Provincial Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee

Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario
Mental health for all

Evidence Exchange Network for Mental Health and Addictions

Region of Waterloo Drug Treatment Court

Monday, May 25, 2015

Kassandra Rushton, *Mental Health and Justice Court Support Coordinator*
Rob Davis, *Concurrent Support Coordinator*

@HSJCC

HSJCC Webinar

Thank you to **CMHA Ontario and the Evidence Exchange Network (EENet)** for providing support to host this webinar!

- To ask a question, please type your question in the chat box.
- Power-point presentation will be emailed to you following the webinar.
- Please complete the brief feedback survey following the webinar.

@HSJCC

Provincial Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee

Overview of Presentation

1. About the HSJCC
2. Gendered Pathways to Crime
3. Questions & Comments

@HSJCC

Presenters

Provincial Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee

Introduction

- *Dorina Simeonov, Planning and Policy Analyst, CMHA Ontario*

Presentation

- *Kassandra Rushton, Mental Health and Justice Court Support Coordinator*
- *Rob Davis, Concurrent Support Coordinator*

HSJCC Network

Provincial Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee

- Established based on the *Provincial Strategy to Coordinate Human Services and Criminal Justice Systems in Ontario (1997)*

- Responding to a recognized need in the province to coordinate resources and services, and plan more effectively for people who are in conflict with the law

- Priority consideration is for people with a serious mental illness, developmental disability, acquired brain injury, drug and alcohol addiction, and/or fetal alcohol syndrome

HSJCC Network

Provincial Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee

HSJCC Network is comprised of

- 43 Local HSJCCs
- 14 Regional HSJCCs
- Provincial HSJCC

- Each HSJCC is a voluntary collaboration between health and social service organizations, community mental health and addictions organizations and partners from the justice sector including crown attorneys, judges, police services and correctional service providers
- Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

@HSJCC

Provincial HSJCC

Provincial HSJCC consists of

- Regional HSJCC Chairs representing their Regions
- Ex-officio members from important stakeholder groups such as Correctional Service of Canada, Ontario Provincial Police and Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, Legal Aid Ontario, and Community Networks of Specialized Care
- Ex-officio representatives from 5 Provincial Ministries:
  - Attorney General
  - Children and Youth Services
  - Community and Social Services
  - Community Safety and Correctional Services
  - Health and Long-Term Care

Upcoming Webinars

1. **June 26, 2015** – Hamilton Rapid Response Team

Stay tuned for further details on these webinars!

Contact Information

For more information about the Provincial HSJCC, or to join the mailing list visit: **www.hsjcc.on.ca**

For more information about CMHA Ontario, visit: **www.ontario.cmha.ca**

For more information about EENet, visit: **www.eenet.ca**

@HSJCC

CMHA Waterloo Wellington Dufferin

Welcome to the Region of Waterloo Drug Treatment Court

Kassandra Rushton, Mental Health and Justice Court Support Coordinator
Rob Davis, Concurrent Support Coordinator

www.cmhawwd.ca

Drug Treatment Court: The Objective

- Why have a Drug Treatment Court (DTC)?
- How are DTCs Effective

Drug Treatment Courts

- Drug using offenders - a unique challenge
- Traditional Court Systems focus
- Specialized Training

A New Canadian Experience

- The first court was established in Miami, Florida,1989.
- Drug Treatment Courts are relatively new in Canada. The first Drug Treatment Court was established by Judge Paul Bentley in Toronto in 1998.
- In 2011, Drug Treatment Court was established in the Waterloo Region and 2013 in the Guelph Wellington Region.

Key Principles of Drug Treatment Court

- Integrate process
- Non-adversarial approach
- Early Identification
- Access to services
- Program content for the target population

Key Principles of Drug Treatment Courts

- Sanctions or rewards
- Judicial interaction
- Monitoring and evaluation
- A coordinated strategy
- Compliance

Key Principles of Drug Treatment Courts

- Interdisciplinary education
- Forging partnerships
- Case management
- Flexibility in adjusting program content

Drug Treatment Court (DTC) In the Region of Waterloo and Guelph Wellington

Waterloo Region Drug Treatment Court - an alternative court.

www.cmhawwd.ca

How Does Drug Treatment Court Operate?

- Our DTC represents the coordinated efforts of justice and treatment professionals.
- Our DTC is an alternative to less effective interventions.
- Our DTC quickly identifies substance abusing offenders.

Who Is Accepted Into DTC?

