

The Role of the Treatment Provider



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Introduction

A drug court treatment provider provides rehabilitative therapy sessions, drug screening, case management and monitoring for drug court participants in keeping with the holistic recovery of the drug court participant. Additionally, within the bounds of ethics and legalities, a drug court treatment provider shares information regarding the progress of a participant in appropriate settings to all drug court team members.

The Role of the Treatment Provider

- In Drug Court, the role of the Treatment Provider is critical to the provision of services and the cohesion of the program. The process of integrating treatment services with criminal justice case processing is one of the most unique aspects of Drug Court. Whether serving as a drug court team member participating in team staffing meetings or providing direct treatment services to Drug Court clients, the treatment provider provides stability to the drug court program. It is important that the administration of the Drug Court includes an understanding of the elements of addiction, treatment modalities, and realistic outcomes.
- The active participation of the Treatment Provider in the Drug Court process ensures the transmission of treatment specific knowledge to the Drug Court team.

Drug Court Treatment Provider Core Competencies

The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), a division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) has identified two core competencies for treatment providers in drug court. The following tasks are intended to be illustrative and not all inclusive.

Competency 1:

Participates fully as a Drug Court team member, committing him or herself to the program mission and goals and works as a full partner to ensure their success.

- Attends regularly scheduled staffings
- Provide information regarding drug court participant's progress to each team member
- Productively communicates with team so each member can make informed choices regarding drug court participants
- Protects the integrity of drug court program by providing competent treatment
- Remains abreast of best practices of the field
- Maintains up-to-date record of participant performance



Competency 2: Ensures that the participant receives the highest level of care available, at a reasonable cost, by all contracted and ancillary service providers. Develop post program services, client outreach, mentor programs and alumni associations.

- Conducts regular quality assurance of all treatment and ancillary services
- Performs case autopsy on charts of participants who are discharged from the program as a method of quality improvement
- Creates treatment environment that is encouraging and restorative
- Maintains competent staff



Treatment and Treatment Providers:

Principles and Guidelines as identified by COLORADO PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS: Section 1: Adult Drug or Treatment Courts Part 3.0

- 3.1 Treatment paid for by state funds will be provided in programs approved by the Colorado Department of Behavioral Health.
- 3.2 Treatment is primarily intended for chemically dependent individuals assessed as being of medium to high criminogenic risk. Low-risk individuals should not be treated in the treatment court.
- 3.3 Treatment should be provided to address identified, individualized criminogenic needs.

3.4 Treatment should include the following (not all listed):

1. A cognitive behavioral model, including interventions designed to address criminal thinking patterns.
2. Techniques to accommodate and address participant stages of change.
Members of the drug court team should work together to engage participants and motivate participation. The consistent use of techniques such as motivational interviewing and motivational enhancement therapy should be employed to reduce client defensiveness, foster engagement and improve retention.
3. Family treatment to address patterns of family interaction that increase the risk of re-offending, to develop family understanding of substance use disorders and recovery, and to create an improved family support system.
4. Referral of family members to appropriate community resources to address other identified service needs.
5. Incorporation of parenting and child custody issues and the needs of children in the participant's family into the treatment plan and addressing them through the effective use of community resources.
6. Monitoring of abstinence through random, observed urinalysis or other approved drug testing methodology that occurs with sufficient frequency to meet current research-based resources.
7. Regular clinical/treatment staff meetings to review treatment goals, progress, and other clinical issues.
8. The prompt and systemic reporting to the treatment court team of the participant's behavior; compliance with, and progress in treatment; the participant's compliance with the treatment court program requirements; and any other relevant information.
- 9-10 Discussion of phases
11. Treatment services should be responsive to ethnicity, gender age, and other characteristics of he participant.
12. Prescribed medications should be utilized in conjunction with treatment services.
- 13 . Discussion of written guidelines

Some frequently asked questions

- What are we looking for in a treatment provider?
- What kind of treatment works for drug court participants?
- What are we looking for in a treatment representative for my drug court team?
- How do we build rapport with the treatment provider and bring him into the drug court team as a team member?
- What do we need to do in order to share information between the treatment provider and the court?
- What is the range of treatment services that can be provided for drug court participants?
- How do we know what kind of services drug court participants require?
- How can we determine whether or not our drug court participants are receiving the kind of treatment services that work best for them?
- How do we pay for treatment services?
- How do we develop the range of services that drug court participants need?

Resources and Training Opportunities

- National Drug Court Institute: Treatment Provider Training: This five-day, comprehensive training is designed for treatment providers working with Drug Court clients. Treatment providers play a vital role in the recovery of the Drug Court client. That is why it is imperative that they are up-to-date on the most recent research or treatment. NDCI utilizes experts in the treatment field to train evidence-based practices and treatment principles associated with positive outcomes. Dana A. Jenkins, Project Director, Phone: 571-384-1868; Email: djenkins@ndci.org.
- NDCI Mentor Visit: Tool kit #9: The role of the treatment provider