



FAMILY DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT



THIRD DISTRICT JUVENILE COURT

Salt Lake County, Utah

The Need

- ◆ *The age group 18 – 45 are the most likely to engage in substance abuse*
- ◆ *Women represent 64% of methamphetamine users in need of treatment*
- ◆ *50% of drug abusing women who become pregnant, continue to use drugs while pregnant*

The Need

- ◆ *Nationally, drugs are a factor in 80% of child abuse and neglect cases*
- ◆ *According to the National Institute of Health*
 - *1 out of every 3 children live in a family struggling with substance abuse issues*
 - *Children live in 30% to 40% of meth lab homes*
 - *The presence and use of drugs is the number one cause of child abuse and neglect*

The Need in Salt Lake County

- ◆ *8,919 CPS cases were investigated in 2005*
- ◆ *There were 4,898 supported child victims of abuse and neglect*
- ◆ *1,175 child victims had drug abuse officially listed as a contributing factor in their abuse and neglect*

Behavioral Indicators of Drug Exposed Children

- ◆ *Depression*
- ◆ *Anxiety*
- ◆ *Eating disorders*
- ◆ *Interpersonal problems*
- ◆ *Difficulty adjusting to change*
- ◆ *2 to 4 times more likely to experience addiction issues in their lives*

Emotional Indicators of Drug Exposed Children

- ◆ *PTSD*
- ◆ *Attachment Disorder*
- ◆ *Low Self Esteem*
- ◆ *Guilt and Self Blame*
- ◆ *No Values*
- ◆ *Helplessness and Hopelessness*

Treatment Referrals

- ◆ *What happens when clients are referred to treatment without court involvement?*
 - *50% to 60% of clients don't show for intake*
 - *40% to 80% of clients drop out in 3 months*
 - *90% of clients drop out in 12 months*
 - *Of clients who remain in treatment, 40% to 60% are abstinent at one year*
 - *Of the clients who were initially referred to treatment, less than 2% will be abstinent at one year*

Child Welfare Requirements

- ◆ *Adoption and Safe Families Act – ASFA*
 - *Permanency hearing must be held within 12 months of child entering foster care*
- ◆ *Utah Law parallels ASFA*
 - *Permanency hearing must be held within 12 months of child entering foster care*
 - *Permanency hearing must be held within 8 months if the child is 36 months of age or younger*
 - *The Court can grant a 90 day extension if it finds substantial compliance with the treatment plan*



The Mission



. . . of the Family Dependency Drug Court is to treat substance abuse addiction through an intense and concentrated program to preserve families and protect children.

Key Factors



- ◆ *Teamwork*
- ◆ *Early Identification and Assessment*
- ◆ *Expedited Treatment Interventions*
- ◆ *Accountability/Detectability*
- ◆ *Ongoing Judicial Supervision*

The Drug Court Team

- ◆ *Judge*
- ◆ *Attorney General*
- ◆ *Guardian Ad Litem*
- ◆ *Defense Counsel*
- ◆ *DCFS Drug Court Specialist*
- ◆ *Treatment Specialist*
- ◆ *Coordinator*



Family Dependency Drug Courts



◆ *Third District Juvenile Court*

- *Judge Christine Decker – West Jordan*
- *Judge Kimberly Hornak – Salt Lake/Matheson*
- *Judge Frederic Oddone – Salt Lake/Matheson*
- *Judge Robert Yeates – Salt Lake/Matheson*

Admission Criteria

- ◆ *The court finds the children are the victims of abuse and/or neglect*
- ◆ *The parent acknowledges that substance abuse affects their ability to parent*
- ◆ *The parent does not present with*
 - *Severe mental illness*
 - *Felony conviction for violent acts*
 - *Is not a convicted sex offender*

Treatment Matching

- ◆ *Participant's needs are determined through a clinical substance abuse assessment.*
- ◆ *Participants are placed in treatment per the findings of the assessment and through collaborative discussion.*
- ◆ *The participant's behavioral and personality profile are matched to the treatment provider's program and service delivery system.*

Treatment Services

A full compliment of services are provided, including:

- *Detox*
- *Residential treatment – including:*
 - *Women and children programming*
 - *Father's and children programming*
- *Day treatment programming*
- *Intensive outpatient services*
- *Outpatient services*
- *Aftercare*

Incentives



Frequently used incentives include:

- ◆ *Judicial acknowledgement and commendation*
- ◆ *Drug court team recognition and support*
- ◆ *Drug court peer recognition and support*
- ◆ *Reduced frequency of judicial reviews*
- ◆ *Step down in treatment regime*
- ◆ *Medallions*

Sanctions

Sanctions are imposed for:

- *Positive, missed, or diluted drug screens*
- *Failure to attend treatment or leaving treatment*
- *Failure to engage treatment*
- *Failure to comply with other specified court orders*

Sanctions

- ◆ *Sanctions are graduated and tailored to the violation and the participant*
- ◆ *Most common sanctions include:*
 - *Jail*
 - *Essays/Reports*
 - *Community service*
 - *Increased frequency of judicial review*
 - *Other – specific to the participant*

Graduation Requirements



- ◆ *At least 8 months participation in drug court with at least 6 months of sobriety*
- ◆ *All legal matters have been resolved*
- ◆ *Participant has obtained a 12 step sponsor*
- ◆ *The participant has established a consistent level of progress and compliance*
- ◆ *The participant has been reunified with their children*
- ◆ *The participant has completed a life plan that includes aftercare*

Family Dependency Drug Court A National Evaluation

- ◆ *A study of Family Dependency Drug Courts indicate:*
 - *There is improved collaboration between agencies and better parent compliance with service plan requirements*
 - *There is a more elaborate support system for families while ensuring child safety*
 - *There is heightened judicial oversight of children and families*

