



# Eighth Judicial District Court

## Specialty Courts

**Elizabeth Gonzalez**

**Chief Judge**

**DeNeese Parker**

**Specialty Court Administrator**

# **Eighth Judicial District Specialty Court Programs**



**Serving 1200 – 1500  
Clark County Residents Annually**



# Specialty Court Programs

- **Substance Abuse Treatment/Co-Occurring**
  - **Adult Drug Court**
  - **Felony DUI**
  - **Mental Health Court**
  - **Juvenile Drug Court**
  - **Family Treatment Court [DFS Involvement]**
  - **Child Support Treatment Court**
  - **Veteran's Court**
  - **OPEN Court**

**1993 Nevada became one of the first states to authorize  
Specialty Courts/Drug Courts**



# Purpose of Drug Court Programs



- **Increases Public Safety**
- **Reduces Criminal Recidivism**
- **Improves Quality of Participant's Lives**
- **Restores Positive Community Involvement**
- **Saves Money**
  - Less expensive than detention
  - Reduces criminal justice costs
  - Increases productivity of participants



# Benefits of Specialty Courts

- **Provides Treatment**

- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling
- Co-Occurring Treatment
- Sober Transitional Housing
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Residential Treatment
- Case Management Services
- Mentors (Veteran's Court, Family Treatment Court, Juvenile Drug Court)
- Probation Supervision (GM/Felony)
- Drug Testing
- Medication Management (MHC)
- Medically Assisted Treatment

- + ***Regular Court Reviews***



*Without judicial oversight, 70% of substance abusing offenders drop out of treatment.*



# Eligibility Criteria



## ***Adult Drug Court:***

- (1) Involved in criminal justice system
- (2) Identified alcohol/substance abuse disorder
- (3) Violent criminal history may disqualify an applicant\*
- (4) No history of drug sales or drug trafficking\*

## ***Felony DUI Court:***

- (1) Identified alcohol/substance abuse disorder
- (2) Non-violent criminal history\*
- (3) No drug trafficking\*
- (4) Three felony DUI charges within 7 years w/no prior felony DUI convictions

*\*All applicants are considered on an individual basis and their review takes into consideration the totality of the applicant's criminal history, offense details, and social history. If an applicant is denied, the attorney may seek reconsideration from the Judge.*



# Eligibility Criteria

## Mental Health Court:

- (1) **Involved in criminal justice system**
- (2) **Clinical documentation of SMI diagnosis** (*clinical assessments, psychiatric evaluations or psychosocial assessments, etc.*)
- (3) **History of hospitalizations** (*related to auditory and/or visual hallucinations, psychosis, and/or mood instability*)
- (4) **History of treatment services** (*related to mental health services, such as medication management, individual counseling, and outpatient treatment*)
- (5) **Symptoms primarily driven by mental illness** (*and not substance abuse*)

## Veteran's Treatment Court

- (1) **Veterans/U.S. Military**
- (2) **Qualify for VA services\***
- (3) **Service-related SA or MH**
- (4) **No or low-level history of violence, no sexual offenses, or crime involving a child**

\*In order to qualify for VA benefits, a veteran or member of the U.S. Military must generally be (1) honorably discharged and (2) have been on active duty for not less than two years unless they have a service-related injury.



# Drug Courts: A Statistical Overview



## Drug Courts Reduce Crime

- 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after the program.
- Reduce crime 45% MORE than other sentencing options
- Average approximately 10-15% reduction in recidivism
- Greatest effects for high-risk offenders
  - (more serious antisocial backgrounds or poorer prognoses for success in standard treatment)

## Drug Courts Reduce Drug Use

- ***Drug Court participant's are 20% more likely to decrease their alcohol and drug use, than a non-drug court participant, substance misuser.***

