

Welcome to the NADCP 15th
Annual Training Conference
Saturday June 13, 2009

“Building and
Maintaining Enduring Alumni
Groups”

Drug Court Works

Now What?

Presenters:

Christine Braun, Susan Wilson and Ricardo Harris

Why An Alumni Association?

- ❑ Bridges the gap between active addiction and re-entry into the mainstream of life thru mentorship.
- ❑ A resource to create positive community based connectivity.
- ❑ Individual get a sense of being part of a bigger picture.
- ❑ Facilitates an avenue for drug free events, social activities and charity endeavors.

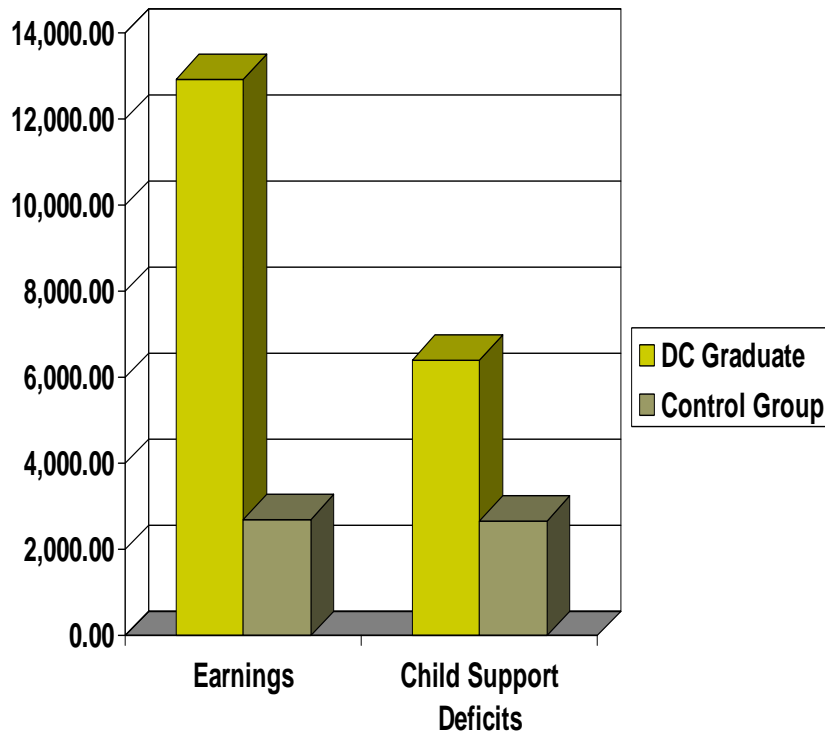


Productivity?

Graduates 12 Months After Graduation

- Drug Court graduates had higher employment rates and earned significantly more from work in the year after completing Drug Court.
- Drug Court graduates owed significantly less child support one year after Drug Court than offenders on regular probation.

Earnings and Child Support Deficit



□ Earnings:

\$12,937.00 DC Graduate

\$2,676.00 Control Group

□ Child Support Deficits

\$2,695.00 DC Graduate

\$6,410.00 Control Group



How to Structure and Implement?

- ❑ Create a sense of autonomy via a mission statement
- ❑ Develop Bi-Laws
- ❑ Location, time, agenda and minutes
- ❑ Maintain lists of graduate and contact information
- ❑ Decide roles of all involved
- ❑ Strategies for membership

XYZ Bi-Laws

□ Officers By-Laws

Requirements

1.) Sobriety time-1 year as Officer, 2 years as President.

Elections

1.) Bd. Members-Annually 3 terms max/skip 1 year before returning.

Relapse

1.) Immediate Dismissal

Attendance

1.) Any officer to miss a meeting should contact another officer/or consult prior to.

To be voted by Board member

1.) Bd. members include officers and consultant not coordinates

2.) Only Bd. members can vote not consultant.

XYZ Bi-Laws

- Coordinators Bi-laws

Requirements

- 1.) Coordinators must be in Phase 3 or After-care
- 2.) 1-3 terms max/skip 1 year before running again
- 3.) Relapse is immediate dismissal

Attendance

- 1.) Any officer to miss a meeting should contact another officer/or consult prior to.
- 2.) Missing 2 consecutive meetings or 3 meetings in a term are grounds for removal.

To be voted by Bd. members

- 1.) This is only monthly meetings not emergency meetings.
- 2.) A Graduate that relapses can come back to meetings w/ 24 hour sobriety, but cannot hold a position.

Code of Conduct

- 1.) Any questionable conduct to be discussed among officers including consultant. A vote will be held and vote on disclosure of information to alumni.



How to Motivate an Alumni Group

Define Roles

- Advisor/cheerleader=DC Staff
- Officers and Coordinators=participants and Graduates

Promote Attendance and “New Recruits”

Assign Responsibilities

Publicizing Meetings and Newsletters



Alumni Activities

- ❑ Sponsoring Social Functions
- ❑ Servicing the Drug Court
- ❑ Fundraising for Community Endeavors
- ❑ Supporting Charities
- ❑ Relapse Prevention Clinics



Effective Strategies to Maintain Membership

- Word of Mouth Recruiting by Current Members
- Persistence in Contacting Graduates
- Publishing a newsletter
- Involving Alumni in Drug Court Activities
- Mandatory Attendance by Later Phase Participants



Problems that were/are Encountered

and their Resolutions- **Most Serious**

DCCTAP Survey in 2002 one of our courts responses VS. Today

PROBLEM:

- Graduates hopefully go on with their lives and attend AA/NA meetings regularly.
- Keeping them coming back.

STRATEGIE:

- Keep in touch with the graduates.
- Outreach with ease instead of squeeze by Graduates and DC Staff



Barriers to Maintaining an Alumni Group

- ❑ Change in Leadership
- ❑ Conflicts in Scheduling
- ❑ Lack of Knowledge about Group Structure and Organization and Meeting Conduct
- ❑ Sustaining Interest and Growth of the Group



Strategies for Addressing Barriers

- ❑ Encouragement of Strong Leaders to Step Up
- ❑ Consistency in Meeting Times and Locations
- ❑ Recruiting Outside Help for the Unknown
- ❑ Continued Communication and Interaction between current members, new grads. and Drug Court employees



Most Frequent Improvements Noted

- ❑ Providing Aftercare Support and Relapse Prevention
- ❑ Include Speakers at Meetings
- ❑ Publish a Periodic Newsletter
- ❑ Send out Minutes of Meetings for Absent Members
- ❑ Increasing the Range of Activities Conducted



Most Common Advise

- ❑ PATIENCE, PATIENCE, PATIENCE
- ❑ Involvement of Participants PRIOR to Graduation
- ❑ Designate a Drug Court Employee to coordinate (NOT RUN) the Program
- ❑ Keep a Clear Boundary Between the Alumni Program and Recovery Fellowship

Resources:

- How to Develop and Sustain a Drug Treatment Court Alumni Group. American University School of Public Affairs Justice Programs Office. OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project. Sherry Lintz. November 2000.
- Good Beginnings. American University School of Public Affairs Justice Programs Office. OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project. Elizabeth Costello and Robyn Johnson. March 2002.
- Personal Experience of the northern Kentucky Drug Courts Employees, Drug Court Participants and Graduates.



QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Thank You and Have

a Safe Trip Home.

