



Campbell County Juvenile and Family Drug Court 2009 SYNC Review

- **CC-JFDC-2009-022**
 - *“Drug court will be here for me long after I am officially done with the program.”*
- **CC-JFDC-2009-023**
 - *“We would not be where we are today if it was not for drug court; it was a long road but well worth it.”*
- **TC-JFDC-2009-024**
 - *“I hate drug court, but I am sure glad I got put in it and my future would not look as good as it does if it wasn’t for drug court.”*

Summary

- ✓ Campbell County Juvenile and Family Drug Court (CCJFDC) was reported to be the “best” program in this community; wrap around services are outstanding.
- ✓ Personal Frontiers and the Yes House are very beneficial resources in this community and surrounding geographic area.
- ✓ CCJFDC subscribes to and practices a balanced and restorative justice approach.
- ✓ Some who coordinate with CCJFDC report that it is underfunded but that it produces great results despite the lack of funding.
- ✓ Judge Price is reported by several people interviewed to be a man of great character who takes the needs of the clients very seriously.
- ✓ The devotion of the drug court coordinator is amazing; her staff supports her and works incredibly hard for the clients.
- ✓ Westwood is the alternative school; however it is also a school of choice. Students must apply, be accepted and adhere to the code of conduct. They understand that attending Westwood is a privilege, not a right.
- ✓ The Campbell County Attorney and staff appear to have juveniles as a priority.
- ✓ A juvenile probation client, who is serving in Iraq, uses his phone privileges to call the CCJFDC personnel to let them know things are going.
- ✓ Several professionals and citizens report that Campbell County receives a lot of “bang for the buck” regarding the quality and quantity of services from CCJFDC.
- ✓ A community professional claims that the CCJFDC success rate is twice as good as other treatment options.
- ✓ The administration and services of CCJFDC is seen as a “we” thing with meaningful input from those being served.
- ✓ A parent feels that this program is the only place you can get structure for your kids without the state taking custody away.



Access to Services:

- Campbell County Juvenile and Family Drug Court (CCJFDC) and Personal Frontiers collaborate effectively to get people services as quickly and as humanly possible; this is done through a contractual agreement between the two entities.
- The underlying premises for inclusion in CCJFDC are:
 - There must be a true substance abuse and dependency issue presenting;
 - the family must desire to voluntarily get treatment through the program, and
 - the case is suspended in juvenile court and the family is referred to CCJFDC.
- Ace/Pace¹, a program offered by the YES House, is a community option for academic and behavioral services.
- The YES House also operates a crisis shelter which provides respite care for youth in the community when behavior warrants a “time out”; the crisis shelter is also a resource for the courts.
- A substance abuse counselor interviewed feels that there are sufficient outpatient juvenile treatment facilities to meet the needs of the community. As is the case across the state, inpatient treatment options for juveniles and adults are lacking in the community and region.
- Vocational rehabilitation services through the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services² coordinates independent living classes, budgeting classes and aptitude assessments.
- CCJFDC has two contracts with community providers for timely access for mental health and substance abuse counseling services.
- Whenever a parent wants a meeting, the CCJFDC treatment team will make it happen.
- Proposed Wyoming Senate File (SF) 107³ may clear up some of the perceived current due process issues by suggesting that drug court be a sentencing option.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- A juvenile has turned 18 while in treatment but wants to finish the program with CCJFDC; the program staff are willing to work with the juvenile to successfully complete the treatment program.
- Families in CCJFDC appear every Tuesday in court resulting in good consistency and understanding on the parts of clients of expected outcomes.
- CCJFDC has a strong belief in aftercare services; placement is seen as an augmentation of the CCJFDC program when necessary; CCJFDC personnel clearly feel that it does not do much good to send a client to treatment and “just be done” without aftercare services being in place, which includes reintegration of the juvenile back into the home.

¹ For more information about the Ace/Pace Program, visit: <http://youthemergencyservices.org/acepace.htm>.

² For more information about the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, visit: <http://wyomingworkforce.org>.

³ For more information about proposed Wyoming Senate File (SF) 107, visit: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/engross/SF0107.pdf>.



