



Drug Court Celebrates 10th Anniversary

When the doors opened in the Fargo and Grand Forks Juvenile Drug Courts, there was no way of knowing what the success would be or that ten years later four other juvenile drug courts, five adult drug courts, and one college drug court would be joining them. More than 300 youth have participated in the Fargo and Grand Forks Juvenile Drug Courts. To celebrate this success, a dinner was held in Grand Forks, on May 20, 2010.

Past and present members of the Fargo and Grand Forks teams were joined by members of the Bismarck, Williston, Minot, and Devils Lake Juvenile Drug Courts.

Honored guests were Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle, Justice Mary Muehlen Maring, Honorable Karen Braaten, Honorable Wade Webb, Honorable Debbie Kleven, and a graduate of 2004. Also joining the team members were special guests, Justice Daniel Crothers, Senator Larry Robinson, Honorable Joel Medd, and Louie Hentzen.

Chief Justice VandeWalle read congratulatory letters from Governor John Hoeven, Senator Byron Dorgan, Representative Earl Pomeroy, and Justice Dale Sandstrom.

The 2004 graduate shared his experience in drug court and the affects the program has had on his life and family. He expressed his thanks to the teams for their work and encouraged team members to continue helping the youths in our state.

A special letter was read from a graduate of 2002 who stated that drug court provided an excellent opportunity to focus on school and to think about where he wanted to go in life without being distracted by drugs. His GPA was below a 2.0 his senior year; he had more than 100 hours of detention to make up; and he definitely was not planning on going to college. He said, "I don't think there's any way that I would be where I am today if drug court hadn't provided me with a solid excuse to say, 'I just can't do that any more.'" He has since graduated from college with two bachelor's degrees and plans to enroll in medical school.

Chief Justice VandeWalle, Justice Mary Muehlen Maring, Honorable Karen Braaten, and Honorable Wade Webb applauded the team members for their strong commitment to the drug courts and for facing the challenges and struggles in trying to improve the lives of the participants and their families.



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Service Awards

10-Year Award

Deb Carlson, Deborah Davis, and Melody Peterson, received the 10-Year Service Award for their dedication and commitment to the juvenile drug court program. They received the awards at the 10th Anniversary of the Grand Forks and Fargo Juvenile Drug Courts celebration held in Grand Forks on May 20, 2010.

Deb Carlson served on the Juvenile Drug Court Study Committee which was formed in 1998. Deb is the Juvenile Court Director for Unit 1 and works out of Grand Forks.

Deborah Davis is a licensed addiction counselor and clinical director for the Center for Adolescent Treatment Service in Grand Forks.

Melody Peterson is a licensed addiction counselor and licensed professional counselor for the South-east Human Service Center in Fargo.



5-Year Award

Five-year service awards were presented to Hon. Karen Braaten, Grand Forks; Christine Montgomery, Williston; Nicole Leitner, Fargo; Hon. Wade Webb, Fargo; Dale Rivard, Grand Forks; Travis Rau, Bismarck; Perry Lauer, Bismarck; Mike Iwan, Grand Forks; and Brad Peterson, Bismarck.

"I thank you not just for 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."

Past Graduate

"Thank you so much for helping me with my daughter. She is a strong girl, and this experience will help her for the rest of her life. I will be forever grateful."

Graduate's Mother

A Team Member's Perspective

Juvenile Drug Court The Good the Bad the Ugly

When I was asked to write an article about drug court, I wasn't really sure what to even say. I did a lot of thinking about my experiences with juvenile drug court over the past 10 years. Being the court officer for drug court has been one of the most rewarding yet challenging roles in my court officer career. In the past, when a juvenile on my caseload asked, "so what is going to happen," I could easily answer this question, but with drug court I would have to honestly answer, "I'm not sure" (Although difficult at first, this really is the foundation of drug court, it's a team decision.) It's nice to be able to staff a case with many different professionals and get new ideas and approaches. It is nice not to carry that burden alone sometimes. The downside of this is not being able to provide immediate answers. I have been fortunate to have a wonderful working relationship with my juvenile drug court team and have never had a problem with getting a hold of them when immediate action is needed. When working with juveniles, waiting a week for court is just not a good idea when consequences are in order—they may have even forgotten what they are being sanctioned for. The relationship between the drug court team members is the most important key for success.

I know that much weight is always put on recidivism statistics but I don't think we put enough weight

on the human element of drug court. I have seen many young people reoffend during and after drug court, but there is one distinct difference...accountability. I have seen juveniles go from denying usage to coming in my office to tell me they have used even when they are no longer in drug court. They usually feel guilty, are eager to get back on track, and have already developed a plan for what they need to do. So yes, reoffending may be considered a recidivism, but I still view this as a success.

