

COURT-LED INITIATIVES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

JASPER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
29TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Presenters:

Erik Theis, Court Administrator

Richard Freitas, Clinical Director – Juvenile Division

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What is the issue?

- Every year, approximately 2 million people with serious mental illnesses are admitted to jails across the nation. Three-quarters of these adults also have drug and alcohol use problems.
- According to US Department of Justice statistics, 26 percent of jail inmates met the threshold for serious psychological distress.
- 44 percent of jail inmates have been told in the past by a mental health professional they had a mental health disorder.

What is the issue?

- Adults with mental illness or co-occurring disorders stay in jail longer and are a higher risk of recidivism than persons without these disorders.
- Serious mental illness is four to six times higher in jail than in the general population.
- County jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illness requiring intervention than those without these treatment needs.

What is the issue?

- In 2018, a study was conducted concerning admissions at the Jasper County Jail.
- In a 14 month period, just over 350 individuals had a diagnostic impression of a mental health disorder
- According to the Jasper County Sheriff, 12 percent of the inmate population have a serious mental health disorder
- County jail staff are ill-equipped to handle inmates with a mental health disorder
- These individuals cycle in and out of the criminal justice system and inundate the court's dockets.

What is the issue?

- Mental Illness is not just an adult issue
- In Jasper County, nearly 90% of youth referred to the Juvenile Division have experienced some form trauma:
 - Sexual, physical, or emotional abuse
 - Poverty or deplorable living conditions
 - Exposure to mental illness
 - Exposure to substance abuse
- Children who experience trauma during their formative years have a high probability to development chronic mental illness during adulthood.

What is the issue?

- The hardships caused by the pandemic has exacerbated the mental health crisis among youth.
- Due to the mounting evidence of ongoing harm, the US Surgeon General declared a public health advisory concerning mental health challenges confronting youth
- According to the United States Surgeon General as a result of the pandemic....
 - Depression and anxiety cases have doubled
 - Suicide attempts increased 51% for girls and 4% higher for boys
 - Increases in negative emotions or behaviors (ie. impulsivity)

Our journey to improve our response to mental illness

- 2010 – Jasper County Co-occurring Disorders Court was established
- 2011 – Paradigm shift in Juvenile Division from detention programming to diversion and treatment
- 2015 – Crisis Intervention Teams implemented in Jasper County
- 2017 – Jasper County signs on to the Stepping-Up Initiative
- 2017 – Jasper County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Established
- 2017 – Pretrial Release Program Launched
- 2018 – Mental Health/Justice Initiative
- 2021 – Full-time case manager hired at the County Jail
- 2022 – County Jail expansion will be completed to include treatment wing

Achievement Court

The Juvenile Achievement Court is a comprehensive treatment program for juveniles who are referred to the program for substance use, mental health, or behavioral issues.

History of Achievement Court

- Began as a truancy court
- “Diversion Court”
- “Achievement Court”

Referral Process

- Who are the referral sources
- Intake
- Assessments

Collaborative Relationships

- Juvenile Office
- School Administration
- Parents
- Treatment
- Community Resource Providers

What are the Mental Health Issues?

- Depression
- Anxiety
- PTSD
- Trauma
- ODD
- Self Harm
- CD

In-House Programs

- Substance Use Groups
- Anger Management
- Moral Recognition Therapy
- Depression Groups
- Self worth
- Reliance
- Tutoring

Where Are We Headed?

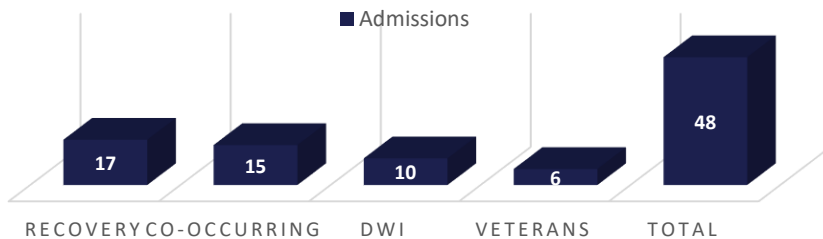
- Early Identification and Intervention
- Elementary Schools
- “School Connectedness”

Treatment Court's Humble Beginnings



- War on Drugs – Punitive Response to the 80's Crack Cocaine epidemic
- Established in **1989** (30+ Years Ago) in Miami-Dade County, FL
- Raised traffic and parking fines to pay for the first drug court
- Began a "treatment center" out of a double wide trailer in a parking lot

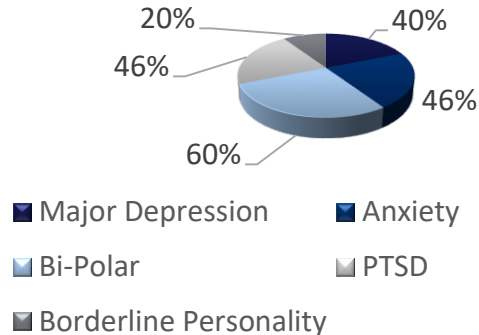
NUMBER OF JASPER COUNTY ADMISSIONS - FY21



- Today, every US State has an established Treatment Court Program
- **120,000** defendants are processed annually into these programs with **1.5 million** defendants deemed eligible
- As of 2020, **3,700** documented Treatment Court Programs nationwide
- **7** different types of recognized Treatment Court programs

What is Co-Occurring Disorders Court?

