Pitt County Drug Treatment Court

Items we would love assistance with

**Pitt County DTC History**  For numerous years, creating and implementing a drug treatment court in Pitt County was an on-going goal for the Pitt County Substance Abuse Coalition. This dream was realized in late 2005 with funds from the North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission, secured and managed through the Sheriff’s Office. This grant allowed for a full-time coordinator and great success was achieved in bringing together a core DTC team. When funding ended, the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) absorbed the court. Several years ago state funding for the court functions such as coordinators was no longer available. When this funding ended the core team continued working together to keep the program going even in the absence of a coordinator. At the time, Megan Hartzog and the treatment provider at the time assumed the role of the coordinator and split the responsibilities. We are proud to say that from court inception to 2011, the same core team existed. In 2012, shortly after assisting in the development of the current BJA DTC Enhancement Grant proposal the treatment provider left her employment and the assigned Assistant District Attorney passed away. This year has brought additional personal changes with Judge Blick retiring and the promotion of the assigned probation officer to another work area. Today we have a mix of old and new but the strength of teamwork still continues. It has always been amazing to see how without consistent resources, the work of the court continues on behalf of the participants.

With the changes to the team along with the receipt of the BJA funds that provides for technical assistance, now is the time to review and make changes that will reflect the desires of the core team. While the foundation of the program remains, we understand there are times in which revisiting current policies and protocol are required. This site visit for technical assistance could not have come at a better time. It is our desire to demonstrate to you the functioning of the court but to also learn from you the best practices for several items the team would like to review. The findings during a recent review of our adherence to the 10 Key Components coincided with unresolved items identified during recent staffings. The information below represents those items and some sample questions we have:

**Review and update of Program Manual**: the team desires to ensure it centers on DTC best practices

  - Question: how can we delineate the roles more clearly to reflect the current team?
  - Question: how can we decrease the time spent during the referral and screening process given the local dynamics of the judicial system? Relates to Key Component 3.
  - Question: Do our practices match what our manual says? Relates to Key Component 6

**Review and update of Participant Manual**: the team desires to revise this document to reflect the program manual
Question: how much information is too much information? Especially as it pertains to sanctioning

**MIS:** the State has provided a MIS for use but it is not user friendly.

Question: Is there a MIS that other sites use at no cost?

**Advisory Group:** when the Pitt County DTC first started there was an Advisory Group. It was short-lived perhaps due to a lack of focus or coordination. There is a desire to re-develop one.

Question: what is their function? How can they best serve the DTC? Who is typically in the group? Policy-makers? Movers and shakers? Boots on the ground?

**Alcohol and drug testing:**

Question: is the color coding system for testing a good idea?

Question: what are best practices for alcohol-related treatment?

We hope that this document provides you a summary of our challenges that we are eager to receive assistance on. We have blocked off the final few hours of the agenda to receive your thoughts on the functioning of the court and to allow for time for question/answer. We look forward to meeting you both next week.

*Pitt County Drug Treatment Court Team*