"We are planting a seed for a tree whose fruit we may never enjoy."

I heard a quote from a non-profit organization that I am involved in, and it made me think of my experiences in juvenile court. "We are planting a seed for a tree whose fruit we may never enjoy." I have been honored to be involved in the juvenile drug court and can move on confident that many seeds have been planted, and I hope someday I am revisited by the former participants and can enjoy the fruits of all our labors. It may be two years or ten years, but it doesn't matter as long as we gave them the tools-it is their choice to use them.

Nicole served as the court officer for the Fargo Juvenile Drug Court. She will be replaced by Luke Kaslow. We thank her for her commitment and dedication to the drug court program both with her court

and statewide. She has served on the planning committee for the Upper Midwest Drug Court Conference and will continue to serve.



Upper Midwest Drug Court Conference Planning Committee Meets

Mark your calendars for the next Upper Midwest Drug Court Conference to be held on October 12-14, 2011!

The planning committee, comprised of team members from North Dakota and South Dakota adult, juvenile, tribal, college, and DWI courts, held a meeting September 10. Next year's conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Bismarck. The committee consists of Judge McCullough, John Grinsteiner, Deborah Davis, Michelle Gayette, Jennifer College, Emily Frazier, Dale Brien, Noreen Plumage, Chris Pankritz, Nicole Leitner, Mike Bernier, Brad Peterson, Dale Rivard, John Gorde, and Marilyn Moe.

Coming and Goings

Comings

Luke Kaslow - Fargo court officer
Marlene Morse - Devils Lake coordinator
Robyn Hanson - Fargo coordinator
Hon. Steve McCullough - Fargo judge
Marilyn Iverson - Grand Forks school representative
Jason Olson - Minot law enforcement officer
Carmen Latella - Minot treatment provider
Carrie Francis - Minot defense counsel
Amanda Hoelscher - Williston treatment provider
Sean Anderson - Minot court officer
Wayne Schull - Grand Forks law enforcement officer



Goings

Nicole Leitner - Fargo court officer
Sue Lass - Fargo coordinator
Mike Iwan - Grand Forks law enforcement officer

Cathy Wolfe - Devils Lake coordinator
Chris Montgomery - Williston treatment provider
Steve Kukowski - Minot law enforcement officer
Todd Cresasp - Minot defense counsel
John Fuhler - Grand Forks school representative
Christi Chole - Minot court officer

North Dakota Association of Drug Court Professionals Update

John Grinsteiner, President

It is annual dues times again. Dues are \$25, and there is an optional donation to the Association's scholarship fund.

A drug court graduate from the Fargo Juvenile Drug Court was awarded the 2010 scholarship which she received at a small ceremony in her graduating court. Your contributions to the scholarship fund make a difference. As evidence, I was very recently visited

by the juvenile recipient of the 2009 award. She completed her A.A. Degree at Bismarck State College and is headed off to UND to finish her bachelors' degree. She is participating in school government and is joining the ROTC Program and the National Guard. This is a direct quote from an email she sent me after she stopped by: "Thank you guys for always having faith, and it makes me feel good that you guys at drug court believe in me. You guys will always mean something to me."

After some setbacks, we hope to soon launch the Association's website. Board members Michelle Gayette and Josh Maynard are working very hard on this.

Judges Tip

"Ask the parents to stay 10 minutes after court. Sit down with the parents and ask them how things are going at home. Many parents are too afraid to speak up with their child in the room. They don't want to embarrass them."

Notes from Annual Drug Court Symposium

State drug court coordinators from across the country met on September 30-October 1, 2010, in Washington, D.C. The coordinators meet twice a year to discuss issues such as funding, training, legal issues, expansion of courts, and accountability of drug courts. The symposium was supported by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and U.S. Department of Justice

Benjamin B. Tucker, Deputy Director, Office of State, Local and Tribal Affairs from the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Laurie Robinson, Assistant Attorney General, were the keynote speakers.

California and Montana drug court coordinators spoke about "legalized marijuana" and the issues it is creating within their states. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, issued a statement saying he believes that medical questions are best decided not by popular vote, but by science. The Food and Drug Administration, which studies and approves all medicines in

the US, has made it very clear that the raw marijuana plant is not medicine and that any state considering medical marijuana should look very carefully at what has occurred in California.

