



Lincoln County Adult Drug Court SYNC REVIEW

- **LC-ADC-2009-030:**

- “Drug court has helped me build my confidence. I realize my son needs me too and it feels good that I am now capable of helping him with things like school.”

Summary

- Free follow up care is available for up to one year after graduation from the drug court.
- Wanting to succeed the second time in drug court, client has obtained an vehicle ignition inter-lock system to prevent the client from driving if the client ever drinks again.
- The purpose of sanctions is seen as “catalyzing growth.” The sanctions are reported to be specific to the individual and are not cookie-cutter.
- The county attorney reports that drug court and Lincoln County intensive supervised probation have similar elements.
- Participants must have an underlying drug or alcohol issue and be willing to enter and participate in drug court.
- Drug court is a function of the circuit court in Lincoln County in coordination with the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Department, not the district court.
- Some feel that drug court could be better defined and funded at the state level.
- Drug court is a four stage program that takes a minimum of one year, usually followed by a term of probation.
- Housing and employment are reported to be needs in the community.
- Drug court has a capacity of approximately twelve; at the time of this review the program has seven clients.
- This drug court coordinator works for the sheriff’s department. In years past, the position reported directly to the county commissioners. With no exception, everyone interviewed praised the work of the current drug court coordinator and how well the program works within the sheriff’s department.
- Drug court alumni support groups were an idea mentioned in interviews that has great merit for recovering clients.
- A juvenile drug court is a need that may warrant exploration in the future.



Access to Services:

- Client is enrolled in drug court for a second time; client feels treatment team is available to assist client for as long as necessary.
- Once a client graduates, services are still available for a year at minimal or no cost to the client.
- A sliding fee scale for clients assists with reasonable payments.
- Client feels that the drug court coordinator and counselor are always just a phone call away.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- Obtaining a general equivalency diploma (GED) is typically a component of and requirement for graduating drug court.
- The demanding structure of the program and the accessibility of the drug court coordinator have helped the client stay clean.
- Client reports that sanctions are much more useful, meaningful and productive than in the past and create a sense of accountability for the client; this is the clients second time through the program.
 - An example of a sanction might be a five minute presentation to the court and treatment team or an essay.
- Since the client has been enrolled in drug court, the client's child's grades have improved and they now work together on homework assignments.
- Urinary analyses (UAs) are done randomly and at least twice a week; client reports that this is good for accountability.
- Counselor is reported as being very helpful and very accessible.
- Jail sanctions are used to remind the client that they have made a significant mistake.
- Client's teenage child reports that drug court has in essence given back the child's parent; the teenager reports that the frequent UA's provide both the teenager and parent with a sense of security.
- Sometimes, if the client completes drug court successfully, the monthly access fee is forgiven or minimized.
- Once in the program, a client has a one on one relationship with a clinician. The rest of the treatment team does the group work needed around the client's program.
- Because of counseling through the drug court program, client reports changing friends which have helped create a good support structure.
- Drug court was an option; the client did not feel that drug court was a punitive action or forced.

Coordination:



- Dual probation with drug court probation through circuit court and district court probation does not seem to work well in Lincoln County.
- The drug court team is seen as being very focused on rehabilitative treatment.
- Administration of the drug court within the sheriff's department is unique, however, it seems to be working and coordination seems to be good.
- While consistent and regular, UAs have enough flexibility to not interfere with the client's job responsibilities.



Access to Services:

- Services such as mental health counseling are reported to be more readily available when enrolled in drug court.
- Financing aftercare services and individual counseling sessions can be an obstacle.
- Entry into drug court can be a lengthy process involving arrest, charges being filed, arraignment, scheduling conference and a pre-trial conference. Somewhere in this process, it is decided whether the client might be appropriate for drug court.
- Not unique to this drug court: specific gender preference requests are time consuming to accommodate especially in a rural community with few resources.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- Additional community resources when the client graduates from the drug court program are reported to be lacking.¹
- A juvenile drug court, if the volume of clients warranted such a program, may be beneficial to the community.
- Being a rural area, some on the treatment team feel that additional resources would be beneficial for clients however those are difficult to sustain within a small community.

Coordination:

- No reported issues.

Systemic:

- Because of a lack of overarching statutes that create consistency among the drug courts in Wyoming, a client cannot transfer from one county and drug treatment program to another even if it was advantageous for the client's program and recovery.
- The unique geographic layout of Lincoln County creates a great deal of travel time of the judge and drug court coordinator.

¹ This is an interesting perspective from one of the treatment team interviewed; a client saw it differently reporting that there was an abundance of after program services.



- A part time drug court coordinator in Kemmerer would be beneficial; drug court is not a realistic option at this point due to the significant distance between the two towns.