

October 30, 2007

10-15 minutes

A. Handout outlining the 10 Key Components

B. 8th District Program

1. Startup:
 - a. Funding
 - b. Identify team (Pros atty, def atty, prob ofcr, trmt coord, judge)
 - c. Train team
 - NDCI training for each discipline
 - Observed other drug courts
 - d. Design the program
 - Based on the 10 Key Components
 - Participant handbook, forms, etc.
 - e. Started actual court sessions January of 2007
2. Use a judge-centered, non-adversarial team approach
3. How it operates
 - Team screens participant referrals (handle up to 25-30 participants)
 - Intensive 15- to 18-month treatment and supervision program
 - Participant moves through 5 phases – (+/- 90 days each)
 - Random drug testing
 - All have jobs
 - All in treatment
 - Immediate and graduated consequences
 - Teach clients how to think – move from compliance to commitment
4. Selection criteria
 - Adult felons
 - Prison diversion, last chance before prison
 - Non-violent, no sex offenders
 - Primary problem is drug addiction; they commit crimes incidental to their addiction -- not criminals who happen to use drugs
5. Offender bio
 - Been to prison, going back unless successfully complete drug court
 - Most are meth users, some prescription drug abuse
 - Many have addicted spouse or significant other
 - Life is in turmoil – divorce, CINA court
 - Many diagnosed with depression or other mental health problem
6. Recidivism rates
 - No graduates yet, optimistic results based on performance to date
 - State statistics show significant reduction in recidivism rates for high risk offenders