



## 03/17/2011 SYNC Review

### Teton County Court Supervised Treatment Program ("DUI/Drug Court")

- Somewhat unique to this program, in comparison to similar treatment programs in Wyoming, is the fact that community collaborators see this program as “supporting clients” in a holistic approach, as opposed to just “supervising them.”
- Community collaborators feel there is much less recidivism in this program when compared to standard probation. All acknowledge that it is possible graduates could use again, but they will have tools to use they would not have otherwise.
- In a community forum, collaborators commented on the importance of both mental health and substance abuse counseling services in treatment, this program uses two separate counseling providers, one for mental health treatment and one for substance abuse treatment services.
- Human service agencies meet monthly through the Teton County Systems of Care group to help coordinate wraparound services and talk about crisis services and community needs.



TETON COUNTY  
DUI/DRUG COURT

- *Most delays for entry into this court supervised treatment program seem to be on the part of the legal system in general based on the speculation of SYNC reviewers. Caseloads have decreased significantly consistent with decreased jail bookings. Fewer enrollments may be being confused with timeliness of enrollment process. The process time has not slowed FURTHER, but remains slow. The longer time between new enrollments may have more to do with fewer enrollments than slower process.*
  - *There are at least five people who have been arrested in the last two months who are eligible for the program, but are still in “legal limbo.”*

A client reported that an alumni group in Wyoming might be beneficial for graduates of Wyoming Court Supervised Treatment Programs. The client thinks it would provide for a support group to current participants (a mentoring program).

**While this is a SYNC review of the named court supervised treatment program, the reader of this report is reminded that systemic issues, both strengths and opportunities for improvement are contained within and signified by *“italics.”***

[www.wycrp.org](http://www.wycrp.org) or 1-855-632-0032

## Access to Services:

- A local public defender clearly realizes the benefit of the adult court supervised treatment program and makes appropriate referrals to the program.
- This program is a four level program that is a minimum of one year and a maximum of three years as allowed in state statute. Completion of the program is celebrated with a graduation.
- *A client reports “reaching out” for help (including approaching counseling and doctors during crisis times) before getting involved in this court supervised treatment program. This client felt that “you have to get in trouble” before being able to get services in this community and, the only way to get into the counseling center in any sort of timely fashion was after being enrolled in this program.*
  - Once in this court supervised treatment program, a client reports getting “immediate services.”
  - *A client reports it was a “long wait” to get into this court supervised treatment program; in excess of a month.*
- It was very clear to a client before starting this court supervised treatment program what the expectations of the program were and how the program functioned.
- A felony level participant was allowed into the program, but only after very careful research and consideration.
  - *The client reports attempting to find services for addiction problems and mental health issues, but was unsuccessful in both this state and another state.*
- Many people feel that “just doing your time” is way easier than this court supervised treatment program. However, one client stated that after a “third driving while under the influence charge” it was time to do something.
- Jackson Hole Community Counseling offers 24 hour per day crisis services available, *but it is reported there is a long waiting list for those accessing traditional counseling services.*
  - Jackson Hole Community Counseling reports not having a wait for intake, but the severity of the case determines how soon someone can obtain actual treatment services if not a “crisis.”
- The court systems in this area of the state, are generally perceived as being very supportive of this court supervised treatment program and further, the often connect people to mental health treatment services and/or substance abuse treatment services even if not eligible for participation in this particular program.
- This court supervised treatment program appears to have a complete and robust screening process:
  - Potential applicants are screened every morning based on arrest information provided by the Teton County Jail while following up with the court system. Initially, all non-drug and alcohol related offenses are screened out. The program personnel then screen out all cases were Teton County or North Lincoln County is not identified as a potential client’s residence. Those who lack a criminal history consistent with the program’s eligibility criteria are also screened out. Contact is then made with a potential client either directly or through their attorney to inquire if they are interested in further screening

which requires an official application. Sometimes this referral is initiated by the court, sometimes it is not.

"I would not have been rehabilitated without this program; regular probation would not have worked for me and I would have cheated on that."

