

Teton County Adult DUI/Drug Court 2009 SYNC Review


- **TC-ADC-2009-044**
 - *“Great interstate cooperation between Montana and Wyoming.”*
- **TC-ADC-2009-045**
 - *“Curran Seeley, the substance abuse treatment provider and Mountain House, the mental health treatment provider worked very well together to assess, recognize and meet the client’s needs.”*
- **TC-ADC-2009-046**
 - *“Client reports that the Teton County Adult Drug and DUI Court program saved his/her life. In addition, the program¹ allowed him/her the flexibility to find the spirituality that worked and did not have something “shoved down his/her throat.”*

Summary

- ✓ In each case reviewed the public defender was a key player; he worked closely with his clients and the other professionals in the community to get the best possible services for his clients. Clearly he has the best interest of his clients as a motivating factor; unfortunately that person was leaving Teton County soon after this review.
- ✓ Teton County Adult Drug and DUI Court has a very balanced approach to serving clients. There is accountability for the clients; however there is also good recognition of client’s accomplishments.
- ✓ The community is well served by Teton County Adult Drug and DUI Court. The program sees that the services provided for a client are an investment into a community member; clients are selected for the program with that consideration, among others.
- ✓ Substance abuse treatment services and mental health treatment services are provided by two different entities. Both seem to work well together understanding and recognizing the needs of each client on an individual and well assessed basis.
- ✓ Teton County is a geographically isolated community that does a tremendous job of utilizing existing services in the community and continually improving on those services.

¹ When the word “program” is used in this report, it is referring to the Teton County Drug and DUI Court.





Please join us

for a

**Teton County DUI/Drug Court Program
Graduation**

**Honoring
Program Participants**

who have successfully worked towards
personal accountability, long term sobriety,
and giving back to their community during
more than twelve months, four program levels, and
weekly review of the DUI/Drug Court Program Team.

Monday, April 27, 2009
Teton County Circuit Courtroom

Opening Remarks

Presentation of Graduates

Emiliano
Wes

Reception Immediately Following

Call 732-5778 for more information


TETON COUNTY DUI/DRUG COURT PROGRAM

The DUI/Drug Court Program is dependent upon the creation of a non-adversarial courtroom atmosphere where a single judge and a dedicated team of court officers and staff work together toward a common goal of breaking the cycle of drug abuse and criminal behavior. The Program Team is pleased to celebrate the graduates' successes and believes their efforts and commitments will continue to result in positive growth in their relationships, work and community.

TETON COUNTY DUI/DRUG COURT PROGRAM TEAM

Circuit Court Judge	Timothy C. Day
Chief Deputy County and Prosecuting Attorney	Brian Hultman
Deputy County and Prosecuting Attorney	Melissa Owens
Public Defender	Gregory Blenkinsop
Department of Corrections Probation Officer	Charles V. Shinkle, Jr.
Curran-Secley Substance Abuse Treatment Specialist	Trudy Funk
Jackson Hole Community Counseling Center Therapist	Heath Miller
Teton County Sheriff's Office	<i>Specialist</i> Captain Jim Whalen
Jackson Police Department	Corporal Andy Pearson Officer Brian Gardner
Teton County Sheriff's IT Specialist	Marvin Arriola
DUI/Drug Court Program Coordinator	Anac Comeaux
Chief Circuit Court Clerk	David Baker
Drug Court Magistrate	Elizabeth Koeckeritz

This program is made possible by Wyoming Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Bureau of Justice Assistance 2005 Discretionary Drug Court Grant, Teton County, Town of Jackson, partnering agencies listed above, and participant fees.


TETON COUNTY
DUI/DRUG COURT

4/08

As evidenced by the above invitation, successful completion of Teton County Drug and DUI Court is a community acknowledgement and celebration of sorts. Just prior to the start of this SYNC review, this graduation ceremony was attended by the review coordinator. The interaction between clients graduating, clients who have graduated and the criminal justice community was incredibly positive and uplifting. This is a community program that is accepted and honored by the community and a program that practices a true wrap around philosophy. Both the Chief of Police and Teton County Sheriff were in attendance, among others, to recognize the accomplishments of the graduates. Additionally, family members, such as spouses, were able to honor and speak about what the graduates accomplishments in the program meant to them. The court itself appropriately acknowledged the trials and tribulations of the graduating client and congratulated them on their success.

