## Southern Illinois Drug Awareness Conference Back Bigger Better

Problem Solving Court Overview

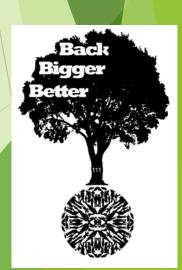
Carey C. Gill, Cir. Judge

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
  - o 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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