

**OVERVIEW OF JAIL-BASED TREATMENT AND REENTRY
FOCUS GROUP (APRIL 1, 1999)**



Overview of Focus Group Discussion

Jail-Based Treatment and Re-Entry Focus Group

April 11, 1999

Convened by the
National Drug Court Institute
National Sheriffs' Association



**THE NATIONAL
DRUG COURT
INSTITUTE**

MISSION STATEMENT

Re-entry Courts

Re-entry courts are drug courts that come into play when the offender enters a jail-based treatment program. The offender is involved in regular judicial monitoring, supported through recovery and ultimately prepared for re-entry into the community. This team-based approach supports jail-based treatment values, monitors accountability, provides rewards and penalties, and prepares the offender for re-entry into a community-based drug court program.



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Jail-Based Treatment

Jail-based treatment begins the process of personal change through comprehensive substance abuse and other treatment while the offender is incapacitated and held accountable in a jail setting, thus protecting the community by providing the tools for a future non-criminal/drug free life style, and preparing the offender for re-entry into the community once released.

Jail-Based Treatment: Issues to Consider

1. Jails: A Therapeutic Environment?

- 11 million offenders pass through American jails each year.
- 70 percent of those tested resulting positive for recent drug use.
- Over ½ of arrested offenders already under supervision.
- 7 out of 10 jail inmates had prior sentences to probation or prison and four out of 10 had served three plus sentences.
- Only 7% of the 1700 jails nationwide offer 10 or more hours of substance abuse services per week.

Question: What are jails fundamentally for?

- Protect Society
- Pretrial Detainment
- Punishment

Question: Can they serve a therapeutic role?

- Eligibility Screening
- Treatment Assessment
- Social Detoxification
- Delivery of Initial Treatment Services
- In-Custody Substance Abuse Treatment Services
- Education Services
- Medical Services
- Mental Health Services
- Job Readiness/Training
- Sexual Abuse Counseling
- Domestic Violence Counseling

2. The Need for Jail-Based Treatment Linkages with Drug Courts.

Question: Why initiate this link?

Drug Court:

- Take Advantage of Wasted Incarcerative Time
- Social Detox and Stabilization
- Treat While Punish
- Begin the Treatment Process / Head-Start in Treatment Process
- Place to Treat While Waiting For In-Patient Bed
- Keep Participant Engaged in Treatment

Jail-Based Treatment Program:

- Inmate Control and Accountability
- Seamless Continuum of Care
- Increased Participant Motivation
- Power of the Drug Court Judge and Team
- Linkage to Community Support
- Safety Net When Released Back Into Community
- Weaning Process from Program (Aftercare)
- Save Jail Space Though Lower Return Rates (“Otis”)

3. Jail Staff Support

Treatment Program Concerns:

- The Key to Success
- Sheriff, Commanders, Jail Administrators, Supervisors
- Officer Attitudes Toward Inmate Services Have a Great Influence on Inmates' Attitudes
- Cross-Training in Treatment and Therapeutic Issues
- Mutual Understanding of Each Other's Roles

Jail Concerns:

- Programs Must Not Interfere With Security.
- Programs Must Not Interfere With the Daily Operations of the Facility. (Count, Meals, Jobs, and Community Work Programs).
- Treatment Staff Must Not Neglect Security Issues
- Treatment Staff Need Experience in Correctional Settings
- Training of Treatment Staff In Jail Orientation:
 - Facility Rules
 - Information Flow
 - Security and Safety Policy and Procedures
 - "Offender Games"

4. Program Space

- Segregated Unit (Therapeutic Environment)
- Non Segregated Unit
- Evening Programming
- Work Schedules/ Trustee Status

5. Effective Programming

- Long Term Treatment
- Comprehensive
- Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment for Male Offenders
- Client-Centered Treatment for Female Offenders
- Abuse Counseling
- 12-Step Recovery Programs
- Relapse Prevention
- Group Counseling
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Criminality
- Life-Skills
- Open-ended
- Closed-ended
- Aftercare

The Drug Court's Role: Issues to Consider

1. Staffings:

- May Occur Before Re-Entry Drug Court Hearing
- May Not Be Needed

2. Regular Drug Court Appearances:

- Reassurance and Support
- Beginning Relationships With Drug Court Judge and Staff
- Reminder for Offender of Goals
- Immediate Intervention if Problems Exist
- Structural Accountability
- Standardization of Reporting

3. The Importance of the Judge:

- Same Judge Throughout Process
- Familiarity
- Parental Figure
- Motivation

- **Reinforcements**
 - *Sanctions*
 - “Reality Checks” of Consequences for Behavior
 - Extend Jail-Time/ Delay Release
 - *Incentives*
 - Extend Monitoring and Other Requirements
 - Reduce Jail-Time (Negative Reinforcement)
 - Admonishment

- **Release**
 - Graduation
 - Celebration
 - Applause and Affirmation
 - Recommendations and Expectations
 - Community Treatment Referrals