



SYSTEMS & YOU NETWORKING & COLLABORATING

2014 SYNC Review

Lincoln County Adult Probation Program

Coordinator: Sheriff Shane Johnson

Program Manager: Todd Meyer

Founded: 1999

SYNC Evaluation Date: January 21, 2014

Total Clients Interviewed: 2; Both Females. One client was in Phase 1 and the other client was in Phase 3. The clients ranged in age from 20's to 50's that were interviewed.

Other Interviews: Program manager, past program manager, Lincoln County Sheriff-Coordinator, and the Judge.

Court Information Summary:

The Lincoln County Adult Probation Program (LCAPP) has a philosophy of "Attitude is Everything" which sets this program and its participants up for a successful life transformation. LCAPP has a unique structure based on the geographical area that this court covers. This is the treatment court program that has operations in two locations, which are very different in demographic makeup. The participants in Afton attend court every other Wednesday and the participants in Kemmerer attend court every other Tuesday. The team travels between the two areas on a regular basis. Participants check in with the program manager on a daily basis and UAs are conducted at the local jails. LCAPP serves clients with a variety of substance abuse issues, with alcohol as the primary substance along with Spice and prescription medications.

The Lincoln County Adult Program is a minimum of 12 months consisting of four phases. Clients are required to pay \$50.00 per month for their counseling services.

Phase 1: Consists of four group counseling sessions and one individual session per week. Daily calls to probation officer, 4 UAs a week, and client must wear an ankle monitor through this phase. Participant must attend court twice a month. Participants must pay \$50.00 for counseling services. Participants must complete their GED if needed. Curfew is 10:00pm. Phase lasts about two months.

Phase 2: Consists of at least three counseling sessions per week. Three times a week contact with probation officer and three UAs. Participants must attend court every 30 days. If the participant is not employed, he/she must actively seek employment. Extended curfew 11:00pm. Phase lasts about two months.

Phase 3: Consists of at least two counseling sessions per week. Participants must call in to probation two times a week and complete two UAs. Participants must attend court once every four weeks. Extended curfew to midnight at the discretion of the probation officer. Phase lasts about four months.

Phase 4: Consists of at least one group session per week. Participants must call in to probation one time week and complete one UA. Participants must attend court once a month. GED must be completed in order to graduate the program. Curfew remains at midnight. Phase lasts about four months. Participants prep for graduation and plan for a successful transition back into the community.

If an individual has a violation, a sanction is imposed. The court exercises the right to institute a variety of sanction options to fit the violation. A variety of incentives are used as rewards for successes.

Average Participation in the Lincoln County Adult Probation Program: 22 clients

Recidivism Rate for FY 14 (to this point in the year): In program: 4.55%; post program: 0%

Retention Rate for FY 14 (to this point in the year): 75%

Eligibility:

In order to qualify for LCAPP a potential participant must have been arrested for a drug or alcohol offense with a prior history of arrests and documentation of substance abuse. There can be no history of violent behaviors. A potential participant must be a resident of Lincoln County and must have no other pending criminal actions in another county or state. The potential participant must be willing to undergo a substance abuse evaluation and agree to participant in all aspects of the program which is a minimum 12 month commitment.

Financials:

Total operation budget is \$220,989.74 for FY13. The County's matching funds are \$100,000.00 plus in-kind funds of \$38,750.00. The state grant funds total \$88,639.74. Total proposed operational budget for FY14 is \$221,202.96.

SYNC Review Areas:

Access to Services:

- Clients were able to enter the program in a timely manner after acceptance.
- Although this program functions in two locations, there are program resources in each community. The treatment court program manager and the judge travel frequently between the two locations.
- Access to treatment services is functioning well and the mental health providers participate in the team meetings.
- There is a large geographical area for this county to cover so if a participant lives in a community other than Afton and Kemmerer they often cannot participate due to transportation restrictions.
- The vast distances across the county does not appear to inhibit service delivery and staff has open communication regularly and can be easily reached by phone if necessary.