The National Juvenile Drug Court studies provide scientific support for the potential effectiveness of juvenile drug courts in reducing substance use and delinquency. A recent study examined the relationship between the guardian or parents attendance at status hearings and youth outcomes. The results prove that the more often the parent attends, the better the outcome for the juvenile. Interestingly, Doug Marlowe, researcher for NADCP, stated that the courtroom interactions should serve, at least in part, have to teach the caregivers how to interact effectively with their teens and how to apply consistent behavioral consequences. These were the conclusions Doug Marlowe listed: require parents to attend status hearings, hold the hearings in front of a judge, avoid over-reliance on costly detention sanctions, reduce youths' associations with drug-using and delinquent peers, enhance parental supervision of their teens, and model consistent and effective disciplinary practices.

Did You Know?

In the ever changing world of drugs, we must now contend with those who are selling and using imitation controlled substances or synthetic cannabinoids. Once again North Dakota has been aggressive in fighting the drug battle.

K2 or Spice, a synthetic cannabinoids, has become popular in our state and falls under schedule one of the ND Administrative Code 61-13-01-03, but it falls within 19-03.01-05(5). It is considered a Class C Felony for possession.

K2 costs between \$20 and \$50 for three grams - similar to the street price of marijuana. These products are being sold at gas stations, convenience stores, and "head shops."

Interestingly, the key ingredients are believed to be the unintended result of scientific research on marijuana's effects. Dr. John Huffman, a Clemson University organic chemistry professor, researched the effects of cannabinoids on the brain, resulting in a 1995 paper that contained the method and ingredients used to make the compound. That recipe found its way to marijuana users, who replicated Huffman's work and began spraying it onto dried flowers, herbs and tobacco.

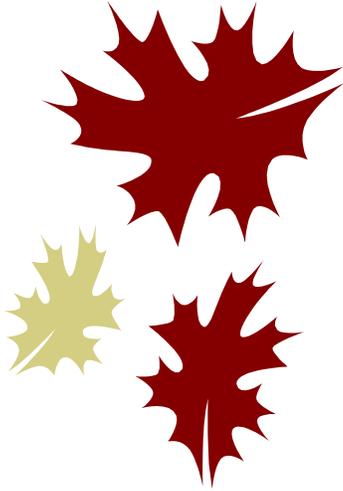
The effects of these imitation controlled substances include:

- Increase heart rate and blood pressure
- Altered state of consciousness
- Mild euphoria and relaxation
- Perceptual alterations (time distortion)
- Intensification of sensory experiences
- Pronounced cognitive effects
- Impaired short-term memory
- Increase in reaction times

Prolonged use of the synthetic cannabinoids has also lead to publications indicating that, like marijuana, Spice and K2 can produce withdrawal symptoms and dependency syndromes similar to those identified in chronic marijuana smokers. *Paul Cary, July 14, 2010*

As of July 23, 2010, nine other states have banned or outlawed such products.

Lab-based testing for the detection of JWH-018 and JWH-073 metabolite is now available from some drug testing facilities. JWH-018 and JWH-073 are the primary synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists responsible for the euphoric and psychoactive effects that imitate marijuana and are among the numerous compounds found in "herbal" incense or smoke blends. Depending on the dosage the test can have a window of detection up to 72 hours.



Upper Midwest Drug Court Conference Keynote Speaker

**“Juvenile and Young Adult Offenders with
Mental Health Disorders: What Drug Court”**

Dr. Lisa Boesky is a Clinical Psychologist, National Speaker, and Author of “Juvenile Offenders With Mental Health Disorders: Who Are They and What Do WE Do With Them.” She is a frequent guest on CNN Headline News has been a guest expert on Anderson Cooper 360, The O’Reilly Factor, 20/20, The Early Show, CNBC, Tyra, Nancy Grace, MSNBC, Fox News and is in print in Family Circle, USA Today, US News & World Report and many others. Dr. Lisa specialized in delinquent adolescents and young adults with emotional and behavioral issues and has worked with some of the most challenging and dangerous youth in psychiatric hospitals and correctional facilities. Dr. Lisa serves as an expert witness on legal cases related to mental health and/or suicide. Each year she provides high-energy and content-filled presentations to tens of thousands of professionals across the county.



Drug Courts are filled with juvenile and young adult offenders who have been over, under, and misdiagnosed with mental health labels. Many of these offenders have been prescribed one, two or even three medications to control their mood/behavior. Yet, how is it still possible that some offenders with mental health disorders receive no mental health diagnosis or appropriate treatment? Why do many offenders continue to use alcohol/drugs or experience mental health symptoms despite receiving “treatment?” Dr. Lisa addresses key issues and current controversies about offenders with mental health disorders that Drug Court professionals at all levels must be aware of when working with this challenging population. Fast-moving presentation with video clips, case examples and audience participation.

