



SYSTEMS & YOU NETWORKING & COLLABORATING

2013 SYNC Review

Court Assisted Supervised Treatment Program (CAST) of Fremont County

Coordinator: Susan Shipley

Founded: 2002

SYNC Evaluation Date: November 21, 2013

Total Clients Interviewed: 4; 1 Male and 3 Female. There was one client in Phase 2 and two clients in Phase 3, and one client in Phase 5 of the program. The clients that were interviewed ranged from mid-twenties to early sixties in age.

Other Interviews: Court coordinator, treatment and supervision staff, and office staff.

Court Information Summary:

The CAST program has had many changes for the past year which has lead a variety of changes to better service clients. One of the unique aspect of Fremont County is the presence of the Wind River Reservation which has its own governing authority; therefore there is not always alignment with the county authorities. The Sheriff's Office and the Riverton Department of Corrections are instrumental in supporting this program.

The CAST Program participated in a curriculum review earlier this year. This court also uses a client survey which is a requirement of CARF certification.

The CAST program is 12 months long consisting of five phases. Fees must be up to date in all phases before a client can phase up.

Phase I: 12 weeks in length which is the Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOT)

Phase 2: 12 weeks in length. Continuing Care and MRT begin simultaneously in this phase. Continuing Care is 12 weeks long. MRT will continue into the next phases until all steps are completed.

Phase 3: In order to enter this phase the individual must of 90 days of sobriety and no violations

Phase 4: In order to enter this phase the individual must have 180 days of sobriety, no violations, and 90 days of employment.

Phase 5: In this phase individuals are preparing for graduation and they are relieved of their schedules. They attend court one time a month

After graduation an individual must complete six months of unsupervised probation

If an individual has a violation, a sanction is imposed. Jail time is the last resort but often the court may use house arrest, go back in steps in MRT, increase supervision, and/or use an ankle monitor.

Incentive are used as rewards for successes.

Average Participation in the CAST program: 25 clients

Recidivism Rate for FY 13: In program rate: 0%; Post program rate: 5.88%

Retention Rate for FY 13: 52.27%

Eligibility:

Therapists for the program perform the assessments prior to acceptance into the program. Participants have to voluntarily enter the program. If the offender agrees to treatment court, the Judge writes the order to reflect “completion” of the program. Clients may be allowed to re-enter the program. This is decided on an individual basis.

Financials:

Total operation budget is \$364,831.00. Fremont County Juvenile Treatment Court receives their matching funds from the County Commissioners and some donations from the City of Lander.

SYNC Review Areas:

Access to Services:

- Referrals to outside agencies are made when appropriate. Assistance is provided with this if needed.
- There is timely entry into the program after the evaluation is completed.
- There are services/resources available but as one participant put it “you have to use all of your resources”.

- One client had access to treatment court services while in jail which was impactful for recovery. The client was able to continue IOT upon her release from jail until a residential treatment facility had an opening.
- All services are available through the court, however tribal members can make a choice to use Indian Health Services (IHS) for treatment.

Quality of Services:

- Staff is supportive and non-judgmental.
- The treatment court system is unique by creating an atmosphere of supportive rather than being punitive.
- Program components are structured well. The aftercare program provides a continued opportunity for support until the client graduates from the CAST program. This assists with supporting sobriety when external stressors increase. Although the program is structured well, clients felt that they had to take ownership of their own recovery. One client expressed that she “didn’t apply abstinence. I thought I learned how to drink. I just did what I had to do”. Another client also summarized the abstinence of taking ownership of recovery in the statement “you need to be willing to do this”.
- Clients are connected with AA/NA groups. Clients feel that these groups assist with their success because it supports all of the efforts of treatment court. Having an engaged sponsor helped several clients feel successful with sobriety.
- The program is tailored to meet individual needs. Group discussion are tailored to individual requests such as smoking cessation, budgeting, etc.
- This creates a positive change by having “you look at yourself” compared to jail which “sets you up for failure”. Another client had a positive change when she was able to self-reflect instead of runaway which is reflected in her statement, “I was trying to find myself by running away but it didn’t work because I was there”.

Coordination of Services:

- Services are difficult to coordinate with the reservation for multiple reasons including issues of jurisdiction.
- Treatment and supervision work closely together to support recovery for clients.
- Treatment court assists with setting up resources such as employment and educational opportunities through Department of Voc Rehab.
- Judge is invested in the program and makes sure that all services are coordinating well to meet the needs of the clients.

Strengths:

- The program prides itself on individualizing the program to meet the needs of each participant.
- Group topics are related to individual needs and requests.
- The team assists with locating and promoting use of outside resources.
- The program will accept repeat clients if the individual meets the requirements and is committed to making a change without passing judgment.
- Coordination with the AA/NA programs and stressing the importance of having a sponsor as a resource.
- Group decisions regarding clients has to be a majority.
- Creates accountability by allowing the participants to take ownership of their decisions through the structure of the CAST program.
- All program staff provide lots of encouragement to the participants which participants felt was an important factor in their recovery.
- Clients felt that staff are invested in the program for each individual.
- The local GED program is quality and easily accessible to clients.
- Treatment court staff felt that the implementation of CARF would make the program stronger.
- The CAST program participated in a curriculum review earlier in the year which demonstrates a proactive approach for program improvement and quality assurance.

Concerns/Areas of Growth:

- Coordination with the reservation regarding jurisdiction for supervision. Often probation officers don't have access to the individuals if they are located on the reservation so it is difficult to create accountability.
- Several clients had an appreciation for paying a weekly cost but would like a sliding fee schedule because it is difficult to find employment or volunteer hours to meet the intense schedule of treatment court, especially at the beginning.
- Several clients felt that there was a community stigma about being a participant in treatment court which limited their opportunities for employment.
- There is a lack of low income housing options especially for individuals with substance abuse.
- There is a lack of transportation services especially outside of the city limits of Lander.
- Child care resources are lacking especially for non-traditional hours.
- There is a lack of low income health care options, there is no health care clinic in Lander.
- There is a lack of mental health providers who are willing to work on a sliding fee schedule and who can perform medical evaluations verses mental behavior evaluations.
- At times the Riverton office feels disconnected from the rest of the staff that reside in Lander.

Recommendations/Requests:

- Continue efforts to educate the community on what ‘Drug Courts’ are and the services that are provided.
- Continue to attempt to engage tribal law enforcement and tribal Business Councils for better communication among the courts related to access, supervision and jurisdiction. Also to ensure safety of staff who travel onto the reservation.
- Investigate other funding opportunities to invest in training and possibly in providing a tribal court advocate.
- Continue building relationships with employers and organizations in the community to provide the best resource base possible for clients.
- Investigate screening tools for mental health needs.
- Continue to focus on team building as there are many new employees.
- Transportation for staff for home visits. Investigate options for a dependable vehicle based on the driving conditions and the distances that the staff cover.
- The state assess is current funding model for the treatment courts in Wyoming

Overall Impression:

The CAST program prides itself on quality programming by continually assessing what is working well in their program and what needs some improvement. This program is proactive in its approach for program improvement as seen by the scheduling a program review earlier this year. Most of the staff are new but are actively working on getting to know each other and how to work together to create a quality program. Fremont County has a unique challenge with the Wind River Reservation. There often times are issues with jurisdiction and concerns of safety while working on the reservation. It is essential that staff understands the challenges that this creates and make decisions that best protect the staff and clients of the program. This program continues to make changes that make a positive impact supported sobriety in the clients that are served. One team member summed it up well, “It’s the best system going”.