*Participant Comment*

## Quality of Services:

- According to those clients interviewed, the Judge of this program is seen as fair and firm. Clients felt that the Judge clearly had their best interest at heart and that he firmly believes in the benefit of the program.
- Team members of this court supervised treatment program include:
  - The probation officer;
  - Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOP) from Curran Seeley (substance abuse);
  - Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center (mental health);
  - Prosecutor;
  - Defense attorney;
  - Judge, and
  - Law enforcement (jail).
- Clients report that they feel sanctions are fair, yet directed towards assisting clients in understanding and achieving a goal. Sanctions can include anything from community services, to jail time, to being set back a phase in the program.
  - A client who relapsed while in the program "fessed up" and felt that the program took the honesty into account when sanctioning.
- Strict scheduling of "your life" is understood by clients to help them become productive citizens and not have time for random, poor choices.
- Fees taken in by the program were appropriately used for a client to begin getting into housing while in the program.
- This court supervised program has begun to incorporate a more holistic approach to treatment including acupuncture and nutrition education.
- Intense supervision while in the program was cited by at least one client as being the reason for success; this led to "personal discipline" on the client's part.
  - The client also reported obtaining a number of "personal tools" that will help from "reoffending" again.

- A client reports that after being in the program over two years, getting out of the program is creating some apprehension; the client does feel confident however based on obtaining new tools while in the program.
- *Alternative testing, through blood or hair follicles, would be appreciated by one client as opposed to urinary analysis testing and intoximeter testing.*
- Incentives are meaningful and useful according to clients interviewed. Gift certificates and allowances to attend special events are two of those incentives.
- As stated earlier in this report, but noted again as it apparently is such a foundation that this program is built upon, is the recognition from clients how important honesty is in this program.
- One client reported how much “personal responsibility” the court supervised treatment program had allowed the client to gain.
- Counselors from both facilities are reported to advocate for the client even outside of the counseling setting.
- Southwest Counseling in Rock Springs is the program’s inpatient service provider.
- Probation used to end when the court supervised treatment program ended. However, they are now going to start doing six months of probation after the program to encourage clients to keep going to aftercare and then provide a certificate at the end. Professionals have seen that former clients are less likely to go if they are just dropped after graduation.
- No reports of discrimination by either the program, court or the community in general were reported by any clients.
- Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center is reported to be client-centered with planning treatment.
  - Additionally, this provider assisted a client with rent once, using quality of life funds.
  - This provider is also seen as caring and effective by clients.

**“This is an aggressive, yet non-confrontational program that works if you commit to it and work it!”**

*Participant Comment*

## **Coordination of Services:**

- Clients report that all treatment providers of this community seem to work well together; this is a unique program where one center provides mental health

treatment services and another center provides substance abuse treatment services. Even with two centers providing services it appears that coordination is good and that the presenting issue is treated and managed to a greater extent than the secondary issue.

- Currently the program has 8-10 participants with several waiting for admittance into the program.
  - After three months enrolled in the program, it costs clients \$50.00 per month to be in the program, and
  - Counseling costs are done on a sliding fee scale.
- Clients report that employers in the community are generally supportive of this program.
- Alcoholics Anonymous integrates well with this court supervised treatment program.
- This court supervised treatment program allows clients to socialize with each other outside of court proceedings (when approved by probation and treatment staff); this is somewhat unique to this program but does not seem to deter from the quality of the program or the results recorded.
- Counseling services at both companies are available for as long as needed as long as the graduated client does not get arrested again.
  - Curran Seeley clients do not have to pay further if they need follow-up services once the court supervised treatment center costs have been paid in full.
- One client felt that living in a “small community” actually created a greater expectation to succeed.
- It is always an interesting paradox in this review and many others: Clients report how important it is to be held accountable, but then wish that the testing requirements and scheduling was more lenient.
- Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center has events such as movie nights that are open to all including clients as an appropriate community socialization activity.
- Curran Seeley offers a Spanish language group and they have bilingual treatment at Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center:
  - *It is reported that the Wyoming Department of Probation and Parole does not have any Spanish speaking options.*
- Family and friends (support) are strongly encouraged in all appropriate aspects of this court supervised treatment program.
- While this court supervised treatment program does accept felons, they do not seem to get the number of recommendations one might expect.
- Currently, the “team” meets three or more times per month.
- The program administrator hopes to create a community board of sorts to share with and gain information from on systemic issues.

"Supervision, testing, and counseling has been extremely helpful; the nutritionist is very helpful too."

*Participant Comment*

## **Systemic Issues:**

- A client reports that "drugs and alcohol" are readily available in this community and that Jackson is particularly a "big drinking community."
- The demographics of this community make it interesting to operate a court supervised treatment program in; many potential clients have the funds to access the services of effective legal counsel that often "get the client off" on a technicality. This costly legal counsel might not always have their clients' recovery best interest in mind.

"They promote life changes. The accountability and the structure have been the most valuable tools and have taught me how to be a better member of the community."

*Participant Comment*