



SYSTEMS & YOU NETWORKING & COLLABORATING

2014 SYNC Review

Teton County Court Supervised Treatment Program, Jackson, WY

Program Director: Anne Comeaux, 8.5 years in position

Founded: 2004

SYNC Evaluation Date: February 5, 2014

Total Participants Interviewed: 5; 1 female and 4 male. One participant interviewed graduated from the program. One participant was on Level One of the program. All were over the age of 30.

Other Interviews: Program director and Executive Director of Curran-Seeley, the CSTP program's substance abuse treatment partner

Court Information Summary:

Teton County's Supervised Treatment Program (formerly known as DUI/Drug Court) has a consistent enrollment for the last three years of eight to ten participants, a minimal number for measuring success. At its highest, the program's enrollment was 22. Even using rigorous scoring, the program is able to report that only about 20 percent of graduates re-offend. Most participants in the Supervised Treatment Program are misdemeanor, not felony, offenders. However, more felony candidates are being screened for participation now. Participants are typically 30ish and male with repeat DUI arrests. Teton County Supervised Treatment Program team members include Judge Timothy Day, a defense attorney, and representatives of the Curran-Seeley Foundation (state-funded intensive outpatient treatment program), Jackson Hole Community Counseling, the Teton County Attorney's office and the Department of Corrections probation and parole office in Jackson. Probation and parole makes home visits and some curfew checks; curfew checks may be expanded in the future if a letter of agreement is completed with the Teton County Sheriff's Office. Participants pay \$50 per month for the program, \$50 to set up the SCRAM alcohol monitoring bracelet, and the cost of the intensive outpatient treatment on a sliding fee scale.

The Teton County Supervised Treatment Program is a minimum 12 months long and a progression of five levels. Participants graduate within 16 months typically but some have taken two years or more to complete the program. Many different kinds of incentives for progress are given. Examples of incentives

include gift cards, free time, reduced court hearings, and level advancement. There are several different types of sanctions, as well. Sanctions may include re-arrest, jail, house arrest, and community service, a higher level of scrutiny from Probation and Parole, and more intensive treatment.

Hearings may be requested by participants who disagree with sanctions or recommendations for termination from the program.

Level I lasts a minimum of 30 days and includes wearing a SCRAM bracelet, daily breath tests, and twice weekly urine tests for drug/alcohol monitoring and group and individual treatment as directed by Jackson Hole Community Counseling and the Curran-Seeley Foundation. Random alcohol and drug screening is conducted in collaboration with the jail, where staff is available to do the tests 24/7. Eligibility for Level II includes 30 days of sobriety, 10 hours of community service, keeping all appointments for 21 consecutive days, and written recommendations from treatment team members.

Level II also is a minimum of 30 days, includes wearing a SCRAM bracelet, daily breath tests and twice weekly UAs, substance abuse treatment (group and individual as directed) and case management, and community service. More free time is allotted in Level II than in Level I. A minimum of 60 days of sobriety, 21 consecutive days without missed appointments, and letters of recommendations are among the requirements for moving to Level III.

Level III achievement eliminates the SCRAM bracelet, reduces breath tests and UAs and the number of meetings with treatment team member. Level III requires demonstrated use of community-based recovery support services and development of a community involvement project proposal. Letters of recommendation from treatment team members, 90 days of continuous sobriety, 10 hours of community service and keeping appointments are among the requirements to move to Level IV.

Level IV is categorized as aftercare. Random UAs, counseling and meetings with treatment team members continue. Completion of the proposed community involvement project and presentation of an “after treatment court plan” are the basic conditions for moving to Level V, which is graduation.

Level V signals the completion of all court sanctions, 180 days of continuous sobriety, at least 60 hours of community involvement and/or community service, fee payment, and written confirmation of completion of Level IV. Graduation culminates with an event where certificates are awarded acknowledging participants’ accomplishments.

Eligibility:

Participants may be charged with and plead guilty to a misdemeanor or felony. During the sentencing process, they voluntarily agree to enter the Supervised Treatment Program. Defendants recommended for the Supervised Treatment Program are usually sentenced to jail with the sentence suspended pending completion of the program. Some defendants elect to complete the jail term rather than the Supervised Treatment Program. In order to qualify for Supervised Treatment, participants must:

- Reside in Teton County;
- Meet criteria for intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment;

- Believe that they need treatment;
- Complete inpatient treatment as ordered by the court or desired by the participant prior to starting their Supervised Treatment Program enrollment;
- Report all medications they are taking and sign releases to allow for communication with prescribing physicians.

Financials:

The Teton County Supervised Treatment Program is operating in FY 2015 with a budget of \$219,491 for a caseload of 14 (funds are paid on a reimbursement basis). The town and county provides cash match support by funding a large portion of the program director's salary and benefits. These amounts are included in the stated budget. There is a Department of Corrections probation officer dedicated to Treatment Court participants, as well as a small office space for the Program Director in an annex to the Teton County Courthouse which provides additional in-kind supports. The Treatment Court collaborates with Probation and Parole, the County Jail, and Curran-Seeley for a higher level of monitoring related to drug and alcohol testing.

