

Appendix I

Outcome Based Practices

Background:

NPC Research is a leading and well-respected evaluator and researcher of drug courts. An NPC research report titled, “Exploring the Key Components of Drug Courts: A Comparative Study of 18 Adult Drug Courts on Practices, Outcomes, and Costs,” revealed the following:

“Given the rapid expansion of drug courts across the country, there has been interest in standardizing the drug court model. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals led this effort in their groundbreaking publication, *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components* (National Association of Drug Court Professionals, 1997). In this work, they prescribe 10 operational characteristics that all drug courts should share as benchmarks for performance. These include practices such as drug testing, judicial interaction with participants, and the integration of alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

“Today, the 10 Key Components are well established and ubiquitous among drug court systems. However, the key components are essentially guidelines for implementation and leave much room for each drug court’s interpretation. For example, the key components prescribe frequent drug testing of participants but do not specify the preferred method of testing or define ‘frequent.’ They prescribe independent evaluations and periodic staff trainings; however, the frequency of these activities is not addressed. In practice, each drug court’s adherence to the 10 Key Components may look very different.”

The research report explores how different drug court programs implementing the 10 Key Components and how practices vary across programs. It also examines whether and how the practices have impacted program costs, participant outcomes, and outcome costs related to participant criminal justice recidivism.

In brief, NPC found that drug court programs that incorporated the following practices within each of the 10 key components produced the best outcomes and cost savings. Therefore, CJC has incorporated these practices into the Measure 57 Intensive Drug Court Grant Program request for grant proposal guidelines in an attempt to garner better outcomes and foster more consistency than what has been experienced with drug courts as usual. This will enhance the evaluation process and provide optimal data to test the theory that that a stringent drug court program combined with intensive supervision will reduce recidivism among the drug dependent members of the Measure 57 offender population at a higher rate than a prison sentence or supervision as usual.

Outcome-Based Practices within the 10 key Components:

Component #1:

- The Treatment provider(s) (or a treatment supervisor responsible for overseeing participant treatment) attends every court session

Component #2:

- The Prosecutor attends every team meeting
- The Public Defender attends every team meeting
- Prosecutor and Public Defender attend court sessions

Component #3:

- Ideally, participants should enter the program within 20 days of arrest. If that is not possible, participants should enter the program as soon thereafter as possible

Component #4:

- Basic requirements for all participants on frequency of treatment sessions (e.g., 2 to 3 group sessions per week)
- Program takes 1 or more years for participant completion
- Programs have a phase that focuses on relapse prevention
- Programs use a single treatment agency

Component #5:

- Programs require greater than 90 days clean before graduation
- Programs require random drug testing at least 2 times per week in the first phase.
- Programs receive test results within 48 hours of sample collection

Component #6:

- Programs have Judge be the sole provider of rewards.
- Programs ensure the possibility of jail as a sanction is readily available
- Programs have written rules for team response to participant behaviors (see the CJC website for examples of written sanction and incentive guidelines).

Component #7:

- The Judge is assigned for a term of greater than two year or indefinitely.
- Programs require participants to attend court sessions every week in the first phase.
- Programs require participants attend court sessions 1 time per month in the last phase.
- Judges spend at least 3 minutes with each participant in Court

Component #8:

- Programs use electronic databases
- Programs use evaluation feedback and program statistics to modify program practices as needed

Component #9:

- Programs provide formal training for all team members
- All new hires go through formal training or orientation
- Team members receive training prior to program implementation

Component #10:

- Program includes law enforcement representation at every team meeting
- All team members attend every team meeting
- Programs have formal partnerships with community members