



Campbell County Adult Drug Court 2009b SYNC Review

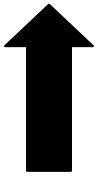
December 1, 2009

- CC-2009b-ADC-001
 - **“I don't even think about "using." I am not watching over my shoulder all the time; the cleaner I have gotten the less paranoid I have become!”**
 - *Reported by a participant of this court supervised treatment program.*
- CC-2009b-ADC-002
 - **“With drug court, I have found a different way of living.”**
 - *Reported by a participant of this court supervised treatment program.*
- CC-2009b-ADC-003
 - **“I am able to grow with my family in drug court.”**
 - *Reported by a participant of this court supervised treatment program.*

- ✓ With each court supervised treatment program review, it is felt by the Wyoming Citizen Review Panel that there cannot be one better. This court supervised treatment program review proves that wrong; these are incredible services and coordination in this program that not only helps the participant, but those who are associated with the participant. Society in general is getting an incredible **“bang for their buck”** through this program.
- ✓ This court supervised treatment program is a felony level program:
 - The current state funding formula does not appear to differentiate between a felony level treatment court and a misdemeanor level treatment court.
- ✓ In a **SYNC** review in February of 2009, it was noted by reviewers that this court supervised treatment program may rely slightly heavier on sanctions than incentives. This review found that finding to have been changed; this court now has a good balance between sanctions and incentives. That finding is validated by being able to observe a court proceeding, speaking to participants and others involved in the program.
- ✓ There is a “window of opportunity” that a perspective participant will experience after an initial arrest for substance abuse. This opportunity is often times lost because court supervised treatment programs in Wyoming cannot accept a participant based on an “admittance” of having a substance abuse challenge but rather must go through a lengthy self assessment process that can sometimes take upwards of 75 days in Wyoming for results to be received.
- ✓ Since the prior review, the employment community has changed significantly in this area; it is more difficult for court supervised treatment program participants to obtain employment, a requirement of the program.

Summary





Strength Findings:

Access to Services:

- The administration of the Campbell County Adult Drug Court (hereafter court supervised treatment program) is very efficient, organized and able to process a participant's admission into the program rapidly. This has not changed since the previous review and the findings here are consistent with the previous review.
- Admission into the court supervised treatment program is neither arbitrary nor capricious. Perspective participants are interviewed by the program coordinator and the team considers a multitude of factors (such as level of drug usage and whether in house treatment may be more appropriate), past violent acts and the potential for future violent acts before the participant is admitted into the program.
 - Interestingly, a defense attorney interviewed would favor almost every person who is facing drug charges have an attempt at doing the court supervised treatment program. Those who were "not a good fit" would "weed" themselves out of the program. This is of course not realistic, but an interesting thought and based on the concept that this program is in fact very effective.
- There are reported to be a number of substance abuse counselors in this area.
- It is reported that this community has the resources to help participants with reading and writing skills.
- It is reported to only take approximately one week for a participant to begin the court supervised treatment program once accepted.
- Participants report that they would feel comfortable in turning to the court supervised treatment program team for support after successfully completing the program.
- Employers, according to participants interviewed, are generally supportive of the treatment court program as well as being appreciative of the quality of employee that the treatment program is able to produce.
- The treatment program uses monitor bracelets from GS4¹ which reports when the participant leaves their house and when they return. The cost of this bracelet is \$2.42 per day and uses Web Patrol to monitor the bracelet activity. Additionally, there is no "shelf" cost for these bracelets.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- In a **SYNC** review conducted during February of 2009, it was noted by reviewers that this court supervised treatment program may rely slightly heavier on sanctions than some felt was necessary. This review found that finding to have been corrected. This court has an incredible balance between sanctions and incentives. While reported by participants, this revised finding is validated by a **SYNC** reviewer being able to sit through a court supervised treatment program proceeding, speaking to participants and others involved in the program.

¹ More information may be obtained at: http://www.g4s.com/us/us-electronic_monitoring.htm.



- There are four clearly articulated levels to this court supervised treatment program; the program typically takes a participant 15-18 months to complete.
- In addition, a “fish bowl” exists where participants may “draw” a reward for accomplishment.



