

Southern Illinois Drug Awareness Conference
Back Bigger Better

Problem Solving Court Overview

Carey C. Gill, Cir. Judge

<http://firstcircuitil.org/drug-and-veterans-court>

Drug / Veteran's Court Team

- ▶ Judge
- ▶ State's Attorney
- ▶ Public Defender
- ▶ PSC Coordinator
- ▶ Probation Officers
- ▶ Law Enforcement
- ▶ Veteran's Justice Outreach Coordinator
- ▶ Substance Abuse Counselor(s)
- ▶ Clinical Supervisor(s)
- ▶ Mental Health Counselor(s)
- ▶ Peer Support Counselors



Goals of Problem Solving Court:

- ▶ Address high risk/high need individuals, using evidence based practices.
- ▶ Reduce rate of recidivism.
- ▶ Keep community safe/ beneficial to community.
- ▶ Utilization of resources: treatment vs. incarceration.

Underlying purpose:

To succeed when regular probation failed.

- ▶ PSC Standards - Supreme Court.
- ▶ Drug Court Treatment Act (730 ILCS 166/1 et seq.)
- ▶ Mental Health Court Treatment Act (730 ILCS 168/1 et seq.)
- ▶ Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act (730 ILCS 167/1 et seq.)

List of Prohibited Participants/Charges

- ▶ First Degree Murder / Second Degree Murder
- ▶ Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child
- ▶ Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault / Criminal Sexual Assault
- ▶ Armed Robbery
- ▶ Aggravated Arson / Arson
- ▶ Aggravated Kidnaping / Kidnaping
- ▶ Aggravated Battery resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disability
- ▶ Aggravated Stalking / Stalking
- ▶ Any offense involving the discharge of a firearm

Tracks for Entry Into PSC

- ▶ Track I - Pre-trial
- ▶ Track II - Guilty plea, no sentencing
- ▶ Track III - Guilty plea and sentencing

PSC Manual & PSC Participant Handbook
Special Sentencing Orders

Requirements for Participants

- ▶ Screening (referral form), acceptance, and entry via one of the 3 tracks.
- ▶ 18-24 months in Program.
- ▶ Team meets every week / Court appearance every week.
- ▶ Probation appointments 3xs per week.
- ▶ Drug testing randomly 3xs per week.
- ▶ Self-help meetings 5xs per week.

Incentives

- Verbal praise
- Compliments
- Hand shake or standing ovation
- Restaurant gift certificate
- Curfew, travel, overnight travel
- Letters of recommendation, permit participant to obtain a job
- Candy, chips, or awards

Therapeutic Adjustments

- Increase treatment
 - Counseling
 - Self help meetings or support groups
- Inpatient, or intensive outpatient
- Adjust living arrangements / Transfer location of treatment
- Peer support counseling

Sanctions

- Reading/Writing assignment / Letter of apology
- Community service
- Increase support meetings, hearings, drug testing, probation appointments
- Court observation
- Incarceration
- Termination

Why PSCs Work...

- ▶ PSC Standards - Evidence based practices
- ▶ Non-adversarial
 - ▶ Decisions considered by entire team
- ▶ Incentives/sanctions close in time to actions
- ▶ Weekly court
- ▶ Time with judge: minimum 3 minutes every week
- ▶ Treatment continually reviewed & adjusted
- ▶ Treat the “whole person”

Williamson County Statistics

- ▶ Total of participants sentenced: 31
 - 4 Veterans Court, 27 Drug Court
- Revoked: 5
 - All sentenced to the Department of Corrections
- Withdrawals from the program: 1
- Current Problem-Solving Court Participants: 15
 - 1 Veterans Court, 14 Drug Court
- Graduates: 10
 - 3 Veterans Court, 7 Drug Court

Williamson County Statistics

- ▶ As of January 2024, none of the 10 graduates have had any further arrests.
- ▶ Recidivism rate of 0%.
- ▶ Of the 31 individuals sentenced to the Williamson County Problem-Solving Courts, only 6 did not complete successfully.
- ▶ If all current participants complete their respected program successfully, that will mean a success rate of 81%.

Logistics of Expansion

- ▶ Expansion of Veteran's / Drug Court
 - ▶ Role of Team Members
 - ▶ Other county's State's Attorney
 - ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Housing needs
- ▶ AOIC Requirements / Best Practices
- ▶ PSC Standards

Questions???

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