

2011 SYNC Report



Campbell County Juvenile & Family Drug Court

500 South Gillette Ave, Suite B600

Gillette, WY 82716

Coordinator: Susan Cahill

Phone: 307-682-0746

Fax: 307-687-6378

slc45@ccgov.net

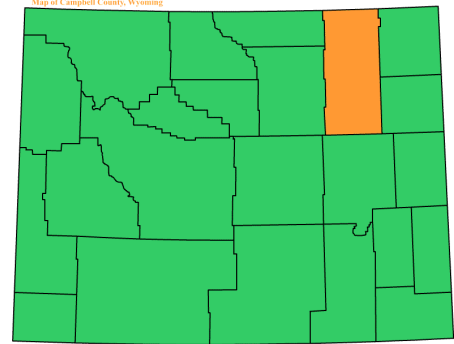
Judge: Honorable Dan R. Price II

10/24/2011

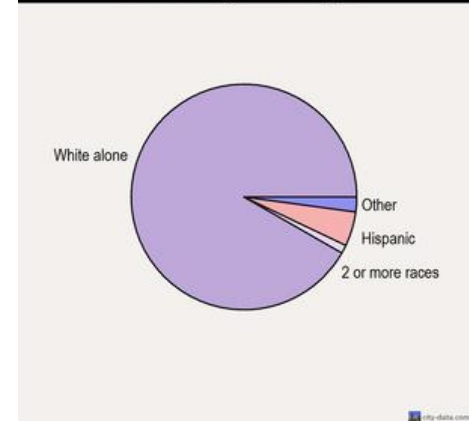
Please see page 14 for comments and responses.

- **Thank you Kellie Furman for being our community reviewer in this process!**
- Campbell County Juvenile Probation expanded to reach an under-served population through their new **Youth Intervention Track (YIT)**; in September of 2010 they began accepting clients.
 - Youth between the ages of 17 – 21 are served;
 - Option for youth whose parents are not willing to participate;
 - Three program phases;
 - Individualized program which allows a broader service array such as anger management, life skills, and
 - Participant fee of \$450.00; substance abuse fee is \$150.00 and is ultimately credited to the program fee.
- One benefit of **CCJFDC** is the fact that through this program, parents can be court ordered to obtain services if needed:
 - This program offers a great amount of accountability for both the parents and the child in the program.
- One professional interviewed reports that a number of the clients past and present are severe substance abusers and probably should not be alive based on their addictions; but thanks to this program they are in fact **alive and doing well**.

Map of Campbell County, Wyoming



Races in Campbell County, WY



The mission of the Campbell County Juvenile and Family Drug Court is to reduce substance abuse and strengthen family systems.

The mission of the Campbell County Juvenile and Family Drug Court Youth Intervention Track is to decrease the use of alcohol and other drugs, as well as offenses related to their use, and to improve the life skills of program participants.

Comments in "italics" could be viewed as an opportunity for improvement.

Access to Services

- The Youth Intervention Track (YIT) is a sub-track of Campbell County Juvenile and Family Drug Court designed for an underserved population, 17 to 21 year olds. This program began accepting clients in September 2010 and should be seen as a best practice for duplication in other areas of Wyoming.
 - Finding services for YIT has been challenging for the probation officer of the program; services typically don't exist for that age group.
 - A client reported that YIT provided access to mental health services that the client needed and were unattainable otherwise.
- *Campbell County Memorial Hospital has two policies that seem to limit access to mental health services:*
 - *The hospital calculates a client's financial ability from "household income." This means that if three individuals live together, in an energy extraction industry economy, yet only one needs therapy but can't individually afford the treatment and the other two roommates have no vested interest in helping the individual financially, it limits the client's ability to obtain the services.*
 - *The hospital also requires clients to show a check stub for the sliding fee scale; so if a client has not been employed for a year and the last job was high paying and the client got laid off but must show that last check stub, it limits access to services.*
- Campbell County Memorial Hospital offers a sliding fee scale; if a potential client makes under a \$100,000.00 they can qualify.
 - While the hospital does offer a sliding scale fee, *there can be a 3-4 week wait for services.*
- Personal Frontiers, a private substance abuse treatment provider in the community, offers a sliding fee scale.

