



The Frederick County Drug Treatment Court

What is Drug Court all about?

The Drug Court is a voluntary, non-adversarial judicial response to non-violent, drug addicted offenders charged in Circuit Court by providing a comprehensive program of supervision and treatment, which includes substance abuse treatment, education, and vocational and employment rehabilitative services.

The Drug Court focuses on assisting the participants in achieving self-sufficiency and becoming responsible members of the community by living drug-free in an environment filled with life's obstacles and pressures.

The Drug Court has three primary goals:

- 1) Enhance public safety in Frederick County by reducing criminal activity by Frederick County Drug Court participant and graduates within the community.**
- 2) Reduce substance abuse among Drug Court participants by providing effective interventions.**
- 3) To reduce the burden on taxpayers by promoting self-sufficiency of participants and graduates.**

Drug Courts are designed to reduce substance abuse and crime and create public safety by more successful and cost-effective means than standard sentencing.

Drug Courts represent the coordinated efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health, social service and treatment communities to actively and forcefully intervene and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime.

Drug Courts quickly identify substance-abusing offenders and place them under strict court monitoring and community supervision, coupled with effective, individualized, long-term treatment services.

Drug Courts require unprecedented accountability through ongoing and intensive drug testing and probation supervision, while reporting to regularly scheduled status hearings before a judge with specialized expertise in the drug court model.

The Problem is that our nation's prison population has exploded beyond capacity...

- ▶ **1 in 110 U.S. citizens is now confined in jail or prison.**
- ▶ **The U.S. has the highest prison population (2,220,300 in 2013) & second highest incarceration rate in the entire world.**
- ▶ **National expenditures on corrections exceed \$80 billion annually.**
- ▶ **Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36. Drug Courts produce savings ranging from \$4,000 to \$12,000 per client.**
- ▶ **Most inmates are in prison, in part, because of substance abuse – 85% abuse drugs or alcohol.**
- ▶ **Every year, there are over one million prison-bound, drug abusing offenders who pose little threat to public safety. Imprisonment has little effect on drug abuse.**
- ▶ **Nearly 65% of jail and prison inmates are clinically addicted.**
- ▶ **Approximately 60% of individuals arrested for most types of crimes test positive for illicit drugs at arrest.**
- ▶ **60% to 80% of drug abusers commit a new crime (typically drug-driven) after release from prison.**
- ▶ **Approximately 95% return to drug abuse after release from prison.**
- ▶ **Providing treatment without holding offenders accountable for their performance in treatment is ineffective. Unless they are regularly supervised by a judge, 60 to 80% drop out of treatment prematurely and few successfully graduate.**

The Solution is ...

DRUG COURTS!

- ▶ **In February 2005, the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report confirming that Drug Courts significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce crime, and produce greater cost benefits than other justice strategies.**
- ▶ **According to a study released by the Bureau of Justice, a sample of 2,000 Drug Court graduates nationwide showed that within one year, only 16% had been re-arrested and charged with a felony offense.**

The reach of Drug Courts continues to increase:

- ▶ **As of June 2012, more than 2,700 drug courts were operational in all 50 states and 13 countries.**
- ▶ **Drug Courts annually serve approximately 136,000 people.**
- ▶ **Well over 1 million people have graduated Drug Court.**

Drug Courts Work

1. Reduce Crime

- 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program
- 5 independent 'meta-analysis' have concluded that Drug Courts significantly reduce crime by as much as 45% in comparison to traditional case dispositions

2. Save Money

- Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per client. These cost savings reflect reduced prison costs, reduced revolving-door arrests and trials, and reduced victimization

3. Improve Outcomes

- Are 6 times more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to get better. Unless substance abusing, addicted offenders are regularly supervised by a judge and held accountable for keeping their obligations, 70% drop out of treatment prematurely and few successfully graduate.

<http://www.nadcp.org/>

Frederick County Drug Court

Current Statistics

- **As of March 2017, we have had 279 participants**
- **There are currently 48 active participants.**
- **121 successfully graduated and 107 have been terminated**
- **We have had 40+ successful graduations from 28-day rehab programs**
- **45 successful graduates of the Gale Recovery halfway house program**
- **15 participants successfully graduated from a long term, inpatient treatment program (Mt. Manor, Safe Harbor, etc.)**
- **We have had 15 healthy, non-addicted babies born to DTC participants**
- **Numerous participants have achieved their GED**
- **Our participants have completed 6000+ hours of community service work**
- **75% of our participants work, at least, part time**
- **We conduct, on average, 320 drug screens per month & less than 7% of the tests are positive for illegal substances**

Drug court celebrates its largest graduate group

Frederick News-Post article on November 21, 2016

The Frederick County drug court program congratulated its largest group of graduates at a ceremony last week. Nine people celebrated their successful completion of drug court Thursday.

The program, which usually takes one to two years, allows nonviolent repeat drug offenders to avoid jail time by adhering to strict treatment and probation requirements. Those who do not comply with those conditions are sentenced for the violations that got them into the program.

Graduates said drug court was a chance to make difficult changes in their lives. “It gave me a chance to really look at the direction I was heading in,” said Conklin, a 26-year-old from Ijamsville. Conklin began using drugs and alcohol in high school, he said. At 20, he entered a Florida drug rehabilitation facility, but he began using drugs again. At 21, he was using heroin and was still injecting it a year or so later. Court records show that Conklin faced charges of possession of heroin with intent to distribute for a 2014 offense. He could have received a 20-year prison sentence if he hadn’t successfully completed drug court.

The program helped him learn to take care of his responsibilities, he said, even ones he described as little things, like attending all of his classes. Now he has been sober for 2½ years, he said. He hopes to finish an associate degree and become a mechanic.

Attorneys and administrators involved in drug court offered words of encouragement to the graduates. **“You guys are my heroes,” Assistant Public Defender Stephen Musselman told the group. “There comes a time in drug court where we see your souls come back.”**

Deputy State’s Attorney Nanci Hamm addressed each of the graduates, describing the specific challenges they faced and how they matured through the process. She said two women had children while in drug court. She added that “women are so unique in drug court,” tending to have more insecurities and struggle with the shame of addiction.

Friends and parents addressed the court staff who oversaw the program, frequently giving thanks for getting their loved ones back.

The program started in May 2005 and has graduated 111 people, according to drug court coordinator Paul Wolford. Heroin was generally the drug of choice for the nine graduates this year, he said.

Drug Court Graduates – 11/21/16

