

Drug Courts: Blending Treatment and Accountability



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National Drug Court Institute (NDCI)

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An anatomical illustration of a human figure, rendered in shades of blue. The figure is shown from the back and side, in a seated or crouching position with the head tilted back and the torso twisted. The musculature and skeletal structure are clearly defined. The background is a solid, vibrant red. The overall style is reminiscent of a medical or scientific drawing, but with a dramatic, high-contrast color palette.

Change is Tough





Niagara Falls Drug Court
Completion certificate

Building Your Bridge

The Honorable Mark Anthony Violante
Chief City Court Judge

Ms. Maria L. Perez

Drug Court Participant

04-10-2008

Judge Mark Anthony Violante

Date

Niagara Falls Drug Court
Completion certificate

Building Your Bridge

The Honorable Mark Anthony Violante
Chief City Court Judge

Mr. Julio A. Perez

Drug Court Participant

04-10-2008

Judge Mark Anthony Violante

Date







Research Findings

- **The length of time a patient spent in treatment was a reliable predictor of his or her post treatment performance.**

Beyond a ninety-day threshold, treatment outcomes improved in a direct relationship to the length of time spent in treatment, with one year generally found to be the minimum effective duration of treatment.

- **Coerced patients tended to stay longer.**

This was in light of the finding that most of the legally coerced addicts had more crime and gang involvement, more drug use, and worse employment records than their non-coerced counterparts.

The JUDGE is the Greatest CHANGE AGENT!



To expedite the time interval to get offenders
into accountability and treatment before
losing them to their addictions

To keep the addict engaged in treatment long
enough to receive treatment benefits.





Drug Courts:
An International
Phenomenon

2,147 Drug Courts

1,174 Adult Drug Courts

455 Juvenile Drug Courts

301 Family Treatment Courts

110 DWI Courts

72 Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts

24 Reentry Drug Courts

6 Campus Drug Court

5 Federal Drug Court

International Drug Courts

- Australia: 5 Drug Courts
- Bermuda: 1 Drug Courts, 1 Mental Health Court
- Brazil: 3 Drug Courts
- Canada: 9 Drug Courts
- Chile: 3 Drug Courts
- England: 1 Community Court
- Ireland: 1 Drug Court
- Jamaica: 2 Drug Courts
- Norway: 2 Drug Courts
- Scotland: 2 Drug Courts

Countries Considering/Planning Drug Court Establishment

- Barbados Grand Cayman Islands St. Lucia
- Israel
- Lithuania
- Italy

Benefits of Drug Court

“drug courts provide the most comprehensive and effective control of drug-using offenders’ criminality and drug usage while under the court’s supervision.”

-Effective Treatment-

-Drug Testing-

-Community Supervision and Structure-

Benefits of Drug Courts

**Drug Courts Increase
Retention in Treatment**

70% Completion Rate

Benefits of Drug Court:

**Drug Courts Reduce
Criminal Involvement**

National Research

**2020 Graduates from 95 Drug Courts
Representing 17,000 Graduates**

1 Year Post Graduation: 16.4%

2 Years Post Graduation: 27.5%

Local Research

“For every dollar spent on drug court in Dallas, Texas, \$9.43 in tax dollars was realized over a forty-month period.”

Fomby & Rangaprasad, 2002

Cost Benefits of Drug Court

Avoided Criminal Justice Costs

Avoided Victim Costs

Employability

Drug Free-Babies

What Do You Need to Start?

Judicial Leadership

Existing Resource Reallocation

Buy-in from Prosecutor, Defense
Bar, Law Enforcement and
Treatment Community.

Compassion for the Addicted

**Aiming to Solve the Problems
of the People Who Come
Before the Courts**

**DRUG COURT is
Work Worth Doing!**

What is a Drug Court?

A non-adversarial court hearing where drug treatment is integrated with justice system case processing.

Coordinated team of justice professionals work together to:

- **identify** participants early and promptly place them in Drug Court (legal screening)

What is a Drug Court?

- provide** a wide range of treatment and other ancillary services (clinical assessment and treatment plan)
- monitor** abstinence through weekly drug testing.
- respond** weekly to participant behavior with rewards and/or sanctions.
- forge** public, private and community partnerships.