- *A client reported that there was no way to afford private mental health counseling in the area.*
- According to the clients interviewed and their family members, CCJFDC services are timely.
 - Several professionals associated with the program concurred commenting that the program does a good job of screening and identifying the services that the clients need in a very expedient fashion.
 - One professional even reported that if the services do not exist in the community, the professionals associated with this program will do their best to create them, again, all in a timely and effective manner.
- A parent reported that this program was the best fit for their child and family due to the accountability component of the program.
 - *CCJFDC members seem question the right amount of parent accountability, but are willing to consider other requirements and individualize the program.*
 - Professionals report that the program has become more realistic about weighted family counseling in the beginning of a case.
- *A child that eventually became a CHINS¹ case had multiple protective service issues; the parent reports asking the system for help but ultimately had to give up legal custody of the child to get the needed assistance.*
- The cost of CCJFDC is \$750.00. This amount seems balanced between affordable and encouraging clients to appreciate the investment they are making in their future.
- According to one professional interviewed, many of the referrals to the YIT program come from municipal court.

¹ CHINS stands for Child in Need of Supervision.

- *At this time, few referrals come from circuit court but those referrals may be increasing slightly.*
 - One of the YIT cases reviewed was a successful referral from circuit court, resulting in two successful referrals from circuit court to date.
- *No “stand alone” residential treatment program exists in the area; one parent feels that service is very much needed.²*
- Parents continue to have a thorough understanding of the requirements before entering the CCJFDC program.
- In one case, a client’s mother heard about CCJFDC from a private counselor. While it does not appear that there is a great deal of program recognition among the general populous, professionals in the community are aware of it and appear to appropriately make referrals to it.
- Clients and parents interviewed in this process reported no wait times to get into CCJFDC.
- Diversion services are used for kids under 17 such as a first time minor in possession.
- Counseling Connections is now the mental health provider for CCJFDC.
 - One family had already been seen as a client so when the family entered CCJFDC, there was no “curve” in changing counselors.
- Adult drug court cases can often be classified as high risk, high need.³ This is not necessarily true for juvenile drug court cases and the program cannot use adult drug court evaluation tools and apply them to juvenile drug courts.
 - Kids that are coming in are typically high need, but low to moderate risk.

Quality of Services

² The YES House does have a residential substance abuse program that also incorporates behavioral programming.

³ Taken from an article by Dr. Marlow.

- One speculative reason the YIT program is having success with the 17 to 21 year old population might be because they are young adults and have hit bottom, according to one professional.
- A client reported YIT is a much needed program, particularly for the age group it is designed to service.
- CCJFDC ensures that parents get counseling services as well when identified as needed; this is an outstanding practice model and siblings in the family can benefit from their parents counseling and added skills.
- CCJFDC's accountability factor for the client was one of the greatest motivators for success in the program; one on one time with Judge Price is what made the difference according to one parent interviewed.
 - Judge Price is seen by all as having a very good understanding of reality and life.
- *A parent interviewed appreciated the praise given the child, but felt that parents might also benefit from more praise and a simple reward or award marking accomplishments in their parenting skills.*
- Every client of CCJFDC gets mental health treatment in addition to their substance abuse treatment.
- *Interpretation of what case management is from the Campbell County Memorial Hospital system could be useful for other professionals working in the system.*
- While recidivism does exist in this program and like programs across the state, all will agree that clearly the benefits of programs such as CCJFDC in fact save lives and give clients tools to use in the future. This is a continual philosophical discussion and how to accurately measure something that is not happening (ie not abusing substances) and the true personal benefit that clients have received is next to impossible.

- Clients can receive medallions for thirty, sixty, ninety, six months and a year sobriety. ⁴
- A client reported he had an “awakening” while in jail and after a visit with family decided he did not want to live abusing substances.
- Graduation is a meaningful event for both clients and CCJDC professionals incorporating positive reinforcements.
- The accuracy of urinary analysis (UAs) for spice is only whether present or not present; but tests for levels of amount of spice in the system is not available.
- This program keeps kids out of Department of Family Services placement such as at the Wyoming Boys School and Wyoming Girls School.
- In one case, the Wyoming Department of Family Services has legal custody and a parent has physical custody of their child.
- While they certainly do not endorse it, these professionals involved in treatment realize that their clients will in fact probably use as they advance into adulthood. However, they strongly feel that their juvenile clients will have some tools to use if they choose to use again. Juvenile clients interviewed also echoed the concept of obtaining necessary tools.
- In a case of separated, custodial parents, the program has done a great job teaching both parents how to co-parent in the situation.
- Counseling, both mental health and substance abuse, has been very beneficial, according to one client interviewed.
- Both the Department of Family Services Probation Officer and Campbell County Probation Officer were cited by a parent as being very caring yet do a great job of holding people accountable and working as a team.

