

Overview of Training and Technical Assistance

Drug Court Clearinghouse

The BJA Drug Court Clearinghouse at American University, operating since 1994, serves as a national clearinghouse for drug court information and activity. The Clearinghouse provides a wide range of office-based services relating to drug court programs of all types—adult, juvenile, family and tribal—including: telephone consultation, e-mail responses to information requests, networking assistance and facilitation of telephone conference calls among peers to discuss issues of concern; dissemination of sample operational materials developed by drug courts; and preparation and regular updating of a wide variety of summary “fact sheets” and memos. These include summaries of drug court activity nationally, evaluation findings, and case law and statutory developments. The Clearinghouse also compiles and disseminates summaries of drug court policies and practices in a wide range of areas and emerging issues reflected in Clearinghouse inquiries and summarized in a “frequently asked questions” memo series.

In addition, the Clearinghouse:

- Collects, catalogues, and maintains a reference collection of over 14,000 volumes consisting of operational, training and research materials relating to drug court programs. This collection is housed in a dedicated library at the project’s office in Washington D.C. which is open and regularly accessed by practitioners and researchers. Copies of Clearinghouse materials in hard copy which are requested by practitioners via telephone and email are scanned and transmitted electronically. Representative documents from the Clearinghouse Collection are posted on the Clearinghouse web site (www.american.edu/justice) which is updated on a continuing basis.
- Tracks the development and implementation of drug courts and follows up with all jurisdictions receiving BJA drug court training assistance and/or funding regarding implementation development and technical assistance needs. Information regarding drug court activity and implementation, including the judges and other contact officials involved with each program, is compiled in a data base that is available to BJA and other TA and Training providers.

Clearinghouse services are available to the public, including BJA and other agency grantees, federal, state and local agencies, courts and justice system agencies, general government agencies, and other individuals seeking information on drug courts.

Contact: BJA Drug Court Clearinghouse
Justice Programs Office, School of Public Affairs
American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Brandywine, Suite 100
Washington D.C. 20016-8159
Tel: 202/885-2875 Fax: 202/885-2885
E-mail: justice@american.edu
Web: www.american.edu/justice

BJA Drug Court Technical Assistance

Adult

Sponsored by BJA, the NDCI Adult Technical Assistance initiative provides technical assistance services to adult drug court programs throughout the country. Focusing on individual jurisdictions, TA services range from office based telephone assistance and conference calls, to regional training presentations and onsite visits by trained consultants.

Employing an improved service delivery model and provided by trained, experienced, practitioner consultants, onsite TA services have benefited many drug court programs. Experience has shown that technical assistance services not only assist newer drug court programs but have also proven effective for improving established programs in such areas as training of new team members, reviews of program practices, and strategic planning. Mature drug court teams have received training sessions covering topics such as state-of-the-art substance abuse treatment practices and the effective use of sanctions and incentives. Additionally, many drug court programs have experienced positive outcomes and improved program effectiveness from teambuilding workshops utilizing a format designed specifically for drug court programs. The goal in the delivery of all TA services is to assist the drug court team through a process of identifying program needs, assisting in the development of positive changes to improve the program's effectiveness, and providing ongoing support as the team implements improvements to their drug court.

While priority for onsite technical assistance is given to current Bureau of Justice Assistance drug court grant recipients, NDCI staff attempt to meet the needs of all jurisdictions requesting assistance in improving their drug court programs. For additional information concerning drug court technical assistance services please contact: Alec Christoff, Project Director, Phone: (703) 575-9400 ext. 11, e-mail: achristoff@ndci.org

Statewide

National Center for State Courts provides statewide technical assistance services to state administrative offices of courts and state alcohol and drug agencies, including (1) on-site technical assistance, (2) off-site technical assistance (i.e., facilitating peer-to-peer consultation via e-mail and conference calls), and (3) a series of publications to further integrate drug courts into the mainstream of court operations. The primary purpose of the statewide technical assistance is to provide direct aid and information to state agencies that (1) enhance the leadership of the statewide drug court effort (2) improve coordination and collaboration among the drug court agencies and (3) increase the likelihood for the institutionalization of drug courts into the mainstream of court operations.

As part of its technical assistance services, NCSC developed a series of four bulletins to document the efforts of the statewide technical assistance initiative and further integrate drug courts into the mainstream of court operations. The titles, contents, and the NCSC web link for each bulletin are:

- *Assessing the Statewide Needs of Drug Courts, October 2003-* Focused on the results of the *Needs Assessment Survey*.
www.ncsconline.org/D_Conult/StatewideTAs/StatewideTABulletin_1.pdf
- *Developing Statewide Performance Measures for Drug Courts, October 2004-* Discussed the value of statewide standards, the process that results in their development, and possible “next steps” to evaluate drug courts once these measures are in place. The narrative is based on the

experiences of the NCSC staff and consultants who have participated in the development of these standards in the various technical assistance projects.

www.ncsconline.org/D_Confult/STA%20Bulletin%20October5.0.pdf .

- *Information Collection, Storage, and Use for Drug Courts: Developing a Statewide System, February 2005*- Discussed and makes recommendations for good IT practices regarding the development of statewide drug court case management systems.
www.ncsconline.org/D_Confult/StatewideTAs/StatewideTABulletin_3.pdf
- *Crafting A Plan: Sustaining Indiana's Drug Courts, March 2005*- Described the process of developing a systematic and strategic funding plan to sustain Indiana's drug courts.
www.ncsconline.org/D_Confult/StatewideTAs/STABulletin_4final.pdf

For additional information, please contact Dawn Marie Rubio, Statewide Technical Assistance Project Director, at drubio@ncsc.dni.us or 800-466-3063.