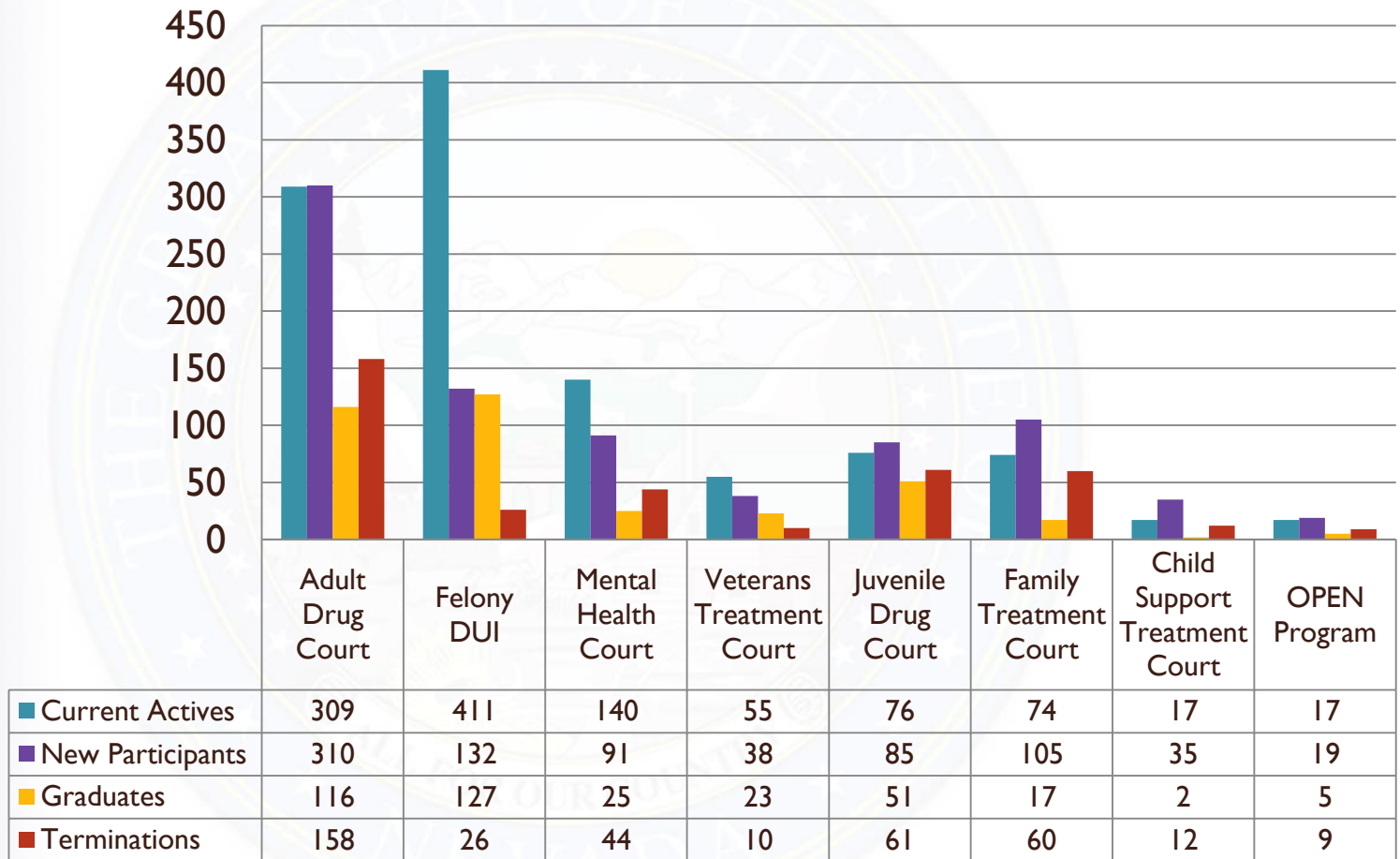
## Drug Courts Save Money

- Cost savings ranging from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per client
  - Law Enforcement
  - Judicial Costs
  - Detention
  - Community Costs





# Specialty Courts 2017 Statistics





# Program Outcomes

## ***Felony DUI Program- 9 year Study***

Graduates (912)	67%
Discharge (411)	33%
DUI Recidivism Rate	12%

\*Recidivism Rate is based upon conviction



## ***Mental Health Court Program- 2010 MHC Study***

Graduates (202)	40%
Discharges (198)	40%

## ***Reduction of Crime While in the MHC Program:***

Graduate Felony Reduction:	89%
Graduate Misdemeanor Reduction:	83%
Graduate Arrest Reduction:	78%

## ***Drug Courts Ensure Compliance***

*Drug Courts are 6x more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to find recovery*



# Drug Court Costs & Savings



## ***Funding:***

- ***SAMHSA Grant*** ***\$325,000***
  - *Expiring 9/30/2018*
- ***SAPTA Grant*** ***\$1,000,000***
  - *Expiring 6/30/2018*
- ***JAG Grant*** ***\$80,000***
- ***Client Funded (2017)*** ***\$442,225***

## ***Nevada:***

- \$155/day to house one inmate at CCDC vs. \$15.89/day for Drug Court Treatment  
\$5,800 average per participant
- SAPTA Grant for residential services has saved CCDC \$862,020.87 in the first two quarters of FY18.
- Felony DUI Court costs are paid by the program participant averaging \$554.50 a month.



# Nevada Senate Bill 445

## Veteran's Court Coordinator Funding Bill

- \$98,356.00 fiscal appropriation for FY18 and FY19
  - Veteran's Court has 55 participants
    - Court provides diversion of inmates from NDOC
  - *Cost savings over 2 years \$77,231.23*





# Current Needs

- *MHC currently has 42 individuals on a **waitlist** in CCDC*
  - 83% of MHC applicants on the waitlist are homeless.
- **Housing**
  - Waitlist and shortage of funds for sober housing
- **Residential Treatment**
  - WestCare: 75 +males and 40+ females awaiting treatment
  - CCDC: Over 65 inmates awaiting treatment behind bars
  - Freedom House: 21 males awaiting treatment
- **Best Practices** for Probation Officers in Specialty Courts
  - Best Practices: No more than 50 participants on their caseload, 30 in MHC.
    - MHC Officers have 55:1
    - FDUI Officers have 90:1
    - ADC Officer have 85:1
- **Coordinators** have over a 100 participant caseload/coordinator
  - Best Practices: Caseloads of 50:1 for Clinical Case Managers
- **Lacking Evaluation** and data regarding recidivism rates



# Future Goals



- **Housing**
  - Transitional and Permanent Housing
- **Residential Treatment**
  - Increase in Placements
- **Decrease Referral Time**
  - Time from CCDC to treatment
- **Increase IOP**
  - Intensive Outpatient Program with a Housing Component
- **Increase Supervision**
  - Increase oversight of participants
- **Decrease Caseloads**
  - Decrease Coordinator/Participant caseloads
- **Monitor and Evaluate Specialty Courts**



# The Verdict Is In

- **Specialty Courts**
  - Provide more **HUMANE + Cost Effective Justice**
  - Effective alternative to incarceration
  - Specialty Courts WORK
    - Better than jail or prison
    - Better than probation and treatment alone

***Specialty Courts are more effective than any other proven criminal justice strategy.***

NADCP



# Thank You for Being the Change



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