

Summary Debriefing

December 15, 2009



Access to Services:

- There are **services in this community to address mental health needs.**
- There appears to be separate providers from mental health that offer some **substance abuse services.**
- The Evanston Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (court supervised treatment program) seems to be easily accessible for incoming clients.
- It appears that the **individual needs of clients are evaluated and given consideration** when planning their treatment program.
- **No waiting lists exist for court supervised treatment program clients to receive services.** The client interviewed reported getting into therapy a week after being accepted into the court supervised treatment program.
- *The Substance abuse treatment component of the program could be improved.* The individual outpatient therapy (IOP) part of the program was discontinued by Cornerstone and there was no replacement service readily available. The program is continuing to seek ways to strengthen their substance abuse treatment to support ongoing individualized therapies.
- *It appears that there is an opportunity for more referrals for participants in the program.*



Quality of Services, Including Recovery and Support:

- **Youth and their families are clearly a priority in this program** Client monitoring, supervision, court involvement, school involvement and the youth center clearly support the recovery of the youth and the families.
- **All of the agencies involved with this court supervised treatment program understand and respect each other's roles.** It is the nature of this court supervised program that these roles are constantly being evaluated and strengthened.
- *IOP treatment services and substance abuse services are lacking in quantity.*



Collaboration:

- **It is very clear that this court supervised treatment program coordinates closely with the community.** The relationship and involvement with the program from the schools, law-enforcement and local mental health centers has a significant contribution to the high quality service of the program.

- **There is a great deal of investment of the youth in this program, from the staff** through a high level of communication; they work through any concerns in a positive way.
- *There is an opportunity for to involve more Department of Family Services (DFS) juvenile cases with this court supervised treatment program.* While there are some DFS dual track clients currently in the program, the opportunity exists for greater involvement by DFS clients.

"I have very fond feelings of [the drug court staff] and what they have done for [client] and our family." –Participant's mother.

Evanston Youth Drug and Alcohol Court

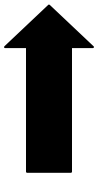
Evanston, Wyoming

December 14, 2009



Overarching Principals as reported from review participants and others:

- The majority of the staff involved with the Evanston Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (court supervised treatment program) has been involved for many years and have accumulated a great deal of systemic and institutional knowledge in the time resulting in what appears to be a very productive and stable program; some, including the judge, have been involved since the program began. The investment is obvious, and the lack of turn-over has created an optimal working environment for staff and a great treatment environment for clients.
- This court supervised treatment program and the Department of Family Services (DFS) appear to collaborate well when they share clients; however the number of clients shared is limited and it is felt that sharing more clients would be helpful for children and families.
- The coordination and involvement of other agencies in working with these juveniles is incredible in this community. Even the clerk of city court has helped with travel to Green River for participants.
- A majority of the court supervised treatment program participants who begin the program have been able to graduate successfully.
- The age range for youth participants is 13-18 years of age. Youth who are 18 years of age are scrutinized more than the younger participants and generally are only accepted in the program if they are still attending school.



Strength Findings:

- The format of the supervised treatment court follows a “script” that allows all staff and participants to anticipate what is going to be discussed. The participants felt that this was very helpful and gave them an opportunity to speak with the judge.
- Sanctions for not adhering to treatment court requirements are swift because court supervised treatment program meets frequently. This increases accountability and has a direct impact on the decisions participants make and appears to be more effective than traditional probation.

- The court supervised treatment program probation officer has daily access to all participants' grades at school.
- There appears to be no disparity between various races in the community and participants in the court supervised treatment program.
- Law enforcement embraces the idea of court supervised youth treatment. Upon interview, it was expressed by the law enforcement representative that there is an officer located at the school, and is aware of who is currently participating in the program. In addition, the involvement with law enforcement gives the participants a better understanding of the role of law enforcement in the community.
- The parent of the client interviewed felt that she had a very strong voice in the program and her son's treatment. She contacted staff several times with concerns and was able to work out these issues with staff.
- Parenting Group is a required part of the therapy for the court supervised treatment program participants and their families.
- The judge was described repeatedly as tremendously effective and pro-active. "He gets along well with the kids, yet holds them accountable."



Opportunities for Improvement:

- One of the past court supervised treatment program participants was interviewed and felt that most of his behaviors were addressed through this program. However he had a substantial substance abuse history prior to entering the program and felt the addiction component of court supervised treatment program was not adequately addressed. This particular participant is now involved with the adult court supervised treatment program in this community.¹ Use of the SCRAM² monitor would be helpful with this treatment court. This monitor has been used once so far in the program and was a great resource, but currently is too costly to implement regularly.

¹ This participant was only involved with the juvenile court supervised treatment program for three months before absconding. This participant was sentenced to this program through the juvenile court; after absconding he was arrested in Utah and then sentenced to the Wyoming Boys School and was never involved with this program again.

² More information regarding SCRAM may be found at: <http://www.alcoholmonitoring.com/>.