Experiences and
Suggest Solutions

Treatment Guide for Drug Court Judges



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
School of Public Affairs
Justice Programs Office

Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Technical Assistance Project

**A Technical Assistance Guide
For Drug Court Judges on
Drug Court Treatment Services**

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(DRAFT January 20, 2014)

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Agenda

Rural Drug Court Challenges and Solution:

Challenge: Lack of treatment capacity, lack of access to a full continuum of treatment services and inconsistency of treatment services

Challenge: Lack of access to adequate wrap around services for drug court participants (employment services, vocational rehabilitation services, medical and dental services, daycare, etc.

Challenge: Lack of alcohol and drug free housing for drug court participants

Challenge: Lack of transportation for drug court participants who are unable to get to treatment meetings

Challenge: Inability of drug court treatment provider to find and hire qualified drug court and treatment staff and avoid excessive turnover

Challenge: Drug court participant enmeshed in family drug use

Challenge: Inability of judge and drug court team members to cover vast geographic rural area to hold frequent status hearings, and adequately monitor participants

Challenge: Assuring confidentiality of drug court participants in treatment, mutual aid attendance (AA, NA, meetings) and other treatment related activities in a rural setting

Challenge: Providing adequate training for drug court team members

Challenge: Providing the resources and overcoming barriers for the provision of accurate alcohol and other drug testing at a reasonable cost that conforms with evidence based practices

Participant Questions:

Jeffrey Kushner and other panelists

Technical Assistance and Other Resources Available:

Jeffrey Kushner/Caroline Cooper



Challenge One: Lack of Treatment Capacity, Access to a Full Continuum of Treatment Services

Solution: Meet with Single State Agency Director

Solution: Consider telemedicine options to supplement a distant service provider

Solution: Request free space and consider asking your treatment provider to “circuit ride”



(Continued)

Challenge One: Lack of Treatment Capacity, Access to a Full Continuum of Treatment Services

(Continued)

Lack of Access to Treatment: Missouri – Using Virtual Counseling

- Clinicians and consumers can meet as "avatars"
- Participants can access individual and group counseling activities. Removing barriers such as:
 - Geography
 - Psychosocial issues
 - Competing work schedules
 - Family Responsibilities
 - Transportation Issues, Lack of Driver's License
 - Child care issues



Group session communication conducted via a public chat format.

(Continued)



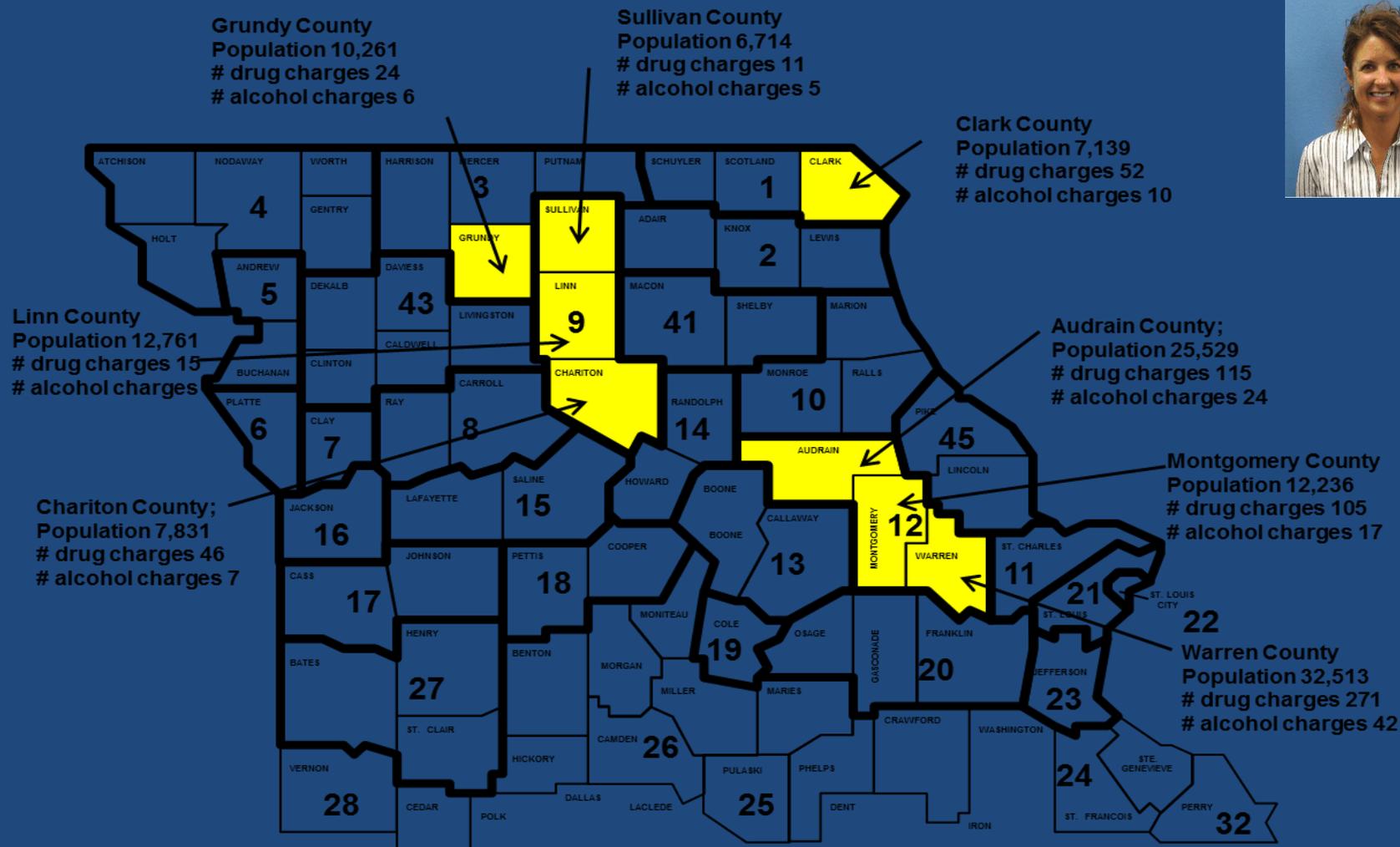
Individual Sessions conducted in private chat format or through voice channels.

