

## 2013 SYNC Review

Park County Adult Treatment Court

1044 Beck Ave.

PO Box 906

Cody, WY 82414

307-527-1800

**Coordinator:** Bryan Baird ([coordinator@tctwest.net](mailto:coordinator@tctwest.net))

**Established:** 2001

**SYNC Evaluation Date:** October 22, 2013

**Total Clients Interviewed:** 3 (2 Female and 1 Male) Two of the clients were in Phase 3 and one client was in Phase 2. Clients ranged in age from mid 20's to late 30's.

### **Court Information Summary:**

#### **"It's learning to live again" (Cody Treatment Court Client)**

The structure of the Park County Adult Treatment Court consists of the following:

Phase 1: Intense (Four groups a week and one individual treatment session)

Phase 2: Intensity Slightly Decreases (Three groups and one individual treatment session)

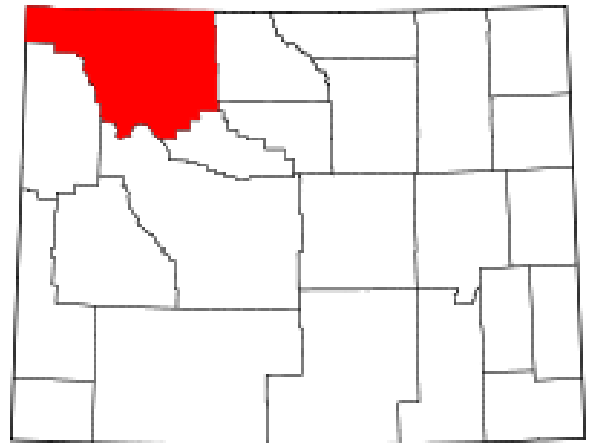
Phase 3: Intensity Decreases (Two groups and one individual)

Phase 4/5: Low intensity (One group per week and one individual treatment session)

Court is two times a month (The first and third Wednesdays)

Client costs are \$50 a month which are returned back into treatment court operations.

The Park County Adult Treatment Court is currently staffed with two therapists, one probation officer, one case manager, and one coordinator.



Currently the Park County Adult Treatment Court is serving 13 clients but has capacity for 20-22. The primary drug of choice for this program is alcohol and spice.

Total Participants for FY13: 15 which included 7 active, 5 graduates and 3 terminations

Recidivism Rate for FY 13: 0

Retention Rate for FY 13: 62.5

**Eligibility:**

Eligibility is determined through the assessment process using the ASI. Clients are accepted from municipal, circuit and district courts with the exception of violent crimes. The Park County Adult Treatment Court utilizes a screening committee to determine acceptance after the ASI is completed. The County Attorney makes the final decision on acceptance.

**Financials:**

FY 13 Budget: \$207,371.87 with \$58,820.40 in matching which comes from county funds

FY 14 Budget: \$187,100.00 with \$50,650.00 in matching which comes from county funds

Treatment court funding is determined by number of participants and requires a 25% match

**SYNC Review Areas:**

Access to Services:

“It’s a shame that you have to commit a crime to have this available” (Park County Adult Treatment Court Participant)

- Direct Treatment Court Services
  - Clients have access to all services in one location
  - Clients have access to probation outside of regular office hours
  - Clients are provided resources to create a community support network to utilize after hours
  - At times there is a delay in accessing services due to a delay in the final acceptance from the screening committee
  - Clients have opportunities to express concerns during staffing if there are arrangement made prior to the meeting
- Ancillary Services for Treatment Court Participants
  - Cody has a crisis shelter available in the community
  - There are limited low income resources (No Salvation Army or Needs)

- There is limited affordable housing which makes it difficult for participants to obtain a stable, affordable living environment
- There are mental health services available in the community after discharge however there are limited providers who will work on a sliding fee scale
- Clients are required to acquire their GED if necessary prior to graduation. The program at Northwest College is limited because of time restrictions. This makes it difficult for participants who are working during the day to access to the GED program. There are also no adult literacy programs available in the Cody area. Treatment Court is investigating bringing the GED curriculum/testing in house to better meet the needs of their clients.

### Quality of Services

“You either want recovery or you don’t” summarizes recovery for one treatment court client, that no matter what the quality of the services are, one must be willing to meet the demands of recovery and be accountable.