The back side of the invitation also does a very good job of recognizing the partners in Teton County Drug and DUI court and gives a good, brief explanation of the program as well as setting the standard for conduct of the actual process. This is important communication; most communities around Wyoming are not aware of these sorts of treatment courts or their important function.





Access to Services:

- In all three of the cases reviewed, the public defender did an outstanding job of recognizing the needs of his clients and promoting the connection of each client with appropriate services.
- Services are very timely and well coordinated in this area.
- In one case, the client did not necessarily seek out the services as much as the “services” sought the client out; any service delivery with this program is an investment in a person and in the community.
- As noted earlier, there was good interstate cooperation between two states (Wyoming and Montana) to get the client needed services. In other reviews around the state, the bureaucracy and red tape seemed to delay services for the client, however the Teton County Drug and DUI Court has a good grasp of priorities and seems to “seize the moment” to get the client needed services with good timing.
- While there appears to be a two to three week mental health evaluation wait list, this is less than in other areas of the state and once that evaluation is done, treatment begins immediately.
- There appears to be little or no waiting period for substance abuse treatment services.²
- A signed agreement between the Teton County Drug and DUI Court ensures that clients receive timely mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
 - Despite the agreement however, all team members seem to realize that there is often times a “window of opportunity” with clients to best accept and begin to receive treatment services.
- Everyone in Teton County, who gets an alcohol or substance abuse related charge, must get an evaluation.
- The partnership that Teton County Drug and DUI Court has with their treatment providers seems to serve the client well with regards to knowing when the client may be ready for treatment and when treatment would probably not work for the individual client.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- The contract mental health provider will provide aftercare services on a sliding fee scale.
- The contract substance abuse treatment provider will provide aftercare services free of charge for life.
- One client reported earning or being given a coupon for a meal at a local eating establishment; the proprietor of the eating establishment congratulated the client

² Mental health services and substance abuse treatment services are handled by two separate, partially state funded, organizations. That arrangement is unique to Teton County and is not found anywhere else in Wyoming. However it is interesting to note that counselors from both programs were interviewed and both reported that there is good recognition and coordination between the two with regards whether mental health or substance abuse is predominant with a client. Depending on which is identified, the non predominate need is secondary to the predominate need.



on doing so well; there appears to be very good recovery recognition and support in Teton County.

- This is a program and a community both of which seem to be sensitive, aware and responsive to all cultures, characteristics, and the cultural and ethnic traditions of the populations that are served. This was demonstrated through a case where the client was from a portion of the United States much, much different than Teton County in about every way possible. However, the treatment services provided in Teton County through the program recognized those cultural differences and adapted as necessary to serve the client well. As a matter of fact, it was the first time that the client had been clean and sober in much of his/her juvenile and his/her entire adult life.
- The program staff are committed; one client has relapsed twice while in the Teton County Drug and DUI Court but staff are committed to working with the client for as long as necessary.
- All involved in this program seem to have a very realistic approach to treatment and seem to handle things one day at a time at the client level; but program personnel are able to realistically look into the future and tailor the program for the client as he or she advances.
- In another case review, a client relapsed while out of the program's jurisdiction. Immediately following the relapse that client called the probation officer and the program; that client celebrated graduation during the SYNC review.
- There are minimal costs to the client for this program; these costs are not outrageous but do encourage the client to feel a sense of investment in the program and ultimately themselves.
- In one case reviewed there was clearly a codependent relationship between parent and adult child. The treatment team recognized this unhealthy relationship and insured that the client received appropriate treatment.
- Typically clients reported in this review how "intense" yet fair and productive the Teton County Drug and DUI Court program is for them.
- A client reported that while not personally involved in treatment team meetings, he/she did not feel that anybody conspired against him/her.
- SYNC reviews have found that many adult treatment courts are simply "sanction" based. Teton County Drug and DUI Court is an exception to that finding. While there is a good degree of accountability in the program, and the Wyoming Department of Corrections Probation Officer is described as being somewhat intense at times, there is no doubt that all involved in this program care deeply about the clients and as mentioned previously success is celebrated in the very court room that holds the clients accountable.

