



JDC NEWS

Spring Newsletter

May 1, 2008

Devils Lake Plans Juvenile Drug Court

North Dakota Supreme Court

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Special points of in- terest:

- * As of December 31, 2007, more than 2100 drug courts were in operation in all fifty states and in U.S. territories.
- * Last year alone, 16,000 individuals graduated from drug courts and more than 840 babies were born drug free.

Devils Lake will be the next site for a juvenile drug court. It is planned to begin operation in January 2009.

In February, a meeting was held at Devils Lake with community members, team members from Grand Forks and Bismarck, and Marilyn Moe from the State Court Administrator's Office. The teams provided information on the roles of the drug court team and the components of the program.

Judge Foughty will be the primary judge for the court. "I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges of a juvenile drug court in the Devils Lake area," said Foughty. He further stated, "Service providers

recognize that for a juvenile to remain drug free, success is more likely if skills for maintaining sobriety are learned and applied in the environment and community where the youth must function on a daily basis. It is my hope that the community based drug court therapeutic model will strengthen a family based support structure and assist the youth with personal, family, social and peer pressures."

The National Drug Court Institute and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will train the team.

The team will also spend a day in training with the Grand Forks Juvenile Drug Court team. This will give them the oppor-

tunity to observe staffing and a drug court session.

Karen Olson, juvenile court officer at Devils Lake, said, "I am encouraged by the results of the other juvenile drug courts in ND and I am pleased to have the opportunity to develop the program for the Devils Lake area. I am particularly hopeful this will provide the chance for youth to get clean from drugs and be more successful in school and the community."

This will bring the total number of juvenile drug courts to six. The first two drug courts were established in Fargo and Grand Forks in 2000. Bismarck began operation in 2002, Minot in 2007 and Williston in 2008.

National Drug Court Month

Governor John Hoeven has declared May as National Drug Court Month. This year's theme is "Taking Drug Courts To Scale: Healthy Families Healing Communities."

May is the eighth anniversary for the Fargo and Grand Forks Juvenile

Drug Courts.

May is also a time to show appreciation to the organizations and area businesses who support our program by providing incentives. These incentives are an important component to the program.

Incentives are used to reward participants for positive behavior.

We invite our donors to visit a drug court session during the month of May. Please contact Marilyn Moe at 701/328-2198. Prior approval for attendance is necessary.

A Graduate's Perspective

My name is Kristi Brown*. I was 16 years old when I first entered the drug court program. So say the least, my life was crazy before I entered the program. I did what I wanted and when I wanted. I had a serious drinking problem and had no respect for authority of any kind. The team sometimes would just mess around and say I was picked to be the first drug court kid because I was the juvenile mascot for so long.

My first charges were when I was about 13. I started drinking at the age of 12. By the time drug court and I met, I had about 4 - 4 ½ years of doing things my way.

When I first started in the program, I shouldn't say started because I really didn't start trying until about three or four months into it, I would still drink and go out. I tried to lie my way out of getting in more trouble every Thursday when we had court. It was just me for awhile when it

started, it was so hard for me just to simply be home by curfew or to listen to my new consequences. To me it was no big deal not being home on time. I felt like they were just finding things to pin on me. I hated having to explain every thing I did in my week and anything that went wrong. I smarted back and went against the program thinking I could do what I've always done in the past to get myself out of trouble. I just dug myself in a big hole.

Finally I realized that drug court isn't there to try and control your life. They are just there to help you out along the way and teach you how to help yourself. I think that this is the ultimate goal. Drug court helped me realize it was just time to grow up and that people don't need to live the life of drinking and parties. You have to take responsibility for yourself and your own actions.

They've helped me get into the Job Corps where I am now a



C.N.A. and I'm going to be leav-

"Drug court has helped me really stand up on my own two feet and get back to the old me; someone that I even like."

ing there with a good paying job and confidence that I can make it on my own. I can get through anything if I just put my mind to it.

I thank not just the program but the people behind the program that have been like the hand that helps you up when you slip on the ice.

Thank you so much for not letting me be less than what I am capable and meant to be.

*Kristi graduated from juvenile drug court on February 7, 2008. * Name changed.*

Meet Our Newest Team Members

Sherrice Roness - Bismarck JDC coordinator

Kim Hegvik - Prosecutor for the Fargo JDC.

Jennifer Liddle - Court officer for the Grand Forks JDC.

Marilyn Iverson - School representative for the Grand Forks

JDC.

Tracy Marback - Coordinator, Grand Forks JDC.

Nadene Butts returns as school representative, Bismarck JDC.

Jeff Uben, Prosecutor for the Bismarck JDC.

Rich Llewellyn, law enforcement officer for the Minot JDC.

A special thank you to the team members who are moving on. Thank you for your time and dedication to the drug court program. Those include: Jonathan Anderson, Mike Pesch, John Fuhrer, Brandi Sasse Russell, Steven Kukowski, and Shawn Mattingley.

