



Laramie County Adult DUI Court SYNC REVIEW

- **LC-DUI-2009-025:**
 - “What’s jail going to do for me?”
- **LC-DUI-2009-026:**
 - “I look in the mirror and see someone new”
- **LC-DUI-2009-027:**
 - “Intensive accountability worked for me.”
- **LC-DUI-2009-028:**
 - “This has been the first time I have been sober in 35 years.”
- **LC-DUI-2009-029:**
 - “This has been a blessing in disguise”.

Summary

- Laramie County Adult (LCA) DUI Court is an “encouraged cooperation” program. Clients have to volunteer into the program; however, many times the alternative option is a significant amount of jail time.
- The LCA DUI Court coordinators chose successful cases to non successful cases; this is appreciated and gives a very accurate picture of the program and community resources.
- LCA DUI Court is an accountability court, not a treatment court.
- The dropout rate is 37 out of 115, so far.
- LCA DUI Court operates as a team that is committed to connecting clients to services.
- Felony cases are not typically accepted into LCA DUI Court; some people interviewed in this process wonder if this same program would be successful for these offenders.
- There have been very few repeat offenders since the program has begun.
- The maximum number of DUI participants at a time is generally 35-37. Participant numbers have gone as high as 51.
- Substance abuse evaluations at the time of arrest or shortly thereafter may be more effective than several weeks or months later.
- Even though a client failed to graduate from the program, that client still uses the LCA DUI Court staff for support.



Access to Services:

- A sliding fee scale for clients assists with reasonable payments, particularly for assessments.
- Clients are able to access service providers of their choice in most cases.
- Even with very high participant numbers, no one is refused entry into the program for that reason.
- Clients are charged a \$50.00 per month fee to participate in the LCA DUI Court program.
- Service availability and access is much better when in LCA DUI Court as opposed to trying to seek them individually.
- In at least one case reviewed, the faith based community was clearly a part of the support structure for the client and honored as such through the LCA DUI court program.
- Client reports that all services necessary to support the client in recovery are available or discovered and made available by LCA DUI Court staff.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- Individualized, one on one therapy has been a very beneficial service for the clients.
- Clients are given tools to understand what addiction is really about; this is a great example of recovery support as these will assist with sobriety beyond the program.
- One client reported that high quality transitional services were the key to success in the client's case.
- The courts provided supervision that motivated and encouraged the client.
- The LCA DUI Court does not terminate program participants very often.
- Clients reported significant openness and therefore trusted the program.
- A client who has failed the DUI court program still comes to the office and checks in with the LCA DUI Court staff voluntarily for support.
- Client and program expectations were found to be congruent.
- The judge feels like she knows what is going on with each client and is able to make knowledgeable decisions. She also feels like her role as a judge is positive reinforcement.
- LCA DUI Court enables professionals to make treatment specific recommendations regarding concerns rather than a generalized drug court recommendation.
- "Process meetings" are held monthly to discuss other services that are available for LCA DUI Court clients; such as work force services, health care services, for example.
- Transportation needs for clients who lose or operate under restricted licenses are addressed by the LCA DUI Court to the extent possible through bus passes, offering bicycles and the inter-lock program just to cite a few.
- A client requested an ankle monitor as a tool to assist in recovery and that request was honored.



- LCA DUI Court personnel work very diligently to identify personal sources of support for clients.
- Despite a delay in accessing intensive outpatient services, the client was able to receive individual maintenance counseling services through Pathfinder.
- A LCA DUI Court case manager assisted the client in seeking employment, suitable housing, transportation and other needs.
- Client reported that education about what addiction is about, what triggers are and changing old habits was very beneficial in the program.
- The client remained living at home which allowed the client to meaningfully participate in family activities and have the family as a natural support structure.

Coordination:

- Agencies worked well and collaborated together to make outcomes successful.
- The LCA DUI Court personnel are reported to work hard to identify personal sources of support for their clients.
- The clients reported constant communication between themselves and the LCA DUI Court team.
- Although the client wasn't able to attend the team meeting, there was an opportunity for the client's voice to be heard through the case manager.
- Certain local business owners provide incentives for LCA DUI Court participants.



Access to Services:

- While mental health services and assessments have significantly improved, there is still a three to four week waiting list for intensive out-patient treatment services in Laramie County.
- One client felt inpatient treatment was necessary but could not afford it because an inpatient treatment option was not recommended in the initial assessment. This client experienced a two-month wait to get services. There was also a delay for an assessment.¹
- People who need treatment do not necessarily get in right away. While not specific to any one individual there is a greater demand for services than availability of services and a limited, contracted number of slots for the intensive outpatient program through Pathfinders.
- There are not enough funds or services available. One of the unique aspects of service providers in Laramie County is that they often provide services free of charge.
- The substance abuse evaluation is a cost to the client, and mandatory for all persons who receive a DUI. This is of course difficult for people who are incarcerated and don't have the money. In the past, this has sometimes been rectified by having the cost included as a restitution reimbursement.
- When a client attempted to obtain services through the hospital, the hospital was not supportive of the client's needs.

¹ This statement was made by a client who experienced the LCA DUI court program in its infancy. This waiting period is not considered typical any longer with this program; a wait of two to three weeks is a more appropriate description of the intensive outpatient waiting list.



Quality of Services Including Recovery Support

- Criteria for DUI participants are not set in stone. If a candidate for LCA DUI Court needs intensive outpatient services but does not have any past DUI's, they may or may not be eligible for the program.
- Pathfinder does not treat underlying mental health issues once alcohol abuse has been addressed. Peak Wellness Center² then has to provide services for these cases.

Coordination:

- No issues were identified.

Systemic:

- The courts contract with Pathfinder for \$100,000.00 a year; Pathfinder then contributes an additional \$100,000.00 towards treatment because they feel they need to contribute to the program for the ultimate success of the clients.
- Several professionals, not working directly with LCA DUI Court but associated with them, feel the staff of LCA DUI Court are underpaid for the services they provide.
- Client reports “skewing” self evaluations.
- Public transportation services in Laramie County are reported by most clients to be limited.

² Information regarding Peak Wellness Center can be obtained at: <http://www.peakwellnesscenter.org/>.