- Incentives in the CCJFDC program are unique and creative and can be tangible or intangible. Juveniles are scored each week through a point system and if they reach a certain number of points they get to go to the fish bowl and draw an incentive. Points are carried forward so that there is a clear incentive and not a loss of points even though a client may experience an intermittent downturn.
- Sanctions might include a decrease in curfew, house arrest, electronic monitoring or even detention; it is a clearly articulated and graduated scale. There are occasions on which incentives are withheld, even if sufficient points are earned, such as in the case of a violation of law, a positive UA test, etc.
- Honesty in a relapse situation is treated as a treatment issue; punishment for a relapse results from dishonest behavior regarding the event.
- It appears that the door is always open to past clients, both those that were successful in the program and unsuccessful; sometimes even for an individual to “check in” and just “touch bases” with a counselor or CCJFDC.
- Psychological evaluation results are typically completed within a month which is reported to be better than in previous times.
- Through CCJFDC, clients are encouraged to rely on each other for support for different things; school work and how to stay sober through a holiday, for example.
- Adolescent substance abuse treatment group, through Personal Frontiers, appears to be a very living, dynamic and functional process.
- There is an emphasis to keep clients in the community whenever possible for treatment.
- At every phase change in the CCJFDC treatment process, there is an opportunity for client and family input.
- “Carefrontation”⁴ is a concept recognized and used by the CCJFDC team, court and some private collaborators.
- The team appears to have a great awareness of cultural diversity; not only ethnic but socio economic, industry and gender. Their awareness has been challenged by clients, and further developed by working with those clients.
 - CCJFDC staff reported that their court made a transfer from their program to a tribal court program so that the juvenile could be closer to supportive relatives; honoring the kinship opportunities and cultural needs of the client.
- Discharge planning is a conversation that starts months in advance and is ongoing with an emphasis on support systems and structures.
- The CCJFDC team involved the educational system; school administrators and teachers are contacted on a regular basis to monitor student progress both academically and with regard to attendance and discipline, the juvenile probation officer participates in the IEP process when appropriate, school principals have attended program graduations and, a school board member sits on the management board.

⁴ To understand the concept of being “carefrontation” visit:
<http://www.masterfacilitatorjournal.com/samples/skill23.html>.



- Through interviews with clients and their extended family, all report that the CCJFDC is family focused and strength based.
- When clients enter the program there is a treatment plan meeting where the mental health and substance abuse goals are identified with the client and family.
- The family must call the CCJFDC every Monday to advise how things are going; this is a great example of non obtrusive accountability.
- Relapse prevention is acknowledged and planned for in aftercare.
- Clients exiting the program receive counseling sessions; many aftercare counseling sessions are done free of charge by Personal Frontiers.

Coordination:

- Case management for clients is done in large part by the CCJFDC probation officer, and appears to be effective for the client.
- With every phase change in the program, there is a treatment plan done. The treatment meeting includes the juvenile and parents/guardians, substance abuse counselor, mental health therapist, juvenile probation officer and coordinator. The juvenile and family members have meaningful input into that plan and the goal creation process. There are certain items such as grades that are not negotiable; but in general terms the treatment team poses the question to the client and family “What do you need from us to be successful?”
- The CCJFDC treatment program is tied into the School Power Program; providing collaboration between the school district and academic accountability for the client. In addition to using the Power School Program, the juvenile probation officer is in regular contact with teachers and school administrators to monitor academic and behavioral performance. If the situation warrants, school personnel will attend the pre-court staffing to provide input regarding a juvenile client.
- A school resource officer meeting is held monthly allowing professionals to exchange information. Those attending include juvenile probation officers, juvenile diversion officers, school resource officers, school counselors, school principals and other administrators.
- Campbell County is a recipient of and participant in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant.⁵
- Several members of the CCJFDC also participate in the Campbell County Juvenile Services Partnership, a coalition of the City of Gillette, Campbell County and representatives of various other juvenile service providers. This coalition meets monthly to share information and sponsor various funding opportunities. It has been in existence since 2000.
- There is a fee for CCJFDC enrollment and the juveniles are required to pay it, not the parents.
- There is good coordination and communication between private mental health counselors, private substance abuse counselors and CCJFDC.

⁵ For more information about this initiative, visit: <http://www.sshs.samhsa.gov>.



