

Adair/Casey Counties Adult Drug Court Implementation Evaluation

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PREFACE

Need for Adult Drug Court in Kentucky

Though Kentucky recidivism rates have decreased slightly in recent years, both generally and specific to drug crimes, rates remain high. The most recent data provided by the Kentucky Department of Corrections reported that 7,579 inmates were released in 2000 from adult institutions in Kentucky and 27.5% of them returned to prison within two years (Kentucky Department of Corrections, 2002). The rate of recidivism for drug offenders in 2000 was higher than the overall recidivism rate at 28.7%. Arrests for narcotic law violations increased from 34,082 in 2000 to 36,551 in 2003 (12.1% and 15.7% of total arrests respectively; Kentucky State Police, 2004).

Additionally, during a large-scale needs assessment of prisoners in Kentucky, Leukefeld et al. (1999) found that 59% of Kentucky inmates were dependent on substances and that inmate illicit drug use one month prior to incarceration was 20 times higher than use in the general population. In response to the rising costs of incarceration and increased numbers of drug related arrests and recidivism, Kentucky's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) established a Drug Court department in July 1996, to provide fiscal and administrative oversight to all Drug Court programs in the state.

The motto for Kentucky Drug Court is "A chance...a change" and Kentucky Drug Court is aligned with the more than 1000 Drug Courts in operation across the United States. Reflecting the philosophy of therapeutic jurisprudence (Hora, 2002), the mission of Drug Court is to create a criminal justice environment in Kentucky that is effective in both eliminating illicit drug use and related criminal activity while promoting recovery and reintegration into society, emphasizing public safety and fair representation of all interests under the laws of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky. Drug Court programs in Kentucky represent a team-oriented effort that brings together professionals from the criminal justice system, the treatment delivery system, and the community who are focused on combining intensive criminal justice supervision with drug abuse treatment. This combination of intensive supervision and treatment holds offenders accountable for their actions and provides an atmosphere that has been shown to be effective in reducing recidivism and drug use and for improving employment rates among Kentucky drug offenders (Logan, Hiller, Minton, & Leukefeld, in press).

All adult Drug Courts in Kentucky are grounded in the 10 Key Components described in the publication *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components* (United States Department of Justice, 1997). These 10 Key Components were developed by the Drug Court Standards Committee to ensure that a core set of standards were defined for all Drug Court programs to follow. Drug Court programs in Kentucky are required to adhere to a programmatic model developed by Administrative Office of the Courts that fulfills the standards set forth in the 10 Key Components. Individual programs vary to a certain degree in exactly how each of these standards are fulfilled since the 10 Key Components are intended to be somewhat flexible. These guidelines provide an important standard by which to measure whether a particular Drug Court has been successfully implemented in the manner intended by the U. S. Department of Justice.

At the time of this evaluation, Kentucky had 27 operational adult Drug Courts, 10 operational juvenile Drug Courts, and 2 operational family Drug Courts (Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, available online), and many more Drug Courts are in the planning process.

Need for the Adair/Casey Counties Adult Drug Court Program

Many of the crimes in the counties served by this program are drug or alcohol related. For example, in Adair County during 2003, 84 arrests were made for driving under the influence (DUI), 22 arrests were made for drunkenness, 79 arrests were made for narcotic drug law offenses, and 25 arrests were made for liquor law offenses, accounting for 47% of Adair County arrests in 2003. In Casey County during 2003, 126 arrests were made for driving under the influence (DUI), 42 arrests were made for drunkenness, 48 arrests were made for narcotic drug offenses, and 32 arrests were made for liquor law offenses, which accounted for 62% of Casey County arrests in 2003. (Kentucky State Police, 2004).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report is a process evaluation of the Adair/Casey Counties Adult Drug Court program for the months of May 2004 through February 2005. At the time of this report the Drug Court was in its first year of operation and four participants were actively participating in the program.

