



One Minute Innovations Hit at State Conference

From offering assistance to other drug courts needing to test for "spice" to sponsoring a soccer league team, thirty-two drug court teams shared ideas during the statewide conference held April 9, 2010, in Little Rock. Each drug court team had been asked to prepare and present something they had tried and thought was helpful to their program during a 60 second time period. Judge Herzfeld, 22nd Judicial Circuit, was without mercy, hitting the buzzer even when his judicial colleagues ran over the time limit. He and Judge Gunn, 4th Judicial Circuit, served as "judges" for the contest. Nicely framed plaques were presented to the team having the best presentation and the team having the best innovation.

Saline County (pictured above) was selected for their presentation which centered on the various incentives they provide as drug court participants progress through the stages of their program. They had made oversized examples of a key, rock, coffee mug and other items they provide. Sebastian County took home the prize for best innovation, a drug court game developed by drug court graduates. They explained that the first quadrant of the board game is labeled "addiction" and because there is only one dice, it takes a long time to make it out of that area. West Huddleston, CEO of NADCP, was so impressed with the drug court game that he has invited the drug court graduate who invented the game to attend the NADCP meeting in Boston in June.

Judges Discuss Validity of 10 Key Components During Conference

Leading expert Doug Marlowe was on hand for a special judges only portion of the state conference to present recent research on drug court programs that validate the ten key components of adult drug courts. Dr. Marlowe met with the judges on Thursday, April 8, 2010, for four hours. He presented a meta-analysis that showed drug court programs reduce crime, increase public safety, and save taxpayers money.

The importance of the team approach was validated in studies showing that courts where all team members are required to attend staffings, there was twice the savings than in courts where they were not. Courts that accept non-drug charges and even those allowing prior violence related charges were more successful than those that excluded these populations. This research is leading to a request at the federal level of repealing the current prohibition against allowing some violent crimes in drug court programs.

Another key component is getting the participant into the program early. Courts where participants enter within 20 days of arrest had twice the savings of those that did not. Treatment programs organized by a single "provider" provided ten times the savings than those that utilized multiple treatment options.

Relapse prevention was also noted as an important part of the successful drug court program. Dr. Marlowe indicated that all programs should be continuing to drug test at a rate similar to the beginning of the program as people enter the final phase because such testing has proven to reduce relapse. (cont. on p.3)

NADCP CEO West Huddleston Returns to Arkansas

Arkansas was pleased to welcome back NADCP CEO West Huddleston during the 4th Annual Drug Court Conference. Huddleston came to the first conference held in 2007. He prides himself in going to as many state drug court conferences as possible and it was a pleasure to have him back in Arkansas.



During his presentation, he rolled out the new mantra for drug court programs; All Rise! He provided video clips from several Hollywood personalities who reminded us that when drug court programs return people to their families, All Rise. When a person reaches sobriety for the first time in twenty years, All Rise. Huddleston indicated that he has written over 60 such phrases that describe the work of the drug court programs in our country.

During a very touching time, Huddleston shared his own personal story that connects him to the drug court concept. He grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, and suffered from an abusive relationship with his father. After several "lost years," he finally entered a treatment program in Kentucky that saved his life. He has now been clean and sober for over 22 years. He showed a picture of his wife, teen-aged son and his daughter who is a sophomore in college. Then, he showed a picture of Joey, his seven-month-old son, the latest addition to his family. Huddleston had to fly back to DC to begin "child proofing" his house that weekend.

Welcome DCC Director David Eberhard!

Former DCC legal advisor, David Eberhard was named to the DCC Directorship beginning April 1, 2010, following the retirement on long-time Director G. David Guntharp.

Mr. Eberhard was selected from a field of internal candidates vying for the position. As director, Eberhard will provide leadership for the agency partnering with the judiciary for drug court programs in our state. Mr. Eberhard will also be responsible for obtaining the necessary appropriations to maintain the program and hopefully expand into new counties. A key to the success of the Arkansas program has been the availability of money for treatment. Drug court personnel will work closely with Mr. Eberhard to be certain those funds continue to be provided to the courts.



New DCC Director David Eberhard(I) with State Senator Bill Pritchard at the recent state drug court conference.

Judges Discuss Components (cont. from page 1)

If the program reduces the frequency of drug testing in the final phase, the participant can start using again and it will not be detected until later on.

Of particular interest for the judges was information Dr. Marlowe presented concerning the length of time on the bench for drug court judges and the amount of "face time" given to each participant during status hearings. Generally, the longer a drug court judge sits on the drug court docket, the better the outcomes for that program. Drug courts with judges that have stayed over two years were three times more successful than those that did not. Research also indicated that judges who spent at least three minutes talking to each participant in court were more successful than those that did not.