- The requirements of this program are well structured and thought out for the ultimate benefit of the participants who participate in this program. The participant must lead a structured and full life while in the program, but each requirement ultimately helps the participant to continue on with life in a productive fashion once graduated from the court supervised treatment program.
- The appropriateness of a participant to be in this program, public safety, and the opportunity for participant success are all considerations of the court supervised treatment program team before a participant is admitted into the program.
- Court supervised treatment program proceeding observations:
 - Red flag issues are discussed and resolved at a mid day staffing, then discussed with the Judge prior to court in a very concise and productive meeting.
 - Schedules are exact; it appears the court supervised treatment program is scheduled to start at 4:00 p.m., then that is exactly when it starts.
 - The Judge is very aware of what is occurring in the community and what court supervised treatment program participants are experiencing in areas such as seeking employment:
 - It was reported that the Campbell County economy is estimated to be 20-30 months behind the rest of the country.
 - The physical setting of the court proceedings is very well organized allowing participants who have achieved a certain level to sit in general seating; those who have not achieved that level sit in the jury box facing the team.



- Clearly the Judge believes in the participants and those interviewed recognize that; however, this is a "real court" and there is no doubt of the authority of the Judge and the Court.
- Everything assigned to a participant has a clear and concise timeline.
- Participants wear their medals to the court proceedings signifying their degree of success.



- The proceedings are incredibly organized and consistent. Participants and the judge spend 2-3 minutes together, but it is a very productive time for each participant. They know what to expect from the court and there is no "rambling or meandering" that is often found in these types of courts.
- The Judge calls on the team for input on each and every participant.
- Additionally, the Judge addresses issues with participants such as parenting.
 - One participant had the Judge talk to the participant's son after it was reported that child had made a threatening phone call.
- Participants are accountable to the Court, yet it is incredibly strength based.
- Approximately 14 participants were seen in 30 minutes. Even though this seems a rapid pace, it is probably the most productive minutes of these participant's week, and again each and every participant was treated consistently.
- The Judge insures that participants understand by making participants repeat back to him what they heard.
- Even though the Judge makes it very clear to participants what the court's expectations are, it is clear to participants that it is the team that must be satisfied before the Judge is satisfied.
- The Judge finds a positive in the participant's life, such as how thanksgiving went, and then encourages participant to perpetuate it.



- The court will "go to bat" for a participant if necessary but first encourage participants to "pave their own road."
- The Judge often inquires about participant's extended family.
- Westwood High School makes the plaques for the court supervised treatment program.
- The Judge operates from a holistic approach honoring a sound mind and sound body.
- The Judge concluded the proceedings with a motivational statement.
- The court supervised treatment program team and Judge value education and seem to work an education component into the participant's plan whenever possible and appropriate.
- There is a very good philosophy of "treating the illness but with a recognition of culture" in this program.
- Participants report that their needs are assessed upon entering the program.
- One participant interviewed praised the case worker for assisting in helping the participant "maneuver" the system, especially helping the participant get enrolled and "going" in college.

Coordination:

- The program coordinator for the court supervised treatment program does a very nice job of administrating the program and the personnel without getting overly involved with the participants. By doing this, she is able to see the "big picture" and maintain the direction of the program.
 - While this was an observation of the reviewer, an associate of the court supervised treatment program also commented on this management style as being very well received. This person also commented that when asked by one of her staff to speak to a participant, the coordinator will certainly do that; but in general she does not get in between staff and participants.
 - This person was also described as being "real" by one of the participants interviewed.
- The court supervised treatment program court is held on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. and promptly starts on time.
 - The court supervised treatment program team meets at noon and staffs the cases.
 - The court supervised treatment program team meets for approximately 15 minutes before court to go over cases with the Judge. This is a cordial meeting, face paced with all having good input but clearly with the Judge having the final decision.
- The case manager position is employed by the court supervised treatment program and the probation officer is assigned by the Wyoming Department of Corrections. The personnel in these two positions seem to work well together and complement one another. When interviewed, participants cannot explain the difference between the two positions, however.
- Participants can go to treatment and the court supervised treatment program "puts them on hold" in their program until they return; this can occur in cases where the level of need may not have been recognized initially.