Family Dependency Drug Court A National Evaluation

- ◆ *Drug court parents are motivated to get treatment they would otherwise not receive*
- ◆ *Drug court parents are more likely to enter treatment, spend more time in treatment, and are more likely to complete treatment than parents in comparison groups*
- ◆ *Parents are more likely to be reunified with their children*

Family Dependency Drug Court Third District Juvenile Court

◆ *Participant Profile*

- *79% of the participants are women*
- *70% of the women are single mothers*
- *The participants have an average of 2 dependent children*
- *The average age of participants is 29*
- *58% have a high school diploma*
- *72% identify meth as their drug of choice*

Family Dependency Drug Court Third District Juvenile Court

- ◆ *The drug court serves approximately 140 parents a year*
- ◆ *There are approximately 50 parents involved in the drug court program at any given time*
- ◆ *58% of the parents successfully graduate from drug court*

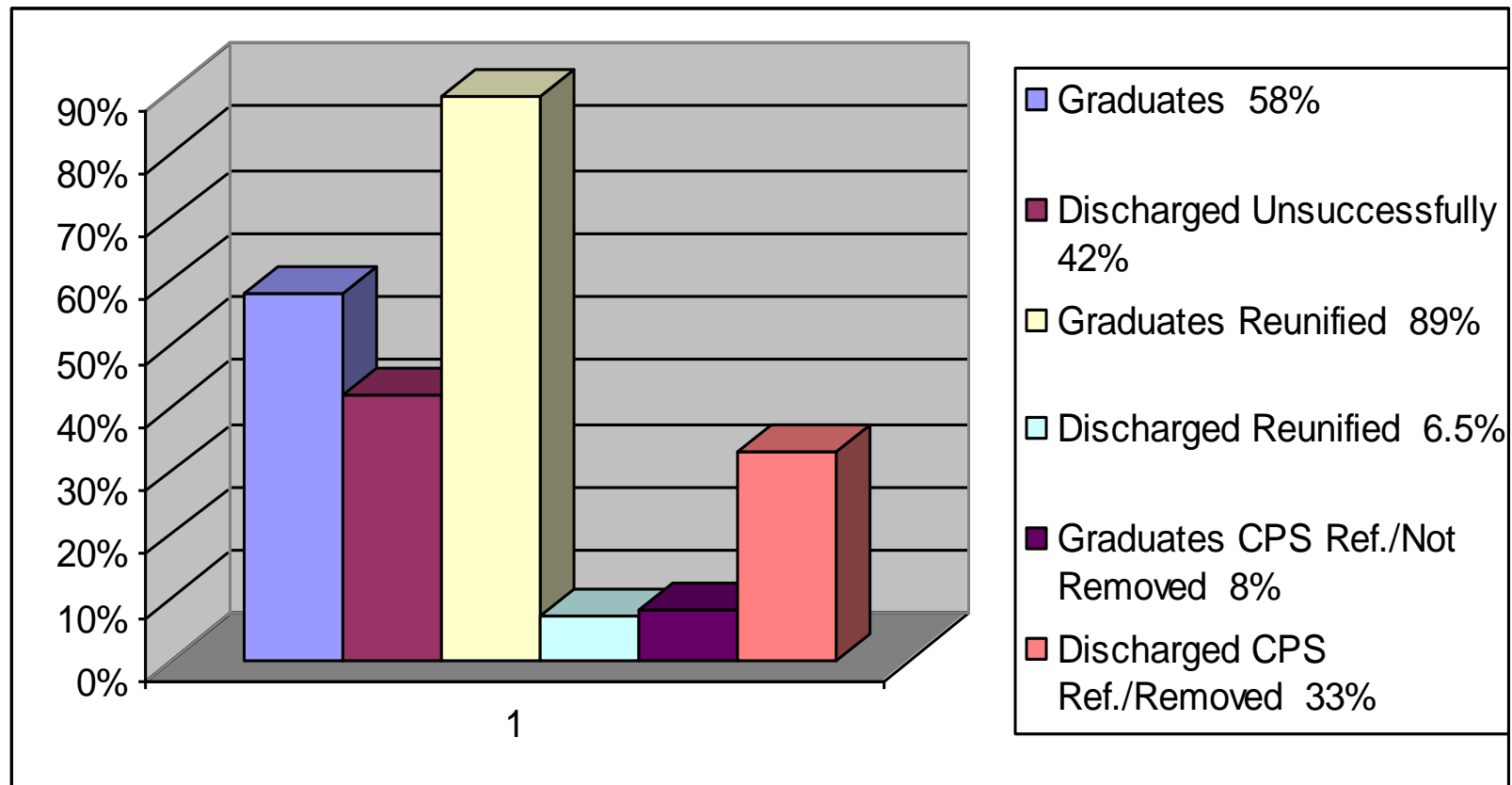
Family Dependency Drug Court Third District Juvenile Court

- ◆ *Data indicates, of the parents who successfully graduated from drug court:*
 - *89% of graduates were reunified with their children*
 - *8% had subsequent substantiated CPS referrals within 6 months of their drug court completion date*
 - *None of the CPS investigations resulted in the children being removed a second time*

Family Dependency Drug Court Third District Juvenile Court

- ◆ *Data indicates, of the parents who were discharged unsuccessfully from drug court:*
 - *6.5% of the parents were reunified with their children*
 - *33% of the cases in which reunification occurred, the children were subsequently removed a second time within 6 months of the parent's discharge from drug court*

Family Dependency Drug Court Third District Juvenile Court



Family Dependency Drug Court

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