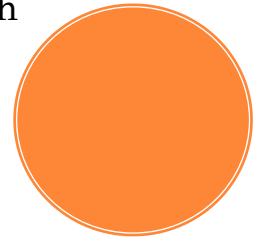
⁴ An example of these medallions can be seen on page 11.

- A parent interviewed “sees a lot of growth in their child” because of being involved in CCJFDC.
- All of the requirements of the program keep clients productive and reduce free time to abuse.
- A parent’s relationship with their child has benefited from their involvement in CCJFDC.
- A client in the YIT program had a sense of personal responsibility for past behaviors.
- *A parent reports that there is “community discrimination” when you have a child in treatment.*
- A parent reports that the quality of CCJFDC is “all good” and strength of this program is how “up front” it is; that has not changed over the years through this review process.
- A client went to a treatment program in another part of the state. The subject relapsed and then entered this program:
 - “This program has helped me grow up and it is clear that they care a great deal about the participants. I was able to get more one on one treatment in this program.”
- In some cases, program professionals recommend that the child do residential treatment and then follow-up with the CCJFDC.
- Let the brain “heal” and “mature” and “know where to go when they need help again” is part of the philosophy of some of the professionals in this area.
- *One professional interviewed felt it was “difficult to hold parents feet to the fire; we could do more to support and reward the parents.”*
- One juvenile male client is assisting another juvenile male client with sobriety and other life issues.
- Good quality of services, if there are no services “we develop them” and “avoid duplication of services whenever we can.”
- Families, listening to other families in court, benefit from what each other hears.

- Clients in CCJFDC are from juvenile court so parents can be court ordered by the court to participate and the program is treating the family, not just “fixing” the child and inserting that child back into a dysfunctional situation.
 - *However, family members (parents) are not allowed to be counted as participants in the state’s funding system despite receiving treatment services.*

Coordination

- The Community Juvenile Services Board sponsored some corrective thinking training for detention officers and others in the community.
- *Some report it might be beneficial for team members in the future to obtain some skills for having courageous conversations of sorts with each other, as opposed to talking behind each other’s backs.* This of course could be said in about any organization.
- Campbell County Memorial Hospital provides the substance abuse counseling for this program.
- Counseling Connections provides the mental health counseling for this program
- Through the weekly CCJFDC meetings on Tuesday, there is good coordination and identification of areas needing services.
- *Because of a lack of funding, CCJFDC team members are not able to attend state and national conferences where information exchange, learning and revitalization can take place.*
- A parent reported that all of the professionals involved in their case did a tremendous job of coordinating schedules.
- Great coordination is noted between CCJFDC and the Campbell County Sheriff’s Department Detention Facility for



groups, counseling and meetings through the detention sergeant who sits on the treatment team.

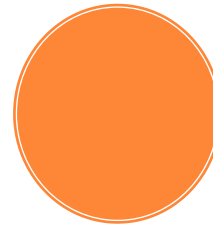
- Good coordination between the mental health provider and substance abuse provider. They work well together and while no one entity seems to take the lead they seem to enforce each other's approach to treatment.
- Great coordination between the two probation officers.
- *While YIT came on line and developed there was some confusion about expectations and growing pains.*
- A parent felt the county attorney was very concerned about the parent and child and wanted what was best for them.
- *Balancing schedules between custodial parents, who are not living together, can create a problem for the juvenile. Realization of that by the parents and making some concessions for their children would be beneficial.*
- A Substance Abuse Advisory Council (Community Coalition) has been in place for about four years.
 - This Coalition has helped fund the YIT program which is seen as cutting edge treatment and very successful.
- This program, the Wyoming Department of Family Services, the YES House and the Campbell County School District seem to coordinate very closely for their clients benefit.
- *Testing from the Wyoming State Lab for SPICE takes three to four weeks; time is of the essence for effective treatment.*
- *Clients report that the changing of counselors or other administrative changes in their programs can create confusion but appear to be handled as smoothly as possible with the least amount of disruption.*
- Residential drug treatment options in Wyoming are few and far between:
 - Central Wyoming Counseling Center (CWCC);
 - Big Horn Mountain Recovery in Sheridan, however they do not take Medicaid;