(Continued)



Missouri Drug Courts Utilizing Portal Plus

(Continued)



Note: Information obtained from Missouri Office of State Court Administrator; Population obtained from 2010 census figures. - Only the more serious charges relating to DWI are included. Ordinances are excluded.



Challenge 2: Lack of Access to Adequate Wraparound Services for Drug Court Participants

(Continued)

- Solution: Ask for SPOC (Single Point of Contact) in each agency and invite to drug court activities
- Solution: Discuss needs with local faith-based organizations





Challenge 2: Lack of Access to Adequate Wraparound Services for Drug Court Participants

(Continued)

Lack of Access to Alcohol and Drug Free Housing

- Solution: : Approach landlords to prioritize drug court participants



Oxford House – La Plata, Colorado





Challenge 2: Lack of Access to Adequate Wraparound Services for Drug Court Participants

(Continued)

Lack of Transportation for Participants

Solution: Bicycles

Solution: Use 12 step network/alumni groups/mentors

Solution: Medicaid pays for transportation for medical, treatment services.

Solution: Move court to where participants are

Solution: Deliver services in home (precautions)

Solution: Faith-based organizations may have van



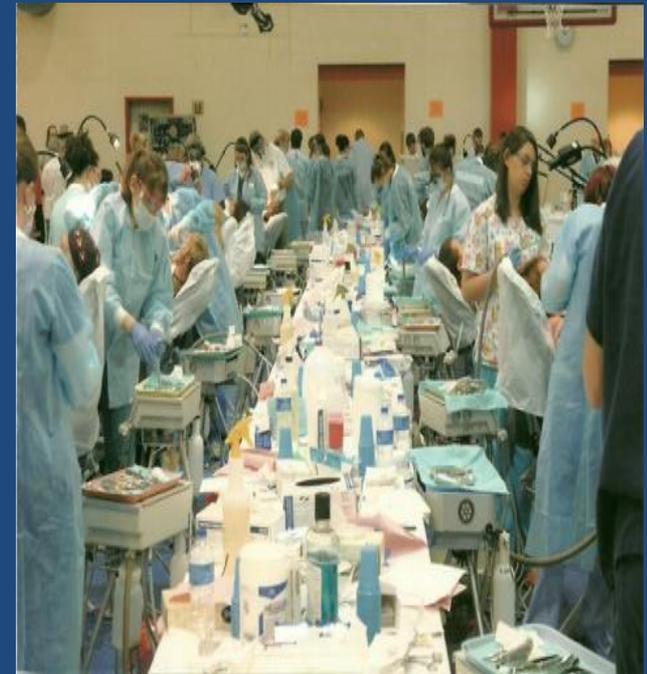


Challenge 2: Lack of Access to Adequate Wraparound Services for Drug Court Participants

(Continued)

Lack of Access to Medical/Dental Services

- Dental School
- FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center)
(Note: FQHC's are key to accessing ACA health services)
- Pro bono or a minimum rate (Medicaid)
- Recovering dentist/doctor
- Mentor
- Drug Court Team Member





Challenge 2: Lack of Access to Adequate Wraparound Services for Drug Court Participants

(Continued)

Lack of Parenting Classes and Child Care Services

- Solution: Agricultural Ext. Office, treatment provider, local YWCA, faith-based organizations, domestic violence shelters, foster care organizations, etc.
- Solution: Child Care: local churches especially if services are held in the church