- Who can make referrals?
- Who can be referred?
- What type of offence is accepted

Screening Process

- Screening is the first step into Drug Treatment Court
- Crown's role in Screening: Public Safety
- Crown Screening will be based on the following:
  - Client Application
  - Application Questionnaire
  - Prosecution Brief
  - Criminal History
  - Input from relevant professionals in the Criminal Justice System

What to Expect…

- DTC Participants have an intensive program including:
  - substance abuse treatment (residential and non-residential)
  - case management
  - drug testing
  - support groups
  - supervision
  - regularly scheduled status hearings before a judge

- DTC also provide a wide array of ancillary services:
  - mental health treatment
  - trauma and family therapy
  - job skills training
  - peer support programs
  - other life-skill enhancement services

Paperwork

- For more information (www.rwdtc.org)
  - DTC Participant Handbook
  - DTC Application Form
  - Application for Judicial Interim Release Order
  - Consent for Release of Personal Health Information and Criminal Justice Information
  - Crown Questionnaire
  - Adult Program Waiver
  - Drug Treatment Court Participating Information Sheet
  - Application for Graduation

Once In Drug Treatment Court…

- The participant enters a guilty plea to their outstanding charges.
- Undergo mandatory drug screens
- Attend a minimum of three community meetings per week
- Attend court weekly. This is mandatory. Failure to attend or comply with the rules and regulations will result in sanctions or expulsions being imposed by the court

The Region of Waterloo Drug Treatment Court Team

- The Presiding Judge
- A Federal Crown Attorney
- A Provincial Crown Attorney
- Duty Counsel
- Community Health Nurse
- Community Clinic Doctor
- Bail Supervision Workers
- Justice Initiatives Workers
- Canadian Mental Health Association WWD Coordinators
- Waterloo Region Police Service Special Constables
- Community Volunteers

A Day in the life…

- Prior to Open Court, the DTC Team meets in a case conference style to review all participants progress for the week.
- The Court is opened and the volunteers provide snacks and drinks for the participants.
- Court becomes “In Session” and each participant has their turn before the judge with the support of their individual Support Coordinator/Worker.
- A small or large reward is provided– along with great applause!
- When necessary a sanction is issued.
- Once all matters have been heard the participants have the opportunity to socialize and encourage one another.

REWARDS!!!

- **Small Rewards** *(received for fully participating and having one-two set backs through the week)*
  Candy, Journals/Pens, Hygiene Products, Scarves, Hats, Gloves

- **Large Rewards** *(received for fully participating and being 100% Clean)*
  A selection of Gift Cards such as:
  - McDonalds
  - Tim Horton's
  - Subway

Progressing through the Program

- Possible Sanctions Include:
  (Least intrusive to more severe)
  - A written essay or project
  - Hours of Service at the Local Community Kitchen
  - Hours of Service at the Local Community Garden
  - Other “out of the box” ideas as presented by the DTC Team
  - Temporary Jail Time

The Community Garden is a Favourite!

Planting Thyme…

Community Garden

…Not doing time.

Supports Monday-Friday

- In addition to attending 3 support groups/meetings per week, urinalysis testing twice per week and meeting weekly with their assigned Support Worker, individuals are encouraged to participate in DTC Activities such as:
  - The Art Group
  - Hiking Trips
  - Museum Tours
  - Trips to the Theater
  - Special Occasion Activities

Treatment

All Participants are required to complete the following:

- ADAT Tool
- Withdrawal Management *(as needed & Available)*
- Residential Treatment
- Out Patient/Aftercare Groups
- Addictions Counselling

Graduation from Drug Treatment Court

In order to graduate, participants must:

- Maintain a consecutive period of abstinence from all substances
- Have stable housing
- Engage in activities that are productive or suitable for their specific circumstance in the community
- Deal appropriately with stressors
- Be engaged in pro-social behavior

The Alumni

- As a way to support each other many of the past participants engage in a monthly Alumni group.

- The lengthy commitment to the DTC and the intimate nature of the program creates a family like environment for those who participate!

The Bottom Line.

- THE OVERALL IMPACT:

  According to over a decade of research, drug courts significantly improve substance abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce crime, and produce greater cost benefits than any other Justice Strategy.

  - In the past 4 Years The Waterloo Regional Drug Treatment Court have had approx. 15 Successful Graduates

Graduates

Testimonial

On March 5th, 2014, The Region of Waterloo Drug Treatment Court held yet another graduation for one of its participant members. Here's what he had to say about his experience with the program:

"I think if anybody had the opportunity to do this they should take it. It's life changing".

Waterloo DTC in the NEWS!

“ ‘Radically different’ court strives to treat the addiction behind the crime”

“Poster boy’ for drug court graduates with high praise”

Tijana Martin/Record Staff

Alan Morrissey, who graduated from the Waterloo Region drug treatment court, poses with Judge Colin Westman in the courthouse on Wednesday. Morrissey was addicted to crack cocaine and other drugs for decades, but he has been clean for over a year now.

Online Resources

- Human Services Justice Coordinating Committee: http://www.hsjcc.on.ca
- Region of Waterloo Drug Treatment Court: http://www.rwdtc.org/
- Forms Under the Mental Health Act: http://www.ppao.gov.on.ca/ser-rig-for.html
- Schizophrenia Society of Ontario-Justice and Mental Health: http://www.schizophrenia.on.ca/jamh.html
- Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington Dufferin (CMHAWWD): www.ontario.cmha.ca and wwd.cmha.ca
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): www.camh.net
- Schizophrenia Society of Ontario (SSO): www.schizophrenia.on.ca
- Connex Ontario: www.ConnexOntario.ca

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?