- Good communication with others; college in particular.
- Participants often report that "prison would be easier than the court supervised treatment program but certainly not as beneficial.
- A Wyoming Department of Family Services employee was praised by one participant for helping with family issues and working the participant's case plan.
- Participants report that they have meaningful input into their case plans despite this being a felony level treatment court. Additionally, spouses feel like they have input as well.



Opportunities for Improvement: ²

Access to Services:

- The process of getting the alcohol severity index (ASI) assessment done and the presentence sentence investigation (PSI) completed can take up to 70 plus days in extreme cases it is reported. Due to statutory framework and as mentioned in the summary a participant cannot be admitted to the court supervised treatment program simply by admitting to a substance abuse problem. Even if a person has a 4th driving while under the influence (DUI) charge, admits to having a substance abuse problem and is in a place in his/her life that treatment would be beneficial that participant cannot be admitted into the program without the evaluation.
- Despite their being many substance abuse counselors in the area, some were reported through participant interviews as not being particularly effective and providing marginal services.
- One system official interviewed noted that "the system"³ discriminates against "poor people." As an example, an attorney or public defender may cost \$100.00 per hour; public services in general are getting very costly.
- In patient treatment programs can take a very long time to enter, sometimes up to 8 months. Often times those needing treatment desperately, simply cannot get it in a timely fashion and while waiting have committed a substance abuse crime where they have ended up being incarcerated with treatment then not being an option.
- Dual diagnosis participants typically have to go to inpatient treatment as there are simply no other services available in this area.⁴
- Dental services are sometimes difficult to access; typically there are no sliding fee scales for participants either.⁵

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

² Not all opportunities for improvement are specific to Campbell County Adult Court Supervised Treatment Program.

³ This is in no way specific to the CSTP being reviewed.

⁴ This is a systemic issue in all of Wyoming.

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- One professional interviewed felt that the current assessing tool used in Wyoming, the Alcohol Severity Index (ASI) is somewhat outdated and there are better assessment tools available.
 - The comment was also made that some assessors are doing ASIs just to collect the fees and there needs to be better screening as to who is certified to conduct ASIs with an emphasis on rapid, quality ASIs.
 - Additionally, the amount of training required to be certified to conduct an ASI was questioned about not being "substantial."
 - Because the ASI is a self reporting assessment, it is thought by some to not be of much use.
- Participants with dual diagnosis have a difficult time receiving effective treatment in Wyoming for a multiple of reasons. As one person interviewed stated, treatment for these people is truly a "chicken and egg" issue stating which comes first the mental health issue or the substance abuse issue. Central medication management for these participants may help in Wyoming according to the official.

Coordination:

- Since the prior review, the employment community has changed significantly in this area; it is more difficult for court supervised treatment program participants to obtain employment, a requirement of the program.
 - There are few resources available for the court supervised treatment program to plug in for indigent people:
 - There are three different economies in Campbell County: Coal, oil and gas, and everything else including supportive industries.

Systemic:

- This court supervised treatment program is a felony level program.
 - The current state funding formula does not appear to differentiate between a felony level treatment court and a misdemeanor level treatment court.
 - Casper is a **misdemeanor** level treatment court with approximately 80 participants it is reported; Campbell county is a **felony** level treatment court with 20-30 participants yet both use the same funding formula.
- There is a "window of opportunity" that a perspective participant will experience after an initial arrest for substance abuse. This opportunity is often times lost because court supervised treatment programs in Wyoming cannot accept a participant based on an "admittance" of having a substance abuse challenge versus having to go through a lengthy assessment process that can sometimes take upwards of 70 plus days.
- Some see the statutory mechanism that allows for court supervised treatment programs as being vague in some areas, yet unyielding in other areas.
- Interesting, a Campbell County Development authority or Gillette Development authority coordinated a number of billboards advertising the Campbell County area out of state. This action increased the demands of social services; it was noted by some that the numbers of child predators has increased because of this advertising.



- Controlled substance “pharmacy abusers” are reported to be difficult cases to work successfully. One person interviewed felt it would be very beneficial to have some “central organization” disperse their medications while keeping meticulous records possibly through probation and parole.

Systemic Observation

A treatment court participant reported being in foster care 4-5 times as a juvenile.