Challenge 3: Inability of Drug Court/ Treatment Provider to Hire Qualified Staff and Avoid Excessive Turnover

Solution: Request help from SSA, suggest manualized treatment approaches, consider community college as a resource for help

Solution: Consider telehealth technologies

Solution: Focus on supervisory personnel to invest in drug court to help reduce problems from staff turnover





Challenge 4: Inconsistency of Provider Services

(Continued)

- Use an MOU with provider that clearly details provider responsibilities





Challenge 4: Inconsistency of Provider Services

(Continued)

- Request a designated counselor for drug court
- Establish regular and frequent communication including reports before every staffing to include:
 - **Attendance:** did they attend/when did they miss
 - **Progress note:** level of participation, compliance and progress – what milestones are being addressed in treatment and are they achieved?
 - **Any recommendations:** for recognition or concerns to be aired from the bench





Challenge 5: Drug Court Participant Enmeshed in Family Drug Use

Solution: Do intervention with family

Solution: Find alternative living arrangements

Solution: Transfer individuals out of jurisdiction to
reduce impact of family problems

Solution: Consider Al-Anon
(if available)





Challenge 6: Inability of Judge and Team Members to Cover Vast Rural Area, Hold Frequent Status Hearings and Monitor Participants

Solution: Conduct staffings/dockets every other week

Solution: Utilize video and teleconferencing





Challenge 7: Assuring Confidentiality in Treatment, Mutual Aid Groups and Other Treatment Related Activities

- Drug courts should deal assertively with violations of confidentiality up to and including termination from the court for participants and replacement of team members for such violations

Other solutions might include:

- Provide specific training and education to drug court staff regarding state and federal confidentiality laws
- Explain the need for confidentiality to participants in open court and the related sanctions for violation of the Federal Confidentiality regulations





Challenge 8: Providing Adequate Training for Drug Court Team Members

Solution: Center for Court Innovation on-line learning center (<http://www.drugcourtonline.org/>)

- Understanding drug use and addiction
- Essential of Drug Testing
- Sanctions and Incentives
- Confidentiality
- Trauma Informed Care
- Prescription Medication Abuse



(Continued)



Challenge 8: Providing Adequate Training for Drug Court Team Members

(Continued)

- Variety of other courses offered relevant specifically to drug court personnel
- Also interviews with practitioners and guided tours of drug courts, as well as a resource library of documents and reference tools

NADCP/National Drug Court Institute, Course offerings include:

- Essential Elements of Adult Drug Courts
- Treating and Supervising Meth Addicts
- Transitioning New Judges into Drug Court
- Law Enforcement in Drug Court

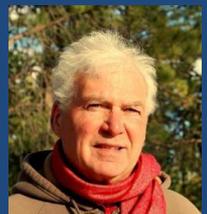




Challenge 8: Providing Adequate Training for Drug Court Team Members

(Continued)

- Numerous webinars (many archived)
- BJA Drug Court Technical Assistance Collaborative (American University, Tribal Law and Policy Institute)
- Additional resources include: the National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Children and Family Futures, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Treatment Improvement Protocols and the CSAT Regional Addiction Treatment and Training Centers and State Drug Court Associations





Challenge 9: Providing the Resources and Overcoming Barriers for Accurate Alcohol and Other Drug Testing

- Solution: Local law enforcement/health department
- Solution: Probation officers
- Solution: Use of saliva swabs

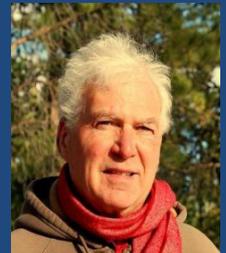




Challenge 10: Participant Access to Recovery Oriented Systems of Care

- Require a recovery management plan and provide follow-up after drug court completion
- Support Recovery Month with at least one activity
- Support alcohol and drug free social activities
- Keep family members involved
- Consider an alumni club
- Consider recovery coaches and peer mentors
- Initiate recovery check-ups after drug court
- Support alcohol and drug free housing

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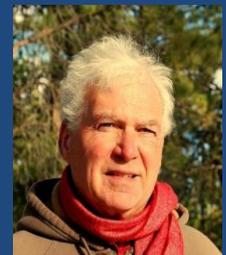




Challenge 10: Participant Access to Recovery Oriented Systems of Care

(Continued)

- Use a family assessment
- Include former participants on drug court advisory board
- Drug Court team members should participate in stigma reducing activities and mutual aid group activities
- Encourage family members to participate
- Assess community for components of ROSC



Drug Court Treatment Issues in Rural America

Questions?

Following-up and Staying Connected

JOIN THE BJA DRUG COURT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROJECT LISTSERVE ON RURAL DRUG COURT
CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
JEFFREY KUSHNER, COORDINATOR

If interested, please send contact information to:
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