- The Campbell County Council of Community Services provides for certain client needs.
- Treatment planning is a family event to the extent possible and depending on the phase in the treatment program.
- Weekly mental health staffing meetings are held to coordinate how family treatment is progressing; there is an Operational Team staffing before court each week.
- A team concept appears to work well in Campbell County through the multi disciplinary team (MDTs) meetings.
- This area of Wyoming has a number of American Indian Tribes in proximity; the CCJFDC appears to coordinate well with those Tribes.
- The probation officer also assists in advocacy for the client insuring that the professional case management needs are being met.
- When a juvenile is being watched by a responsible adult, they will do well; whether it is the family, drug court or school; the CCJFDC understands that oftentimes it is this accountability that helps a juvenile mature mentally and physically to a point where they can operate more independently and make appropriate decisions for themselves.
- An on-line learning program (A+) is offered through the school district under certain circumstances; normally residential treatment focuses on the treatment aspect and not the educational aspect of a client's needs; the CCJFDC treatment team understands and places emphasis on education through coordination when a juvenile is in residential treatment.
- The following are observations reported by a CCJFDC collaborator regarding CCJFDC, their services and their philosophy:
 - It is reported that CCJFDC is realistic and probably understands that most of the value of treatment may or may not be seen now but will be a benefit through the generations;
 - treatment orientation is for the entire family structure with an emphasis on what is disease and what is addiction;
 - to the extent possible in the current judicial system, needs of clients are clinically driven not criminally driven;
 - that alcoholism is a disease and illness; alcoholism explains a lot but excuses nothing;
 - the CCJFDC coordinator instills a degree of integrity in the program which other staff subscribe to as well, and
 - the CCJFDC team does all that they can do to help these kids and family.



Access to Services:

- The hospital, which administrates the state funded mental health center, takes a long time to get people in for mental health services. Representatives from this mental health center are reported to not come to MDTs, do not provide contact notes and do not regularly coordinate well with others. The team continues to work toward greater collaboration with these community partners so that mutual clients are held accountable.



- Cornerstone's Jeffrey C. Wardell Academy (JCWA) in Cheyenne is perceived by several in the community as a "black hole" to send juveniles to for treatment.
- The current juvenile pod at Campbell County Detention Center is not in federal compliancy. However, a new center is being constructed on site and will be compliant.
- An 18 year old client was in jail for three months while waiting to enter WYSTAR Treatment; the only service in jail was AA once a month due to his inmate classification in the treatment facility (which can be identified by color coded uniforms). It should be noted that the operation team, including a court security officer, inquired into the appropriateness of the youth's classification and attempted to have it changed so that he would be able to access more services while detained.
- In a case with two juvenile brothers, one entered CCJFDC because of alcohol violation and one entered the juvenile justice system because of theft. The one juvenile for theft was assessed for substance abuse issues, refused to cooperate with treatment recommendations, was handled through the regular juvenile probation channels and as such is still struggling with substance abuse while the other juvenile is about to successfully complete treatment. All of this was reported by the juvenile's mother.
- Getting into WYSTAR was a problem. This may have been an issue with regards to payment; CCJFDC personnel were told that the juvenile is on the list. When the father became involved and the father's employment human resource person called WYSTAR, admission was almost immediate.
- Some felt that the way the process works is not as quick as it needs to be due to lacking statutory definition of how treatment or problem solving courts should be defined in Wyoming.
- The court docket is crowded; this is not uncommon among the Wyoming judicial system.
- As reported by the program administrator, the process for entry into the program is as follows:
 - The structure of the CCJFDC is post-adjudication for both delinquency and CHINS cases. The potential juvenile participant must be diagnosed as drug and/or alcohol dependent to meet admission criteria. The parents/guardians must also agree to actively participate in the program, including weekly court attendance, family therapy sessions, family substance abuse program, parenting classes, cooperate with home visits and searches, and must agree to abide by all terms of the CCJFDC and probation rules and requirements. Parents with substance abuse issues may be required to undergo assessment and follow treatment recommendations.
 - Juveniles are referred to the program via multiple routes: following adjudication at the request of the County Attorney, between adjudication and disposition at the request of the MDT, at disposition on a delinquency petition in Juvenile Court, at disposition on a CHINS petition in Juvenile Court, following a revocation of juvenile probation with either County Probation or Department of Family Services, or at a review hearing



following in-patient treatment or other out of home placement. All participants in the CCJFDC are adjudicated in the Juvenile Court of the Sixth Judicial District.