- YES House;
- Rimrock Foundation, and
- one in Canton South Dakota are the geographic options used mostly.
- The YES House school is part of the school district so credits transfer back to the high school.
 - Kids can earn credits, *however they cannot graduate from the YES House school. So if a child is not accepted back to Westwood or Campbell County High School that juvenile cannot graduate because they must complete a quarter at the Westwood or Campbell County High School.*

Systemic

- The county attorney would like to open up CCJFDC and increase the numbers served.
- Methamphetamine use has declined; marijuana and alcohol now seem to be the drug of choice in this geographic area.
- *Generational substance abuse is a systemic issue and is unfortunately consistent with reviews in other communities.*
- *Wyoming is a frontier state with vastly different demographics across the state. It has to be difficult for individual programs to create unique programs that meet the needs of the community and for the State to strive for consistency among the programs. Treatment providers may have difficulty making recommendations that fit into the court supervised treatment program structure.*
- *In all of these reviews, it appears that those representing a client struggle balancing trying to get their client released from charges versus trying to get needed substance abuse help through programs such as this one. This is not a unique finding to Campbell County.*
- A client of the program, who is currently an absconder, was born with methamphetamine in the circulatory system.

- It appears that the Campbell County Commissioners support this program very well.



“These people have been in my life for a long time...I feel comfortable coming back to them in the future if I need help.”

“The kids that have been in drug court have learned something and have some tools. Families also have a greater ability to function.”

“Team is consistent; you can ask anybody a question and get the same answer.”

“I hated the accountability of the program....ironically; I ended up loving the accountability of this program.”

“I watched my parents drink and I thought it was cool so I started....my dad was abusive to my mom and me and I really hated her for taking him back...”

“This program gave me the confidence that I needed to deal with my issues...it is ok to be a man and vent and cry...”

Debriefing:

- Consistency:
 - When a client and parents are considering the program, there are clear expectations explained to them before they ever enter the program.
This has not changed over the years.
- *Campbell County Memorial Hospital Coordination is an ongoing issue:*
 - *Wait times.*
 - *Household Income.*
 - *Sliding Fee Scale...show a check stub...you would not steal mental health services!*
 - *Definition of their case management.*
- Ability to change directions when needed:
 - Reconsideration of parent's expectations.
- Putting children and families first.
- Youth Intervention Track:
 - Underserved population that so needs the services, particularly around independent living skills.
- *Lack of participation by the Public Defender's Office is disappointing.*
 - *Additionally, not looking out for their client's best mental and health needs.*
- *Changing counselors causes problems.*
- What do you do to celebrate the success of this program?



SYNC Review Report Team Member Comments

Here are my comments/corrections. I'm not sure how to use the boxes like you talked about.

1. Page 2 states that the hospital calculates financial ability based on household income. This is not the case. It occurred in the past but has not since the contract has been at CCMH-BHS.
2. Page 2 states that clients are required to show a check stub which is true however if they are unemployed they are required to show proof of registration with work force services.
3. Ultimately I'm not sure why this even matters as this does not apply to JFDC/YIT unless the client chooses to stay in services after graduation. I understand it was an issue with getting evals in the past however since CCMH-BHS has had the contract this has not occurred. Also we recently worked it out that on a case by case basis YIT participants won't be charged for their intake, and that will be billed directly to JFDC..
4. Page 13 talks about the issues with coordination with CCMH, I think it's important to note that at the time of this review the contract had been with CCMH for 3 months and "growing pains" can be expected with any new contract.

Just as a follow up to my comments from the other day. On page 3 where it talks about XX and CHINS. This may be a statement by one of the parents but I think it mischaracterizes the facts. XX was in early age intervention failed that program and was adjudicated a CHINS. Although interventions and services were provided, XX was not successful. XX was getting services as early as 9/10. However, due to TO's age, unless he was in DFS custody, the court would lose jurisdiction upon his XX birthday under the CHINS statute. XX was put into DFS custody in order to extend juvenile court jurisdiction in the CHINS and give the family the opportunity to participate JFDC without interruption in services. JFDC was could have been an option all along but the MDT or whomever didn't feel it appropriate to recommend it until the 11th hour of the case.

Then on page 4 right above Quality of Services it talks about kids being low to moderate risk- is that correct? Does it need to say according to the PACT?