



Evanston Youth Drug and Alcohol Court SYNC REVIEW

- **E-YDAC-2009-033:**

- “Parent felt involved in the child’s treatment decisions and felt encouraged and supported by the treatment team.”

Summary

- Clearly, Evanston Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (EYDAC) values and practices a “team approach” in their program.
- EYDAC has reduced the number of juveniles that are suspended from school.
- EYDAC is located in a pleasant, well-maintained facility acquired and owned by the City of Evanston.
- EYDAC is a part of a larger youth center and program known as the Youth Services division of the City of Evanston. The other component of Youth Services is “YOU!” YOU! is an acronym for *Youth Opportunity Unlimited!*
- There are a number of positive activities for EYDAC clients within the YOU program that actually help with life skill development including operating a youth café where juveniles can get soft drinks and sandwiches. In addition clients can participate in the operation by working the counter, preparing sandwiches, etc.
- Invitations to and performances by local bands provide opportunities for entertainment for juveniles.
- EYDAC has been in operation for seven (7) years.
- The staff of EYDAC includes:
 - Director and Program Coordinator,
 - Social worker,
 - Case manager, and
 - Supervision workers.
- Data entry and report generation from the state data system is reported to be cumbersome and lacking.
- It appears that coordination between EYDAC and community partners is very positive and productive.



Access to Services:

- Mental health services appear to be individualized and obtained on a case by case basis from local providers.
- An adolescent based substance abuse treatment model, the 7 Challenges is provided by Frontier Psychological Associates
- There appears to be a good referral system in place for clientele who could benefit from this program. Referrals typically come from Evanston Municipal Court although some also come from Uinta County Circuit Court and District/Juvenile Court.
- A fee of \$100.00 is assessed for clients entering the program; this creates some degree of commitment to the program on the part of clients.
- Clients are served from as far away as Lyman and the Fort Bridger Valley area.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- EYDAC has had in excess of twenty (20) enrolled clients; while this is surely taxing to the program staff, it appears that every effort is made to consistently and productively serve each client.
- Past clients feel a sense of strength from the staff at EYDAC sometimes returning to become group facilitators and leaders. Most past clients at least return to visit with staff upon occasion.
- EYDAC operates on three pillars:
 - Parental involvement,
 - School involvement, and
 - Treatment.
- Recognition and involvement of the education system as outlined in the previous bullet point is important and is not a component that is seen consistently around the state setting this program apart in excellence from others.
- The EYDAC program is serving an increasing Hispanic clientele and an increasing American Indian clientele; it appears that staff acknowledges and honors different cultures.
- Sanctions appear to be assessed appropriately; a fee of \$100.00 is assessed for a positive urinary analysis for example.
- Many services are provided at little or no additional costs.
- Available resources within the community appear to be used extensively when appropriate.

Coordination:

- EYDAC has appropriately and systematically incorporated community initiatives such as tobacco and Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive (SPF-SIG Grants).
- This review and related interviews discovered what appears to be good coordination between EYDAC and:
 - Local schools;



- DFS;
- Local law enforcement, and
- Other service agencies.
- The local group home is used for temporary residential care for up to sixty (60) days utilizing their parent placement which is covered by a grant; if extended stay is required, it is paid for by other means. This placement allows kids to stay in their home community.



Access to Services:

- Residential treatment options are lacking in this community.
 - The Wyoming State Hospital does not have any juvenile residential treatment programs, and
 - Facilities in Utah are often used due to the proximity to Evanston.
 - This can sometimes be a problem if the facility is not Medicaid approved or is not on the Wyoming Department of Family Services approved list of facilities.
- It concerns staff that clients receiving services in Evanston and having to drive from Lyman and the Fort Bridger Valley area have to traverse Wyoming roadways in all types of weather.
- Extraordinary services which in some cases include residential care may create financial hardships for client families.
- Dual diagnosis or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse treatment needs may be an unmet need; evaluations and early interventions are an example.

Quality of Services Including Recovery Support:

- No reported issues.

Coordination:

- High numbers of participants at one time can stretch the program resources.
- Medicaid previously paid for some residential treatment costs, but does not do so much anymore; occasionally Medicaid will assist in some payment in services.

Systemic:

- While clients do not report much stigmatization from being a participant in EYDAC, some parents do; this may be lessened by creating a parent's support group.