



Sheridan County Adult Drug Court SYNC REVIEW

- **SC-A-2009-13:**
 - “The drug court provided a *presence of support* for the client, no matter the time or situation, for the client. The client felt like the treatment team was responsive and could be called on at any time.”

- **SC-A-2009-14:**
 - “The treatment team wants the client to be successful.”

Summary

- ✓ The Sheridan County Justice Office administers adult and juvenile drug courts, juvenile probation, truancy and diversion programs.
- ✓ Referrals are accepted from municipal, circuit and district courts.
- ✓ Located in the old Sheridan County jail, the upstairs cellblock offers a grim reminder of harsher conditions for adults once held in custody.
- ✓ The program has current financial support from a drug court enhancement grant, allowing services without cost to participants, except for fees required by statute.
- ✓ Judges (magistrates) operate efficient courts, relying heavily on staff for appropriate evaluations, assessments, service recommendations and use of sanctions.
- ✓ Both judges are well informed and clearly invested in the drug court processes.
- ✓ The judges consider staff highly competent and their judgment and recommendations. Staff recommendations are generally followed by the court.
- ✓ Pre-court meetings demonstrated that staff were fully informed regarding client needs and appropriately represented service requirements.



Access to Services:

- Assessments were completed within three weeks of referral;
- services are centrally located resulting in the dissemination of services being seamlessly and with ease;
- had the drug court been perceived as effective as it is now, the client would have been referred earlier. The client struggled through the system for many years prior to entering drug court;
- clients immediately referred to appropriate services;
- clients were satisfied with access and timeliness of services and experienced no delays;
- no waiting list for services;
- clients reported that services were available for as long as needed following graduation from the program;
- clients were satisfied with the availability of services and did not identify any unavailable services;
- in-house counselors enhance access to services;
- early intervention services are identified and developed as necessary;
- the adult drug court offers in-house counseling promoting excellent coordination between treatment and probation officer functions, and
- WYSTAR provides outstanding services to the juvenile drug court through contractual services.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- Community offered support groups;
- the Drug Court provided structure, offered experience for mentoring, and helped the client learn how to make decisions while sober;
- clients learn to mentor others and provide a source of ongoing strength to the program;
- clients being taught skill for advocating for themselves; staff encouraged, taught and facilitated self-advocacy for clients;
- intake check list is comprehensive including medical, dental, debt problems and substance abuse needs;
- client identified individual counseling as the most helpful and AA¹ as the least helpful;
- client felt supported by staff and encouraged to succeed;
- clients did not report experiencing discrimination in the community;
- local mental health services are accessed and used as needed;
- cultural competence was evident, and
- individuals and families were appropriately involved in establishing and implementing service and treatment plans.
- A strength of the drug court was that it operated in the gray and not in black and white, providing for individual flexibility in service delivery and individualization of services in most cases.

¹ AA stands for Alcoholics Anonymous; more information is available at www.aa.org.



- Services provided by the drug court include:
 - Intensive outpatient treatment;
 - individual counseling;
 - anger management;
 - random drug testing;
 - substance abuse assessment;
 - financial planning;
 - coordination with cooperating agencies;
 - outpatient services;
 - probation Services;
 - Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings;
 - residential treatment, and
 - jail and detention when required.

Coordination:

- Treatment for adults is in-house and coordination between providers is enhanced by this arrangement;
- the client reports that once communication happened the entire team was aware of anything that went on in the case;
- staff reports good coordination with the Wyoming Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole;
- community service programs are coordinated and made available through the Sheridan County Community Services Officer, and
- essential service components appear to be readily available and well coordinated.



Access to Services:

- No issues were noted in this review.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- Judge offered a choice between drug court or six months in jail. Clients have limited information about drug court and often become involve in lieu of other sentencing options.
- There is limited customization of services for the individual or family in some cases²;
- a concern was noted regarding a lack of family involvement or direct family services, especially for families that are separated and being reunited;
- family counseling was identified as a need but no services were offered, and
- adult drug court is not set up for the client to have input in meetings and communication, but the avenues for input are present if the client questions the treatment or service plan.

² This appears to not be a consistent finding in every case as individualization was noted in other cases as noted on page 2 of this report.



Coordination:

- Case management seems to occur but there was no specific identified case manager;
- while other mental health providers are used as necessary, especially for co-occurring mental health needs, the connection with those agencies is not strong;
- there exists a continued need to build awareness, public and agency support for program;
- an identified need for more sober activities for young adults, and
- the program needs to be fully informed regarding availability of services from other agencies such as VOA and transitional housing.

Systemic:

- There are limited childcare resources in the area;
- there also exists a difficulty in obtaining assistance for childcare. DFS eligibility requirements often limit use of those services by drug court clients, and
- housing assistance, emergency help for utilities and car repairs assistance is needed in the area.