



Natrona County Adult Drug Court SYNC REVIEW

- **NC-ADC-2009-03:**
 - “I am proud to say I participated in drug court; it is one of the biggest accomplishments of my life.”
- **NC-ADC-2009-03:**
 - “Services are difficult if not impossible to access unless you are in trouble and in a program such as drug court.”
- **NC-ADC-2009-042:**
 - “Missing a NA¹ meeting is like not having your morning cup of coffee.”
- **NC-ADC-2009-043:**
 - “Being able to access services in my home community allowed me to be close to family for positive support.”

Summary

- Natrona County Adult Drug Court (NCADC) has been operational since 2002.
- NCADC appears to be stable and well managed.
- A low reported recidivism rate surrounds this program.
- The high level of accountability that clients are held to in this program at NCADC is one of the cited reasons for the programs great success.
- Coordination and supportive resource gathering are two strengths of NCADC; one client reported having 30-40 telephone numbers as support contacts when graduating from the program.
- Natrona County is unlike most other counties in Wyoming; there appears to be an ample supply of resources for clients with mental health treatment needs and substance abuse treatment needs.
- In most communities in Wyoming and including Natrona County, there appears to be a lack of awareness and/or understanding of drug court and the philosophy behind it.
- No clients interviewed reported feeling stigmatized by the community in any way while being in a participant in NCADC; only supported.

¹ NA stands for Narcotics Anonymous; more information can be viewed at: <http://www.na.org/>.



Access to Services:

- Client needed two years to complete NCADC and was given that opportunity instead of just one year.
- Due to the availability, NCADC makes good use of residential treatment facilities:
 - Central Wyoming Counseling Center:²
 - Forty five (45) day program which provides forty (40) beds for males and twenty (20) beds for females and operates with state funding.
 - Casper Re-Entry Center:
 - A residential facility providing services for up to six (6) months for male clients.
 - The Wyoming Department of Corrections provides pays for felony level clients, and
 - Natrona County provides ten (10) beds for misdemeanor level clients.
 - WYSTAR Women's Program in Sheridan.
 - Oil City Oxford House³ for men and women.
 - Thad's House for men and women.
 - Seton Home for men and women with children.
 - McKinley House, a domestic violence related shelter.
 - Central Wyoming Rescue Mission;⁴ a shelter for men, women and children which is short term. Extended stay is available for participants willing to work with the case manager.
- Central Wyoming Counseling Center provides a full range of outpatient mental health counseling services to the community on a sliding fee schedule.
- Case summaries document a full assessment of clients needs, including but not limited to:
 - Health,
 - Dental,
 - Life skills,
 - Housing, and
 - Employment.
- Being able to access services in the community that the client lived in allowed the client to be close and have interaction with family, a source of support.

² More information on Central Wyoming Counseling Center can be obtained at: <http://www.cwcc.us/>.

³ More information on the Oil City Oxford House can be obtained at: <http://www.oxfordhousewyoming.org/>.

⁴ More information on the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission can be obtained at: <http://www.cwrn.org/>.



Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- NCADC is a very strong compliance based program with active case management and client supervision provided by assigned Probation agents and Casper police officers.
- The Judge is actively engaged in the NCADC process and clearly has a great deal of investment and belief in the process and outcome of the program.
- While not unique to this area, co-occurring substance abuse treatment issues and mental health treatment issues can be difficult; however the NCADC program recognizes the difficulties and provides treatment and services accordingly.
- In-patient client was able to be reunited with the client's children through transitional services at the Seaton House where the client remained for almost four months.
- Treatment providers in the community are reported to be very sensitive to religious and spiritual beliefs held by the clients; some services were available that did not require the client to subscribe to a religious or spiritual belief as well.
- A client reported taking an active role in the client's individual treatment plan creation.
- Family counseling and the family program provided during outpatient treatment were reported by a client to be a very beneficial part of the NCADC program.
- Good transitional services were noted for a client transitioning from inpatient treatment to the Oxford House.
- A "family night" was offered and used by the client while in treatment; client could invite family members to participate who were integral to the client's sustained recover.
- In the program for a dual diagnosis client, medication management was recognized and dealt with effectively by NCADC staff through coordination with the appropriate medical providers.
- Because of the availability of services and resources in the community, clients have a selection and services provided seem to be of a higher quality possibly due to competition and innovativeness between service providers.
- While in treatment, the client was able to work very closely with the psychiatrist to adjust medication.
- NCADC staff is very good at identifying prospective natural support structures for clients and then cultivating those relationships.
- Client reports that the staff of NCADC gives clients the opportunity for meaningful input and then gives that input due consideration in the treatment planning process.
- Obtaining a general equivalency diploma (GED) is a requirement of the treatment program.
- A 10-12 week intensive outpatient (IOP) substance abuse treatment program is provided on side. In addition, outpatient services such as relapse prevention groups and aftercare for the duration of the drug court program is available. Clients are referred into residential treatment, as assessed, either before or



during their drug court program, and come back to do the IOP or aftercare groups at drug court.

Coordination:

- The review noted a “high level” of cooperation and coordination between the NCADC and other community organizations and agencies.
- There are a number of coordinated health related services available through NCADC. They include programs at or through the:
 - National Health Care for the Homeless Council,⁵
 - Dental care through the division of vocational rehabilitation,
 - Routine Tuberculosis tests, physicals and other minor medical needs through the city/county health services,
 - Private physicians and the Community Family Health Center of Wyoming.
 - The Natrona County Detention Center which maintains a twenty four hour per day nursing services for inmates.
- Clients report that employers in the community are supportive of their recovery even to the point of allowing the employee to have flexibility in their work schedules to meet drug court requirements.
- Treatment providers helped connect a client with vocational rehabilitation to assist with dental needs and employment.
- Client reported a “seamless transition” from inpatient treatment to transitional housing.
- Good coordination with the Wyoming Department of Family Services in another county; parenting classes and support programs to reconnect with family were offered to the client and used.
- Law enforcement is a significant part of the NCADC program; this is a strength and some law enforcement officers assist with life skill groups.
- A public defender and the Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS) collaborated to get the client into treatment; the client’s child was in DFS custody.



Access to Services:

- Client reported a two month delay between arrest and entry into NCADC. (Most generally due to requirements and scheduling delays for District Court).
- Subject reported calling the “meth hotline” and was instructed to call the sheriff’s department. Client felt it might have been more effective if the operator for the “meth hotline” had of stayed on the line while dialing the sheriff’s department.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- Client reported not really feeling a participant in NCADC until after the completion of residential treatment. (Clients can enter residential treatment prior to being in the Community and being supervised by drug court).

⁵ More information about the National Health Care for the Homeless Council can be obtained at:
<http://www.nhchc.org/>.



Coordination:

- Client reported that miscommunication between probation and residential treatment facility delayed services; a third-party, Access to Recovery⁶ facilitated the communication for the client.

Systemic:

- A client and family felt that the only way the client was going to get the help and services needed was by getting in trouble; they reported accessing both mental health treatment services and substance abuse treatment services to be very difficult if not impossible without the assistance of a program like NCADC.

⁶ More information about the Access to Recovery program can be found at:
<http://wdh.state.wy.us/mhsa/treatment/atr.html>.