- Every juvenile who appears to be program appropriate and whose family expresses willingness to participate in the program is referred to the substance abuse provider for the Chemical Dependency Evaluation. This referral could occur either before disposition or post disposition. Evaluations are generally scheduled within a week of the family calling for an appointment. This evaluation occurs prior to the coordinator screening to determine whether the juvenile is substance dependent. The assessment tools used to determine chemical dependency include: Adolescent SASSI - Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory; ASAM – American Society of Addiction Medicine’s Patient Placement Criteria; A clinical interview to determine family history of dependency and usage pattern as it relates to the DSM-IV dependency criteria; and other State-approved juvenile assessment tool. The substance abuse treatment provider obtains the necessary releases to enable the sharing of this information with the coordinator and the admissions committee.
- In the event the juvenile is diagnosed as substance dependent, a screening meeting is scheduled between the coordinator, the juvenile and his/her parents/guardians. Again, the screening meeting generally occurs within a week of the substance abuse assessment. At this meeting, the program is described in detail and obligations of the juvenile and the adult participants are clearly articulated. The coordinator next meets separately with the juvenile and adults to complete screening questionnaires and determine both program appropriateness and willingness to participate.
- Should the family be deemed appropriate and express a willingness to participate, the coordinator will convene the admissions committee to vote on the family’s admission to the program. The admissions committee will meet within days of the screening meeting. The admissions committee typically includes a prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, treatment representatives, probation representatives and the coordinator. The coordinator screening, admissions committee meeting and first CCJFDC appearance by the family usually take place within one week, if the disposition hearing has already taken place. If the screening takes place between adjudication and disposition, the first appearance in CCJFDC cannot take place until after the disposition and court referral of the case to CCJFDC. However, in many cases, the juvenile is directed to begin participating in the adolescent substance abuse treatment groups, so that program participation is not delayed. In this case, the juvenile will begin attendance at the earliest Monday or Thursday session.
- Later stages of assessment, which includes mental health, medical, educational, and occupational assessments, as indicated, occur after the candidate has been accepted in CCJFDC and has attended his/her first drug court session. These assessments are provided by the appropriately licensed and certified professionals in the respective disciplines, and occur



as the need arises and is based on team referral. The mental health, medical, educational and occupational assessments are referred to the substance abuse provider so that the treatment plan can be written and implemented.

- Early intervention services are not well known in the community to all; again, this is not an uncommon phenomenon in Wyoming.
- An option for first offenders may be the diversion program. However if that is full there is no option for another chance for that diversion program. If a second offense occurs, the offender is not allowed diversion because it is for first time offenders only.
- Many feel there is no portal for access to services until the client is actually in system.⁶

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- New Directions in Casper was not an effective placement for one juvenile; it was generally reported that juveniles do not take their services seriously and there is little accountability or educational services provided.
- An 18 year old client of WYSTAR is not able to complete his high school education or GED because WYSTAR is an adult program. However, arrangements may be made, once the client reaches a certain level to leave the treatment facility, for the juvenile to complete his high school education at the local alternative school. The CCJFDC will help to facilitate this result by working with Westwood High School, the client's case manager and the local alternative school.
- From a therapeutic standpoint according to one interviewee, there may be a tendency to move clients through phase one of CCJFDC too rapidly.
- The program does not differentiate between substances of choice, i.e. alcohol, narcotics, etc. However, one client, who was diagnosed as alcohol dependent struggled with accepting that dependency on either substances are both addictions and often expressed her opinion that the program was created more for narcotics as opposed to alcohol. However, the client readily admitted it was still an effective program. The client's opinion was understandable in that the treatment group was comprised of a substantially higher percentage of youth whose primary dependence was a narcotic, rather than alcohol.
- A client reported that the public school teachers were somewhat discriminatory because the client was in treatment.
- Clients would like the rules disclosed a couple of time as they enter the program due to the "stress of the moment" as they being treatment.

Coordination:

- The local school district was reported in one interview to not coordinate well with residential treatment providers to insure that the student receives all of their

⁶ It is hoped that the community juvenile service board initiative in Wyoming may alleviate this issue somewhat. In addition, proposed legislation will also address this issue. To view that legislation, visit: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/engross/sf0129.pdf>.



school work while in treatment and receives sufficient assistance integrating back into main stream education once treatment is completed.

- DFS was reported to be non communicative in one case by and with the biologic mother.
- In the physical layout of the court proceeding, it may be beneficial according to some, to redesign the physical positioning of the participants for better communication in the proceedings.
- It is reported that the state funded mental health center at the hospital does not work well with private providers.
- Few people interviewed knew what the state funded mental health center does or what programs are offered.

Systemic:

- There can be a lack of consistency when several juveniles enter the system for the same criminal behavior, as they may enter through different court systems (municipal, circuit or district courts) and their cases may be handled dissimilarly.
- There is a concern that the funding of these courts does not recognize the benefit of treating the whole family as opposed to one individual in the family. It was reported that the newly adopted funding formula will count juvenile court participants rather than all family participants receiving services. Team members strongly expressed their opinion that full family participation is essential to the success of the juvenile and the cornerstone of this program.
- The SYNC review process, as reported by one mental health counselor, helps to give perspective to cases that are reviewed.
- The state funded mental health center was reported as not coordinating well with others, not being stable and experiencing a high number of staff turnovers and not producing quality, usable results.
- Self reporting on assessments does not necessarily produce an accurate picture of what is going on in that person's life, particularly juveniles.