Quality of Services:

- Clients saw the program as an opportunity to change if they put the time into it; “you have to focus on changing yourself”
- Clients at times are frustrated trying to locate resources (such as community service) however the staff assist with directing the client to potential options in the community. The staff empowers the clients to direct the services to meet their own needs.
- The Judge does not participate in program staffing which allows him an unbiased option when the clients enter the courtroom. The Judge takes the time to know the clients and address them with respect while still listening to the staff recommendations.
- Clients felt that the group counseling sessions were helpful in directing their recovery. One client was unsure of the possibility to request a different counselor. Staff states that if a client requests another provider that there are options if there is a valid reason to change.
- Clients are not judged for making mistakes but rather clients felt like they were supported and assisted to make the “right decisions”.
- Treatment provider is CARF certified.
- Program is individualized to meet each clients’ needs. The program is able to meet the needs of the wide age range (early twenties to late fifties).

Coordination of Services:

- Although this program functions in two separate communities, there are resources in each community that assist with a change in lifestyle.
- Client reports that it is difficult to find employment that will work around the strict schedule of the program

- Clients also felt that the community is judgmental once they have knowledge of participation in the treatment court program.
- Clients felt that the AA group was supportive and instrumental in recovery.
- At times it is difficult to get UAs completely in a timely manner since the move to the new location in Kemmerer. Although this is thought to be an issue of getting settled in the new location.
- Coordination of services is imperative since there are two locations for the program in Afton and Kemmerer. This separation is not evident in service delivery however it is more challenging for probation to a constant monitoring system. Staff has to travel a lot to accommodate the needs of clients in each community.
- Clients can continue therapeutic services upon graduation at the same facility.
- LCAPP has good working relationships with Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Services, Public Health and Department of Family Services.
- GED program is readily accessible to clients and provides clients a quality opportunity to complete this requirement of the program.

Strengths:

- Although distance is a big challenge, the program has learned to adapt procedures so that the requirements of the program are met with fidelity.
- The program is housed under the Sheriff's office which has provided stability for the program.
- The program does a significant amount of marketing for the program in the community and in surrounding areas. This program is looked to as a leader in providing education and information about drugs in the community.
- LCAPP utilizes a contract mental health provider which was already CARF certified so it did not interfere with service delivery under the new state requirements.
- The program has Quality of Life Funds which allows them to assist clients when other resources have been exhausted.
- Staff feels that there is a good working relationship with the state office.
- Program offers a graduation ceremony that celebrates the success of the participant.
- Group sessions is relevant to the individual needs.
- DMT and MRT are very useful for recovery.

Concerns/Areas of Growth:

- Lack of transportation options for clients especially those that do not live in Afton or Kemmerer. Often times clients decline this program due to lack of transportation.
- Distance makes it more challenging to impose supervision expectations in person. Many of the supervisory components are conducted over the phone and with the use of an ankle monitor (if needed).
- Formula Funding has significantly impacted the County's funding and places a larger burden at the local level to absorb costs that were previously covered with grant funding.

- There is a lack of housing resources in both areas of the county.
- There is a concern of medical professionals over prescribing medications which lead to addiction behaviors.
- WYCASTS system has improved but the amount of time for the new input requirements is of concern.

Recommendations/Requests:

- State to assess funding formula
- State to assist with evaluation of program expansion around the state
- State to provide additional trainings and/or opportunities to participate in more conference related to the treatment court system, especially in the local areas due to budget restrictions.
- State contracts to allow for more funding to attend National trainings for program improvement.
- Continue to educate community partners about the benefits of treatment court
- Focus on relationships with employers and community service providers to make it easier for clients to find work and community service hours that is flexible around the treatment program schedule.
- Investigate an option for a Women's AA group.

Overall Impression:

LCAPP has a large geographical region to cover for the services in Lincoln County which creates obstacles that are unique to them. Regardless of the distance, this program has been creative in service delivery in two different areas so that more participants can benefit from the program. The program staff are dedicated to covering a large distance so that clients have an opportunity to overcome their substance abuse issues and become productive citizens of their communities. It is important for LCAPP to continue to investigate a variety of options to deliver services to a larger population in Lincoln County through collaboration and resource building. This team really believes that "success is attainable" and clients believe that you are "set up to succeed".