- Clients feel that the UA schedule is coordinated well
- Clients report that the treatment court support network is strong in supporting their journey to sobriety through the majority of the process. Some clients feel that they would like more support at the end of the process as they are transitioning back into independent life.
- Treatment court staff are in constant contact with other courts to discuss ways to improve their system.
- Clients are receiving intense supervision which creates more accountability for them. Clients feel like they are respected in their interactions with probation
- Clients are aware that they can continue therapeutic services after completion of the program as needed. Clients feel that one on one counseling sessions provides an opportunity to establish a trusting relationship. It also provides an outlet for self expression without judgment.
- Clients would like additional topics covered in their group settings to help support their transition into the community related to self-esteem building
- Therapeutic interventions are matched to the individual needs which allows for comfort to discuss personal issues.
- Park County Adult Treatment Court has had consistency with staff which has allowed for building trusting relationships, especially with the treatment providers.

### Coordination of Services

- It is sometimes difficult to have all of the related treatment court providers on the same page specifically related to the judge, probation and therapy.
- There are private therapeutic services available in the community and services are often coordinated if a client will be utilizing these upon graduation.

- Treatment court received a new judge approximately six months ago
- There are difficulties with the County Attorney finalizing approved clients. Often clients are referred to the treatment court and are approved for the program but it gets hung up at the County Attorney's office because that is where the final decision is made.
- It can be difficult to access employment opportunities which allow flexibility with the treatment court schedule especially in phase one. Often clients are finding employment that does not pay well based on the local cost of living so it is difficult for clients to establish a budget that meets all of their obligations.

### Strengths

- James, Treatment Court Case Manager, is readily available to clients to connect them with community resources. Clients were very complementary to James's level of service.
- MRT program is supportive especially at the end of the program
- Park County Adult Treatment Court staff feels supported and involved in policy decision making at the state level
- Judges, defense attorneys and jailors are supportive of the program in the local area
- There is good communication with other drug courts. Park County Adult Treatment Court is proactive in its approach for systems improvement
- Clients appreciate that they are taught personal responsibility
- The internal treatment court team works together in collaboration to meet the needs of the clients

### Concerns/Areas of Growth

- There is a delay for individuals to enter the treatment court system after acceptance due to a hold up in the screening committee process (poor attendance to the meetings) and difficulties with the process that the County Attorney has the final decision on acceptance to the court. This situation is creating a delay in initiation of services and negatively impacting the number of active participants. The court has a capacity to serve a larger population but based on delays of the screening committee the number of participants is much lower than capacity.
- Developing a program that currently meets the needs of the community including adjusting hours for intensity primarily in phase 1. Park County Adult Treatment Court is undergoing programmatic changes.
- Community has a lack of low income resources such as housing and food pantries.
- There is no access to a transitional shelter
- Little knowledge of program components and benefits of treatment court in the community which possibly may be due to lack of acknowledgement of drug/alcohol issue in the community
- There was a concern of lack of individuality in some of the programming which clients felt had the potential to trigger relapse and stop the recovery process.
- The moral assessment book is not relevant for rural settings

- It would be helpful for non-Master’s level councilors/assistance to provide support groups which counted towards program hours
- Group topics are not diverse enough. Clients requested groups on transitional skills such as self-esteem building through public speaking, life skills training, and education on health insurance. Wednesday groups sometimes feel just like a “check in”
- CARF costs and short turnaround time
- There are concerns about the amount of reviews placed on the Treatment Court staff around the state

#### Recommendations/Requests

- Court continues to pursue options for bringing GED services in house to meet the needs of their clients
- State Department of Health assist with more statewide education outreach regarding the treatment court system
- As restructure occurs, assess materials for relevance and diversify groups. Advise checking with the state office or with other courts to see what additional resources are available
- State Department of Health to continue financial support to cover CARF accreditation.

#### Overall Impression

The Park County Adult Treatment Court is positively impacting the recovery of individuals and supporting reintegration into the community leading to a positive lifestyle change. Park County Treatment Court is currently investigating programmatic changes through staff suggestions as well as having conversations with other treatment courts that are similar in structure. One struggle of the program has been enrollment due to a delay in the final acceptance stage. There have been multiple attempts to resolve this issue through the County Attorney’s Office. The Coordinator continues to address the issue to find possible options to get clients initiated on services without significant delays. The Park County Adult Treatment Court plans to implement new program details in January 2014.

