

NORTHERN HILLS DRUG COURT PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

This quarterly report includes all data collected between April 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008. The next quarterly is due October 31, 2008. It will include all data collected between July 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008.

Budget

During the 2007 Legislative Session, \$212,193 was appropriated for the Northern Hills Drug Court program through HB1271.

Federal Grant

On July 31, 2007, the Unified Judicial System was notified by the Department of Justice that it received a grant for \$350,000. The grant period covers July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. This Federal Grant requires a 25% match.

- Data provided by the Unified Judicial System Budget and Finance Office

Total Quarterly Expenditures*	General	Federal
Personal Services	\$ 9,328.53	\$ 27,986.67
Travel	\$ 1,074.45	\$ 3,223.48
Contractual Services	\$ 10,635.47	\$ 6,541.71
Supplies and Materials	\$ 260.34	\$ 781.26
Capital Assets	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total	\$ 21,298.79	\$ 38,533.12

Treatment Costs

Each participant is responsible for 1/3 of their treatment provider costs.

Participant	Cost to UJS	Cost to Participants
Participant I April, May, June	\$ 214.90	\$ 165.88
Participant II April, May, June	\$ 325.03	\$ 162.54
Participant III April, May, June	\$ 269.64	\$ 227.22
Participant IV April, May, June	\$ 172.40	\$ 86.13
Participant V April, May, June	\$ 971.86	\$ 485.85
Participant VI April, May, June	\$ 361.96	\$ 181.02
* Participant VII April	\$ 258.60	\$ 129.32
* Participant VIII		
Participant IX	\$ 984.16	\$ 492.09

* Terminated for noncompliance.

Participant Status

Drug Court eligibility first requires a States Attorney to approve entry pursuant to a plea agreement. In other words, a States Attorney must ***refer*** a defendant to Drug Court. However, prospective participants can be ***recommended*** by individuals/entities other than a States Attorney (e.g. court services officers, defense counsel, treatment providers, and family members). This report includes prospective participants from all sources.

To date, the program received 41 recommendations from all sources. Of those 40 recommendations, 15 were referred by a States Attorney from the following counties (Meade, Lawrence, Butte, Perkins, and Pennington). Of the 15 referred from the States Attorney:

1. Three met the minimum eligibility requirements but were otherwise determined to be inappropriate for entry.
2. Nine were admitted to the program.
3. Three are in the initial application process.

Three new participants have been verbally referred by a States Attorney (Butte-Lawrence). Written plea agreements have not been received; however, Northern Hills Alcohol and Drug (treatment provider) is currently evaluating all three. Applications have been sent to defense counsel. One of the three potential participants, a female, is currently in jail after a multidrug binge (methamphetamine, cocaine, prescription drugs). Another is a middle-aged father with a probable methamphetamine diagnosis. The third, a middle-aged mother, is a probable cocaine abuser/addict.

Of the nine admitted to the program, one individual failed after 14 weeks and was sent to prison. Another individual sentenced to Drug Court violated almost immediately. Although granted entry into the program, as a practical matter, she never participated - she was returned to the sentencing judge and sent to prison.

Prospective Participants

There were 26¹ recommendations made by other individuals/entities, other than States Attorneys. Because entry into the program is conditioned upon States Attorney approval, independent assessment of the quality or appropriateness of this population is difficult because an application has not been completed and an evaluation has not been performed. However, of those *not* referred by the States Attorney:

1. 14 were recommended by court services officers.
2. 6 were recommended by defense counsel.
3. 3 were recommended by treatment.
4. 3 were recommended by defense attorneys from another jurisdiction.

10 Key Components of Drug Court

In the late 1980's in Dade County Florida, the first Drug Court began operation in response to the judicial system being overrun with substance abusing criminals. This was causing an overcrowding of the jails and many were returning to the system within a short period of time. Over the last twenty years, 10 key components have been identified that ensure a successful Drug Court Program.

¹ Four prospective participants were recommended twice in a six-month period, after violating their probation on additional drug charges.

1. Integrate treatment with justice system case processing.
2. Provide a non-adversarial approach to protect public safety and protect participants' due process rights.
3. Identify eligible participants early and place them promptly in drug court/treatment.
4. Provide access to a continuum of treatment and rehabilitation.
5. Monitor abstinence by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
6. Coordinate the response to participants' compliance through sanctions and incentives.
7. Provide ongoing judicial interaction with each participant.
8. Monitor and evaluate the achievement of program goals and effectiveness.
9. Provide continuing inter-disciplinary education to guide planning, implementation, and operations.
10. Forge partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community based organizations.

Drug Testing (Key Component #4, #5)

Two hundred forty seven (247) drug tests were administered through June 31, 2008. Two hundred forty (240) tests were negative. Two participants tested positive for marijuana four times each. One participant tested positive upon his entrance into the program. The second participant was expelled from the program for diluting her urine tests and other rule violations. One participant tested positive for benzodiazepines two times. We are currently, waiting on confirmation from a medical laboratory that the test was not a false positive.

Incentives (Key Component # 6)

Two participants moved to Phase III. Two participants moved to Phase II. Two participants received \$25.00 in "Sturgis Bucks" for being selected as Participant of the Month for April and May, 2008.

Sanctions (Key Component # 6)

One participant was placed in the Meade County Jail for failing PBT testing for alcohol. He was sanctioned to three days in jail. In addition, he was demoted back to day one of Phase II. This will increase the amount of time he spends in the Drug Court Program.

Intensive Supervision (Key Component #1, #5, & #7)

The Court Services Officer (CSO) had 2,082 contacts with seven participants including curfew checks, telephone contacts, field visits, collateral and office visits.

Participants' Accomplishments:

Participant I is the unannounced leader of the group. He is a wonderful role model for the other participants and we are anticipating he will become the first graduate from the Northern Hills Drug Court in September.

Participant II, upon admission into the program, was dependent on her mother for housing and transportation. She is now living on her own, raising her two children and working full-time.

Participant III has paid all of his fines and costs associated with his probation and participation in Drug Court. He learned to read and was asked to speak at the Literacy Counsel conference this fall. He is operating a successful plumbing business.

Participant IV, our youngest participant, finished her first semester of college. She earned a 3.78 grade point average. She is continuing with summer classes and working a part-time job.

Participant V was living with an abusive boyfriend. She now lives in her own apartment, raises her toddler, works a full-time job and volunteers at the Boys Club. She is four months sober/clean.

Participant VI, because of her strong work ethic, was offered a substantial wage increase to stay with her current employer rather than accept a new job offer.