BJA Drug Court Training Initiative:

Statewide Training

The Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, and The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) are pleased to announce the availability of Adult Drug Court State and Regional Training. Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, NDCI now has the capacity to deliver all BJA-approved drug court training sessions to drug court professionals throughout the country in state and regional trainings. Trainings are available to drug court professionals at all levels of experience. Discipline-specific and specialized curriculum trainings, such as "Sanctions and Incentives," are also available. NDCI's curriculum menu includes, but is not limited to:

The Promise of Drug Court
Targeting and Eligibility
Psychopharmacology
Treatment: What Works
Team Building
Confidentiality
Case Management

Motivational Interviewing
Drug Court For Defense Counsel:
A Paradigm Shift
Prosecutor's Role and Responses
in the Continuum of Care
Drug Court Environment and
Judicial Styles

State agency representatives, such as representatives of Administrative Offices of the Courts or Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Agencies, working with NDCI staff, can design an agenda specific to the needs of drug courts in a state or region. The curriculum can be delivered in one of three ways: NDCI can train state agency representatives to present the material; NDCI can partner with the state in presenting the material; or NDCI can provide faculty to present all material. Each project is generally limited to two consultants and one NDCI staff person, including materials for not more than fifty participants. Faculty (NDCI consultant and staff) travel and honorarium are allowable expenses, but accommodations for attendees and training site and audio visual, including workbooks and materials for more than fifty participants, must be covered by the state or region.

For further information concerning NDCI State and Regional Adult Drug Court Training opportunities, please contact Carson Fox at:

The National Drug Court Institute
4900 Seminary Road, Suite 320

Alexandria, VA 22311
Telephone (703) 575-9400 ext. 38
Fax (703) 575-9402
cfox@ndci.org

Drug Court Evaluation Training

The purpose of Drug Court Evaluation Training Workshops will be to assist operating drug courts in designing, planning, and implementing an evaluation of the operation and/or effectiveness of their program. Each workshop will be co-sponsored by a state administrative office of the courts but will be open to drug court teams from other states. The workshops will be designed for teams of drug court professionals from a particular drug court. It is anticipated that potential team members may include the following: the drug court coordinator, the person charged with conducting/overseeing the drug court evaluation, and the drug court judge. However, the team composition will vary depending upon the interests and needs of the drug court professionals in a given drug court.

The two-day workshops will be interactive and organized around three tracks:

- Track A: Overview of Drug Court Evaluation
- Track B: Conducting an Internal Drug Court Evaluation/Monitoring the Drug Court
- Track C: Using an External Drug Court Evaluator

Drug court teams leave the workshop with a detailed action plan that can be implemented upon return to their jurisdiction.

For further information, please contact Richard Van Duizend, National Center for State Courts, 2425 Wilson Blvd., Suite 350, Arlington, VA 22201; (tel) 703-841-5632; rvanduizend@ncsc.dni.us.

To learn about the National Center for State Courts, please visit www.ncsconline.org

Incentives and Sanctions: Rethinking Court Responses to Client Behavior

The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), under an annual cooperative agreement with (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, offers a new two-day, advanced subject-matter training program entitled **“Incentives and Sanctions: Rethinking Drug Court Responses to Client Behavior.”** This team oriented and comprehensive training seeks to provide adult drug court professionals with a sophisticated understanding of the science related to behavior management and change. The goals of this innovative training program are to (1) teach attendees the behavioral principles relevant to behavioral management of a drug using offender population and to transfer those scientific principles to practice within the drug court context; (2) teach participants how to create or facilitate the development of an algorithm of sanctions and incentives based on the scientific principles of behavioral science; (3) promote team consensus on responses to drug court client behavior and (4) teach participants the requisite skills to effectively deliver court responses to client behavior.

Ensuring the Sustainability of Drug Court Programs

The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), under an annual cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, offers a two-day, advanced subject-matter training program entitled: **“Ensuring the Sustainability of Drug Court Programs.”** This team oriented and

comprehensive training seeks to aid operational drug courts in developing a long-term, independent sustainability plan. The goals of this innovative training program are to (1) assist attendees with identifying federal, state and local funding strategies that would sustain ongoing operations; (2) to spark creativity in attendees to develop funding strategies through community outreach; (3) to provide attendees with specific examples of creative strategies employed in a variety of drug court jurisdictions throughout the nation; (4) assist attendees in mobilizing existing community resources to ensure ongoing and stable operations and (5) to assist attendees in developing a long term strategic funding plan.

For further information about these and other NDCI services, please contact West Huddleston, Director, at whuddleston@ndci.org.

Cultural Proficiency in Drug Court Practice

BJA in conjunction with the Training Institute of NDRI is offering a 2-day training designed to train established Family, Juvenile, and Adult implementation drug court teams in agency-level (treatment services and the justice system) and systems-level (client and drug court practitioner) issues of cultural proficiency. Participants are judges, public defenders, prosecutors, coordinators, probation officers, parole officers, treatment workers, TASC evaluators and other treatment/criminal justice practitioners involved in drug court practice nationwide.

For additional information on NDRI training opportunities, please visit www.training.ndri.org and contact:

Andrew Osborne, Director of Training at 212-845-4566 or e-mail at Osborne@ndri.org

Joseph Luniewicz, Deputy Director of Training at 212-845-4565 or e-mail at Luniewicz@ndri.org