WOODBURY COUNTY (Sioux City), IOWA COMMUNITY DRUG COURT:

Fact Sheet

The purpose of the Drug Court is to demonstrate an innovative, comprehensive and integrated approach to substance abuse treatment among offending juveniles by coupling the coercive power of the court with substance abuse treatment services. Judges of this court are community volunteers trained and sworn to be "community judges" who sit in panels of four and convene status hearings. These status hearings consist of a weekly judicial review of the offender's probation. At these hearings offenders can be praised for their accomplishments or sanctioned for not following the court's directives. By using citizens this court invites the community's eagerness, creativity and concern to share and deal with this common problem. Over 42 community volunteers serve this court with each devoting one Wednesday evening per month as a panel member. Two panels hold between 10-12 review hearings each week. Since its inception panels have held over 1300 hearings.

The primary goals for Drug Court are:

1. To increase the effectiveness of substance abuse treatment among offenders and thereby:

    - Reduce substance abuse in the community
    - Decrease substance abuse related crimes such as thefts and assaults
    - Reduce juvenile detention center placements
    - Reduce the need for out-of-home placements

2. To speed the processing of justice system cases and thereby:

    - Reduce the duration of detention and/or placement
    - Alleviate court workload
    - Increase juvenile and treatment system effectiveness with families

Other facts regarding the Woodbury County Community Drug Court:

1. Juvenile Statistics

    - 109 juveniles have been served
    - 40 have graduated
    - Currently 45 active juvenile cases

- Average length of case is 13.2 months
- The average cost per child is $4,900

2. Adult Statistics

- 73 adults have been served
- 19 have graduated
- Currently 30 active adult cases
- The average cost per adult is $4,900
- Average age is 28