SYNC Review Areas:

Access to Services:

- Most clients had accessed treatment and recovery support services prior to choosing to entering the Supervised Treatment Program.
- All Supervised Treatment Program participants have access to intensive outpatient treatment, mental health screening, mental health case management, and psychiatric services.
 - Not all the participants interviewed received individual mental health services. All receive individual substance abuse counseling at least in the early levels of the program.
- Assistance with food, employment and/or education, housing, family and legal issues and medical care is available as needed and requested.
 - All of the participants interviewed indicated family relationships were a critical motivator for continuing recovery; most said they had children and are dedicated parents. One was exploring creative outlets not previously developed.
 - Most of the participants interviewed had housing and employment and had not asked for assistance from the Supervised Treatment Program. Assistance with food was appreciated.
 - The Program Director said the need for services varies widely among participants.
- Case management is provided by the Program Director for Treatment Program participants. More intensive case management is available when Treatment Program participants meet criteria for the Jackson Hole Community Counseling case management services.

- All participants interviewed talked about the number of meetings they are required to keep with treatment team members monitoring their progress. One suggested meetings and drug tests could be consolidated to reduce work/Treatment Program conflicts.

Quality of Services:

- Participants are connected with AA/NA/Celebrate Recovery groups. Most reported that these groups assist with their success and some of them started new recovery group meetings as part of their community service or mandated community projects.
- The Treatment Program gives those with time on their hands something to do, and a structure that makes planning and coordination of work, family and other activities a priority. Not all of those interviewed had vehicles, making careful planning necessary to use the local bus system, walk or ride a bike to appointments.
- Participants expressed gratitude for their sobriety and stability; some were more enthusiastic about life without substances than others but none expressed a desire to return to using alcohol or drugs.

Coordination of Services:

- Treatment and supervision work closely together to support participants' recovery. There were no complaints from the participants about the absence of a particular resource, nor were there any suggestions for more resources.
- There has been little turnover in the treatment team's membership since the program's 2004 inception. Team members are dedicated to the program and participants.
- The positive involvement of the judge and his role as a supporter was impressive to some of those interviewed who had spent more time in court rooms being judged than being encouraged.
- The Treatment Team members appreciate law enforcement's contributions to program.

Strengths:

- Program participant feedback is gathered and used to continuously improve.
- The team assists with locating and promoting use of outside resources.
- The program will accept repeat participants on a case by case basis. Applicants have only applied to participate in the program once after an initial failure s so far but no limit has been set on the number of attempts a person can make. "This program is not for everyone. The team does a good job of screening," one participant said.
- A strong sense of accountability and responsibility is encouraged and gives participants a sense of being in control of their lives and decisions.
- Program participants are invested in bettering their lives, not just graduating from the program. "I think I finally got it," one person interviewed said.

- Name was changed with input from Treatment Program participants; Program Director is receptive to opportunities for third party consults on ways to improve participants' experience and the achievement of program goals.
- A majority of participant-paid program fees are reinvested in progress incentives, additional night and weekend activities including nutrition workshops, social outings and recreational activities. There is also other in-kind donations from JHCCC for group activities including drop in movie night, Wii game night, retreats, football game outings, and others activities.

Concerns/Areas of Growth:

- There is a stigma attached to the program, despite the name change from Drug/DUI Court to Supervised Treatment Program. All interviewed said they had heard about the program before electing to enroll and none of what they heard was positive. Most of the negative comments they reported hearing were related to the program's level of supervision.
- Some of the participants interviewed and the Program Director discussed the possibility of specialized components for different types of cases. Those curriculums could follow the IOPT nine hours per week phase. The Director of Curran Seeley said the number of participants is far too small to provide intensive outpatient treatment for separate groups and still offer intensive services with a choice of group times that will correspond with everyone's work schedules in a service sector-based economy.
- The participants interviewed felt the Treatment Team is dually supportive and restrictive. Not all felt the intensity of the program matched their level of recovery; most felt they had been on a path toward eliminating drugs and alcohol from their lives on their own before entering the Treatment Program and could have succeeded with a lower level of treatment intensive and supervision. Some proposed different tiers for the program that would "match" the crime, rather than one program for misdemeanor and felony offenders and drug and alcohol users. "Recovery should be a personal responsibility...Cut people with families some slack. If you're raising kids, that's your role in the community," one participant said.
- The program's inability to attract a higher number of participants is an ongoing concern for the Treatment Team but it was suggested the delay between arrest and sentencing, and the length of the jail sentences given in lieu of completion of the Supervised Treatment Program prevent the Treatment Program from being an attractive alternative.
 - Some participants interviewed didn't feel they were given a true "choice" to enroll in the Supervised Treatment Program because jail was not, in their minds, an option. However, others felt jail was not as onerous as the requirements of the Treatment Program and they had chosen to make the commitment to their recovery rather than avoiding treatment by going to jail.

Recommendations/Requests:

- Change old signage that still says "Drug/DUI Court" in the building housing the Program Director's office.

- Continue efforts to educate the community about the benefits of the Supervised Treatment Program, the high rate of sustained recovery and the amount of money saved on expenses that otherwise would have been incurred (for jail and prison stays, for example).
- The Teton County Supervised Treatment Program recidivism goal is 15 percent; measurement criteria could be amended to more accurately reflect graduates' success rates without counting minor legal infractions that are not necessarily indicative of a relapse.
- The program has been exploring re-structuring options that could include staffing or contracting for dedicated case manager. Different program design and changes to services may be able to accomplish this without requiring an increase in overall funding.
- The state's budgeting process prevents any opportunity for reallocation of unspent funds to be reallocated to other areas of need in the state such as WyCST software upgrades.

Overall Impression:

The Supervised Treatment Program participants mostly were enthusiastic about their experience, recognized that they had problems that were beyond their control to manage, and admitted that getting caught was inevitable. The Treatment Team members believe in the value of the Program and would like to have the opportunity to serve more individuals in need who would benefit from a supervised treatment program. There were no significant complaints about anything besides the level of intensity.

