

## INTRODUCTION

The Editorial Board is pleased to present the second issue of the *National Drug Court Institute Review* (Volume II, 1). It marks an important beginning in research on the participant's perceptions of the drug court program and those factors that influence the participant's success or failure.

This issue asks fundamental questions about what influences the success or failure of the drug court participant and how drug courts can maximize those factors that encourage success; Questions that we can hope to continue to ask and answer in future issues of *NDCIR*.

In this issue:

- ◆ Douglas B. Marlowe, J.D., Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, and Kimberly C. Kirby, Ph.D., Temple University describe and define the different kinds of sanctions compatible to a drug court setting and their impact on the participant.
- ◆ Roger H. Peters, Ph.D., *et al.*, University of South Florida, in his latest evaluation of the First Judicial Circuit (Pensacola Florida), determines the broad factors that predict success or failure for participants and how that information can be used to make drug courts more effective in working with traditionally less successful populations.
- ◆ Susan Turner, Ph.D., *et al.*, RAND, in the course of completing a three-year evaluation of the Maricopa County Drug Court Program (Phoenix, Arizona), interviewed successful and unsuccessful participants to learn of the impact of the drug court program from the participant's perspective.

- ◆ C. West Huddleston, NDCI Deputy Director, provides commentary on the implications of linkages between drug courts and jail-based treatment and the role of the drug court as a “re-entry” mechanism for offenders being released from local custody.
- ◆ Finally, this issue of the *NDCIR* is concluded with a “Research Update” on five recent drug court research evaluations, compiled by Michelle Shaw and Dr. Kenneth Robinson, Correctional Counseling, Inc.

## **THE NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE REVIEW**

Published semi-annually, the *NDCIR*'s goal is to keep the drug court practitioner abreast of important new developments in the drug court field. Drug courts demand a great deal of time and energy of the practitioner. There is little opportunity to read lengthy evaluations or keep up with important research in the field. Yet, our ability to marshal scientific and research information and "argue the facts" can be critical to a program's success and ultimate survival.

The *NDCIR* builds a bridge between law, science and clinical communities, providing a common tool to all. A headnote and subject indexing system allows access to evaluation outcomes, scientific analysis and research on drug court related areas. Scientific jargon and legalese are interpreted for the practitioner into a common language.

A new section of the *NDCIR* appearing first in this issue, entitled Research Update, is devoted to short, to-the-point summations of recent evaluations and research. The practitioner will be able to quickly grasp research outcomes and find them again when the need arises through the Review's cumulative indexing.

Although the *NDCIR*'s emphasis is on scholarship and scientific research, it will also provide commentary from experts in the drug court and related fields on important issues to drug court practitioners.

## THE NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE

*The National Drug Court Institute Review* is a project of the National Drug Court Institute. NDCI was established under the auspices of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and with the support of the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Drug Courts Program Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Its founding corporate sponsors, Roche Diagnostics, DuPont and BI, Incorporated, have provided essential financial support for the National Drug Court Institute.

The National Drug Court Institute's mission is to promote education, research and scholarship to the drug court field and other court-based intervention programs.

Historically, education and training in the drug court field have only been available at regional workshops and the annual national conference; analysis and scholarship was largely limited to anecdotes and personal accounts.

That situation has changed. Evaluations exist on dozens of drug court programs. Scholars and researchers have begun to apply the rigors of scientific review and analysis to the drug court model. There is now a level of experience and expertise necessary to support an institute.

Since its creation in December 1997, NDCI has launched a comprehensive practitioner training series for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, court coordinators and treatment providers; developed a research division responsible for convening a series of research advisory committees and working groups designed to develop a scientific research agenda and publication dissemination strategy for the field; and published a monograph series on relevant issues to drug court institutionalization and expansion.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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