Dr. Marlowe also stressed the importance of written sanctions and incentive guidelines for each court. Behavioral studies have indicated that persons will respond more favorably to sanctions when they believe they are being fairly imposed. If a person believes they are being treated unfairly by the team, they are less likely to conform their behavior to comply with the program's requirements. The possibility of jail as a sanction is a proven strategy in lowering recidivism rates.

Training for drug court teams results in a savings five times greater than teams that do not have formal training. In addition, teams that received training prior to implementation of the program had 15 times the savings of those that did not.

In the area of data collection and monitoring, studies indicate that electronic data collection is more efficient than paper files and that courts that use evaluation feedback to modify their programs had four times the savings of those that did not.

Lastly, Dr. Marlowe discussed the importance of community linkages and partnerships to forge local support of the drug court program. Those courts that were successful in developing these partnerships were twice as successful as those that did not.

In wrapping up, Dr. Marlowe warned that there is a current movement that wants to "water down" the drug court intervention. Sometimes called Hope Courts or Community Courts, these programs have not proven to be effective and tend to rely on a huge reduction in services. Marlowe warned against the Stepped Care model, where you start with less and only ratchet up services if they are required. Many judges realized that they were in fact practicing such a model at present. Marlowe indicated that such practices result in a higher failure rate since more true addicts will be sanctioned out of the program early on. Drug courts should target high risk, high need participants. These participants are the ones where the greatest cost savings for society will be realized. Courts accepting abusers, as opposed to addicts, need to develop a separate track, with different sanctions and incentives and try to keep the two populations separated. This enlightening information is contained in a law review article Dr. Marlowe authored. A copy of such was provided to all Arkansas drug court judges as a follow-up to the conference.

NADCP is working with the state of Vermont to delineate these two separate tracks for drug court programs. Once developed, Arkansas may have the opportunity to be a pilot state for testing this innovation. A copy of Dr. Marlowe's handout is available on the drug court web-site.

New ADCPA Officers Elected

Congratulations to Judge John Dan Kemp who will lead the Arkansas Drug Court Professionals Association for the next two years as President. Judge Kemp has served as President-elect for the past two years. The new President-elect is Judge Mary Ann Gunn. Tara Sharp was reelected Treasurer and former President, Toni Baker was elected Secretary.

In addition to officers, board members were elected during the 4th Annual Drug Court Conference. From the 1st Congressional District, the board members are: Judge John Dan Kemp, Tara Sharp, Daniel Brightwell, Toni Baker, and Scott Rogers. In the 2nd Congressional District, Judge Robert Herzfeld, Stephen Ralph, Gary Higgins, Joyce Schimenti, and Betsy Bostain. Serving on the board from the 3rd Congressional District will be Judge Mary Ann Gunn, Lisa Dennis, Spencer Christian, Glenda Hubbard, and Shirl Page. Judge Berlin Jones was elected from the 4th Congressional District along with Rick Ramsey, Camillia Larry, Lisa Murphy, and Daryl Taylor.

Plans are underway to have an organizational board meeting in Benton on Friday, May 28th. Board members will draw lots to determine their terms and begin working on several proposed committees. Please congratulate these drug court professionals on their elections and willingness to move the state association forward.



Shirl Page and Spencer Christian, two new ADCPA Board members elected from the 3rd Congressional District.



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ADCPA Past President Baker Makes Hill Visits

On Wednesday, April 21, 2010, Toni Baker, past president of ADCPA spent the day on Capitol Hill, calling on the Arkansas Congressional Delegation. She was accompanied by State Drug Court Coordinator, Carol Roddy.

West Huddleston and Chris Deutsch, NADCP staff, accompanied Baker and Roddy to their visit with Senator Mark Pryor. Deutsch also participated in the visit with 3rd District Congressman John Boozman later in the day. Baker and Roddy had face-to-face meetings with 2nd District Congressman Vic Snyder and 4th District Congressman Mike Ross. They met with staff from Senator Lincoln's office and Congressman Berry's office.

The Congress of State Drug Court Associations urged state representatives to solicit signatures on two "Dear Colleague" letters being circulated in anticipation of budget hearing for the Department of Justice, requesting additional funding above the \$88 million secured during FY 2010. Ross and Snyder had already agree to sign the letter that Boozman co-authored on behalf of drug courts. Senator Lincoln agreed to sign the similar letter on the Senate side.