
INTRODUCTION

The Editorial Board is pleased to present the second issue of volume three of the *National Drug Court Institute Review* (Volume III, 2). Volume III takes a look at three important areas to the drug court field: the question of community reintegration and drug courts' involvement therein, change-focused drug courts and the application of the strengths-based approach, and integrating evidence-based substance abuse treatment into juvenile drug courts. Each of these areas represents a component of the future of the drug court movement, and each component has a role to play in furthering the institutionalization of drug courts throughout the United States.

These issues, and the information we are able to uncover about them, are important to the continued development and evolution of the drug court model.

In this issue:

- ◆ Carol Fidler, Greg Berman, and Aubrey Fox present an edited transcript of a focus group that discussed community reintegration and drug courts. This discussion raised a number of questions, including “What responsibilities do drug courts have to participants after they leave the court?” “What role should drug courts play in the process of reintegration into the community?” “When should the job of drug court end?” Out of this discussion the authors found a tentative consensus: while drug courts should be cautious about expanding their requirements for participants, drug courts should be creative in employing their symbolic authority to ease the transition of program graduates back into community life.
- ◆ Michael D. Clark, MSW, CSW, focuses on improving the effectiveness of the therapeutic approach in leading

to positive behavior change with drug court participants. Mr. Clark reviews important research taken from therapy outcome studies and identifies and discusses the four factors found in common with most effective treatment models. Mr. Clark then relates the four common factors to working with drug court participants.

- ◆ Jeff Randall, Ph.D., Colleen Halliday-Boykins, Ph.D., Phillippe B. Cunningham, Ph.D., and Scott W. Henggeler, Ph.D., discuss the importance of integrating evidence-based substance abuse treatments into juvenile drug courts. The authors present multisystemic therapy (MST) as an example of an evidence-based model that has achieved early success in this area. MST is also discussed in relationship to NIDA's Thirteen Principles of effective treatment, and specifically how MST meets those principles.
- ◆ Finally, this issue of the *NDCIR* concludes with a "Research Update" on three recent drug court research evaluations, compiled by authors of those evaluations themselves.

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.

Although the *NDCIR*'s emphasis is on scholarship and scientific research, it also provides 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 Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President and the Drug Courts Program Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

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 were 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. The level of experience and expertise necessary to support an institute now exist.

Since its creation in December 1997, NDCI has launched a comprehensive practitioner training series for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, court coordinators, treatment providers, and community supervision officers; developed a research division responsible for developing a scientific research agenda and publication dissemination strategy for the field, as well as developing a series of evaluation workshops; and published a monograph series on relevant issues to drug court institutionalization and expansion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank all those who have contributed to this issue of the *National Drug Court Institute Review*. To the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, and the Drug Courts Program Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, for the leadership, support, and collaboration that those agencies have offered to the National Drug Court Institute; and to Carol Fisler, Greg Berman, Aubrey Fox, Michael D. Clark, Dr. Jeff Randall, Dr. Colleen Halliday-Boykins, Dr. Phillippe B. Cunningham, Dr. Scott W. Henggeler, Monica M. Turley, Ashley Hollweg, Dr. Robert B. Hampson, Dr. Donald F. Anspach, and Andrew S. Feguson for their contributions as authors.

Judge Karen Freeman-Wilson (Ret.)
Executive Director
National Drug Court Institute