Coordination:

- There appears to be useful and balanced case management services through the contract mental health treatment provider and through the contract substance abuse treatment provider.



- This community and specifically this program appear to subscribe and successfully use a “systems of care” approach/concept in their work with clients.³
- It has been mentioned several times in this report, but it is worthy to mention again in this section. The Teton County Drug and DUI Court takes great measures to insure that their clients are involved in the community in some fashion and those community resources are invested in those members of the community. This program is not just about “number of clients.” There is a depth and community root for this program that goes deep into Teton County. When selecting clients, one of the criteria is what connection the client has to the community. This serves both the client and the community well.
- While hard to articulate on paper, there is an incredible professionalism, yet caring attitude among treatment professionals in this area.
- The treatment team members recognize the need to “take care of themselves” through trainings and appropriate humor.
- To the extent that the client wants family involved in their program, they are involved and of course depending on the appropriateness of them being involved.
- Every client receives a mental health evaluation when arrested for a drug or alcohol offense in Teton County. In one case, despite a finding of “anti social” behavior in the evaluation, the mental health treatment counselor yielded to the substance abuse treatment counselor as the substance abuse seemed to be more prevalent in the case. This indicates what a good working relationship exists among professionals in Teton County.



Access to Services:

- Through this review, there was only one “early intervention” program discovered that seems to exist in Teton County. This is reported to be a faith based sponsored early intervention program entitled Celebrate Recovery.
- While typical in Wyoming, access to mental health services appears to be a two to three week wait.
- A client interviewed felt that the time between jail and beginning the Teton County Drug and DUI Court program was a big confusing.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- In the past, the community has struggled with keeping programs like Narcotics Anonymous⁴ active in the area.
- Transition services and independent living services are not a strong component of this program and of the community in general. This finding has been consistent in this review, the review of the now defunct family court and also Wyoming child and family services reviews in Teton County.
- One client reported wanting greater input into the client’s case plan other than just through the case manager at treatment team meetings.

³ Further information regarding “systems of care” can be found at: <http://www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov/>.

⁴ Further information regarding Narcotics Anonymous can be found at: <http://www.na.org/>.



- One client suggested that the creation of a personal mission statement would be a good activity for clients of the program.

Coordination:

- Clients reported that when they entered the program they were scared, or still recovering from being under the influence, or both. All three clients interviewed felt that while the expected services were probably explained to them upon their entrance into the program, it would be helpful to review those expectations and program requirements at some point after the commencement of the program when they were in a better position to understand them. Clients are given a handbook upon entrance into the program.
- One client expressed concern that there was an inconsistency with regards to use of sanctions; there appears to be no list of uniform sanctions that the team and the court operate from, according to the client.⁵
 - Another client also reported that incentives and sanctions are given out pretty equally, but that a list of those expectations of standards should be published and made available to the client.

Systemic:

- In one case, and certainly not a poor reflection on this program, it was unclear whether the client was “really working” the case or just going through the motions. Program staff members were aware of this and felt that at the very least they had succeeded in keeping the client clean and safe which benefits the community at least for the duration of the program.
- One client had a family history of alcoholism and eventually ended up in Teton County Drug and DUI Court. The question can always be posed for this client as to which issues came first and if intervention at that time could have prevented or minimized what the client is currently undertaking; mental health issues from the family alcoholism the client suffered as a child or substance abuse issues of the client’s own developed through his/her teenage years and into adulthood.

Teton County Adult Drug/DUI court truly sets the standard among treatment courts reviewed in Wyoming for balancing consequences for inappropriate actions with celebration for success.

⁵ This is not a finding unique strictly to Teton County Drug and DUI Court and occurs statewide.