Co-Occurring Court - Primary Diagnoses Upon Entry



- An alternative to incarceration, community based court program specialized for non-violent offenders
- designed to reduce drug relapse and criminal recidivism among defendants with a mental health and substance use diagnoses.

78.5%



80%



50%



- Average 30 participants (presently 40+) with 15 entries in FY21
- Approx. 40 defendants pending either an assessment or entry

Intake and Eligibility



- Pending drug related felony offense or felony committed where substance use likely connected to criminal activity
- Referral Sources
- Prosecutor Approval
- Jasper County Resident
- RANT Assessment Score of High Risk High Need
- Willingness to engage in the Treatment Program
- No Prior/Pending: Sexual Offenses, Delivery or Violent A/B Felony Charges
- Plead Guilty to Charge(s)

Co-Occurring Disorders Court / Components



- Judicial Oversight
- Treatment Court Team
- Probation and Parole Monitoring
- Mental Health & Substance Use Treatment (Individual & Group Therapy)
- Random Drug Testing
- Community Engagement Requirements
- Peer Support Specialist Services

Phase Structure & Requirements

	Step In Phase	Small Steps Phase	Step Forward Phase	Step Firm Phase	Step Up Phase
Minimum Length	2 months	4 months	5 months	4 months	3 months
Court Appearances	Twice a month or as directed	Twice a month or as directed	Once a month or as directed	Once a month or as directed	Once a month or as directed
Probation Officer Meeting	Weekly or as directed by your PO	Week of court or as directed by your PO	Twice monthly or as directed by your PO	Week of court or as directed by your PO	Week of court or as directed by your PO
Drug & Alcohol Testing	Daily call-in	Daily call-in	Daily call-in	Daily call-in	Daily call-in
Treatment (Group)	As prescribed	As prescribed	As prescribed	As prescribed	As prescribed
Treatment (Individual)	As prescribed	As prescribed	As prescribed	As prescribed	As prescribed
Community Support Groups	Discuss options with treatment provider	1 time per week/Obtain sponsor/mentor	2 times per week/Maintain sponsor/mentor	2 times per week/Maintain sponsor/mentor	2 times per week/Maintain sponsor/mentor
Volunteer Project / Self Improvement	Establish plan and present to court	25 hours	25 hours	25 hours	Completed
Program Fee	Document monthly expenses	Complete budget assessment	Pay as agreed	Pay as agreed	Pay as agreed
Days of Sobriety (Minimum)	14 days	30 days	45 days	60 days	90 days
Full-Time Employment	Not required	Seek and obtain	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain
Phase Advancement	Application to advance to phase II	Application to advance to phase III	Application to advance to phase IV	Application to advance to phase V	Exit interview and Application for graduation
Other	Present individual case plan and meet with peer support.	Present relapse prevention plan to court	Follow up meeting with peer support. Engage in Moral Reconation Therapy	Present aftercare plan to court	Follow up meeting with peer support. Establish mentor project



Incentives & Sanctions



- Small monetary incentives such as coupons and gift cards (spin the wheel!)
- Sobriety certificates (30, 60, 90 day)
- 1 year sobriety token
- Phase up tokens
- Travel privileges
- Fewer Court Appearances
- Early dismissal from Court
- Reduction in supervision by the Probation Officer
- Reduction in community service hours
- Obtaining employment and stable housing
- Obtaining GED/degree
- Obtaining drivers license
- Sobriety
- Improved Relationships
- Graduation Ceremony w/certificate and token
- Suspended Imposition of Sentence upon Graduating

- Increased drug testing
- More community service
- Phase extension
- Admonishment from Judge
- A rise in treatment expectations
- Curfew
- Electronic monitoring
- Increased supervision
- More Court appearances
- Verbal or written apology
- Essay on topic related to infraction
- Stay till the end of Court
- Increased community support group meetings
- Incarceration
- Termination from the program

Funding & Affiliates



- Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Office of State Courts Administrator
- Ozark Center
- Lafayette House
- TOMO Drug Testing
- Redwood Laboratories
- Integrated Monitoring
- E-Hawk Monitoring
- Starting Point
- The Recovery Outreach Community Center (The ROCC)
- Recovery Houses (New Beginnings, Oxford Housing, Lazarus House, The Road, Life Made New, etc.)
- Local business that have generously provided incentives to our treatment court participants (20+ businesses)

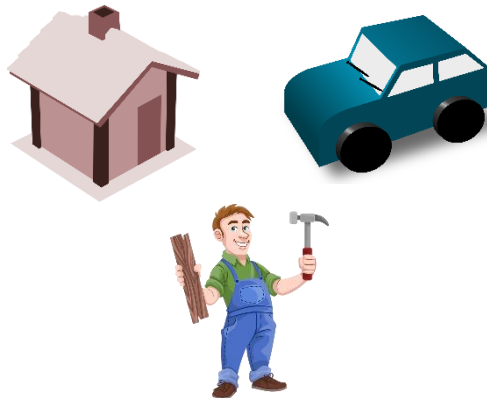
Success Rate & Outcomes

- **Recidivism Rate** - 4% to 29% percent compared to 48% of those who do not participate in a treatment court program
- **Cost Savings** - 2,495 adult offenders diverted from state prisons is about \$20.8 million. FY2007 average incarceration costs per year = \$14,538 per person verses treatment court average costs = \$6,190 per person per year. Totals \$8,348 in savings per person

5,418



100%



73.5%



QUESTIONS?

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MISSOURI COURTS
Judicial Branch of Government