ND Juvenile Drug Court Treatment Standards

The North Dakota Supreme Court was awarded a statewide technical assistance grant from the National Center for State Courts. A working group comprised of judges, attorneys, public and private treatment providers, and court officers who currently serve on juvenile drug court teams in the state met on November 15-16, 2007, in Mandan. The purpose of the working session was twofold: (1) the presentation and overview of juvenile drug and alcohol treatment information and research; and (2) the development of statewide treatment stan-

dards for North Dakota's Juvenile Drug Courts. The consultant was Dr. Jeffrey Randall, an expert on evidence-based treatment for adolescents. He has worked extensively with juvenile drug courts. Dr. Randall utilizes various methods of involving the families in the treatment process while their child is in drug court.

The group met again in March 2008, and went over the new treatment standards, along with the plans and recommendations to meet these standards.



Jeff Randall, Ph.D.

Medical University of South Carolina Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences speaks at the Seven Seas Hotel, Mandan, North Dakota.

Minot Develops Incentive Program

Last fall, Les Malnaa, Minot juvenile probation officer, and Valerie Potter, Minot juvenile drug court coordinator, developed an incentive program for juveniles who are enrolled in Minot's JDC Program. The incentive program was created so participants could earn points on a weekly basis and would allow them to



receive incentives based on the number of points received. The drug court team also provides the participants (in addition to points for the incentive board) with mini incentives for immediate praise of a good week or for an outstanding accomplishment. Some of these mini incentives are free car washes, oil changes, and gift certificates to local fast food chains in Minot.

Each week the participants are scored on their appearance and attitude in court, and following court and education requirements. Participants are

also given the opportunity to earn bonus points on a weekly basis by participating in other drug court activities, graduating to a next path level or receiving recognition from a school official or employer.

"Unless bonus points are awarded, the participants have the opportunity to earn as many as one hundred points per week to add to their overall total. Depending on what kind of week they have will determine the number of points they earn," stated Valerie Potter.

To "cash in" points, a participant

Must give the team a one week notice in writing along with weekly progress reports. Participants obtain incentives based on the number of points they have earned. Incentives range from deducting community service hours off of their overall total to obtaining gift cards to a local business.

"We have received positive feedback from the participants as well as the parents," said Potter, "overall, the incentive program has been working great."

Since no other JDC in the State has this type of incentive program, it will be interesting to see the effects the program has on the participants in the program. Minot State University will conduct a study to compare this program to the other incentive programs in the state.

"I have worked with kids going on nine years, and until drug court and our incentive program came along, I was not sure of the results of the kids. You can actually see the improvements in attitude, behavior, and emotion in the kids," said Les.

Bismarck Celebrates 5th Anniversary

The Bismarck Juvenile Drug Court celebrated its fifth anniversary on November 1, 2007. Referee John Grinsteiner opened the court session with congratulatory letters from Senator Byron Dorgan, First Lady Mikey Hoeven, and Justice Mary Muehlen Maring. Refreshments followed the court session.

The court began on October 17, 2002, with Hon. Bruce Romanick presiding. As of December 31, 2007, the court has had 60 participants and successfully graduated twenty-six participants from the program.

Hon. Bruce Romanick was called to active military service as a legal officer with the U.S. Army Reserve in June 2007. Referee John Grinsteiner has taken over as judge for the court.



(Left to Right - Front Row)

Christine Montgomery, West Central Human Service Center; Kari Dohrmann, Centre Inc.; Jackie Presley, Bismarck Juvenile Court; (Second Row) Bradley Peterson, Legal Assistances; Brandi Sasse Russell, States Attorney's Office; John Grinsteiner, Referee; Officer Perry Lauer, Bismarck Police Department. (Not Pictured) Travis Rau, Police Youth Bureau; Nadine Butts, Bismarck Public Schools; Steve Conmy, Heartview Foundation; and Hon. Bruce Romanick.

North Dakota Association Of Drug Court Professionals Update

The North Dakota Association of Drug Court Professionals (NDADCP) is entering its third year. The Association is made up of drug court professionals from both Juvenile and Adult Drug Courts across the state. On March 26, 2008, the Association received its confirmation from the IRS that effective May 18, 2007, we are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit. The Association is now qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts. While it did take some time and effort to get off the ground, the recognition of non-profit status plants the Association's feet firmly on the ground. There are approximately 30 paid members, and we are hoping to grow that number significantly this year.

The Association is currently planning its annual meeting which is to be held September 25, 2008, in Minot, ND. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Juvenile Court Seminar and the Juvenile Drug Court's Advisory Meeting. There will be a formal notice sent out to the email list-serve as the date approaches. If you are not on this list, not sure, or think someone should be, please contact John Grinsteiner at JGrinsteiner@ndcourts.gov. Annual dues of \$25 will be collected at the meeting and election of board members will be held. We are looking to replace at least two board members at the meeting so if you are interested in serving please attend.

The Association is currently working on a web-site for its members to exchange and get information and also developing a scholarship program for drug court graduates. If you have other ideas that this Association could be working on, please bring them to the meeting in September or email John Grinsteiner. Lastly, if you have a chance to attend the National Drug Court Annual Training Conference at the end of May, please do as the seminars and speakers are well worth the time. There is also a night at the ball park for conference attendees and what could be better than a hot dog and baseball at the incredible Busch Stadium in St. Louis!