The evaluation is comprised of qualitative and quantitative data regarding Drug Court procedures and regulations as well as participant supervision and treatment. University of Kentucky researchers from the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research attended staffing and court sessions, met individually with team members, and conducted a focus group with the Drug Court team. Monthly statistics submitted to the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts were also reviewed as well as statistics collected from program records.

Results from this process evaluation showed that the Henry/Oldham/Trimble Drug Court is in accordance with the 10 Key Components, a national standard for effective Drug Court operations. The Drug Court program accepts individuals who are non-violent felony offenders and have a history of substance abuse. The team is comprised of criminal justice and treatment professionals who have joined in an effort to reduce the level of crime in the community and to provide treatment to individuals who have been caught in a cycle of drug abuse. Members of the Drug Court team have developed inclusionary and exclusionary criteria in order to identify and enroll eligible candidates. Substance abuse treatment is a priority and to that end the Drug Court has established relationships with a wide variety of treatment facilities. Treatment professionals from The Adanta Group, Inc. attend all staffing and court sessions as well as provide individual and group therapy to Drug Court participants. Residential facilities such as Volta, VOA, Lifeskills, Riverdale, Crossroads, Communicare, and Spectrum, work with the Drug Court program to provide a more intense level of treatment when necessary. Team members have also partnered with area community service agencies such as the Salvation Army and social services offices. Participants can rely on these agencies for basic and emergency assistance if necessary. Supervision is a critical component of this court; therefore, methods have been developed to help ensure participant compliance. Strict drug testing procedures are in place as well as a regulated and graduated sanction policy to address acts of non-compliance. Team members involved in this program have successfully networked with a large number of community resources which are willing to lend their support and services to participants.

The Adair/Casey Drug Court has made significant steps in its first year of operation toward becoming a successful program. Team members continually strive to increase enrollment and improve treatment options. By using up-to-date treatment methods and establishing a judicially supervised, yet personal, relationship with each participant, the Drug Court team has begun a unique and valuable program within the community.

PROCESS EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Developing a specialized court takes extensive planning and program development processes. In order to document the tasks and outcomes of the tasks of these new specialized courts, a process evaluation methodology was employed for this study.

Utilizing a process evaluation methodology has several advantages. One advantage is that it allows the program to not only document, but also later revisit initial steps to determine what aspects of the program are successful and perhaps what aspects of the program need revision or enhancement. Additionally, a process evaluation may explain why participants are successful or not successful in completing the program. Finally, process evaluations are essential for replication of future programs.

For the process evaluation piece of the Adair/Casey Counties Drug Court Evaluation, the research team conducted interviews with Drug Court coordinators and Judges, conducted focus groups with key Drug Court personnel, observed treatment team “staffings,” conducted court observations, and abstracted relevant data from Drug Court participant case files.

Interviews

The research team conducted structured face to face interviews with the Drug Court coordinator as well as the Drug Court Judge using instruments which collected both quantitative and qualitative data (see Logan, Lewis, Leukefeld, & Minton, 2000). The Drug Court Judge Interview assessed level of prior experience with the target population, the perceived potential impact of the Drug Court on the community and judicial system, the Judge’s role in determination of program eligibility, overall capacity, consequences for failing the program,

services needed, planned level of supervision, and the types of graduated sanctions and rewards used. The Drug Court Administrator Interview is a comprehensive questionnaire that detailed the specific operational characteristics of the Drug Court program. Specific sections highlight the target population, program goals, program organization and function (e.g., recruitment, capacity, assessment, and services), supervision practices, staff characteristics, and community organization involvement.

Court Observation

The court observation allowed members of the research team to collect data regarding the interactional (exchanges between the judge, court staff, and participants) and environmental (physical characteristics of the setting) variables of the Drug Court session. Data were coded using a protocol developed by Satel (1998) during a national study of 15 adult Drug Court programs. The method involved measuring the session on 17 specific characteristics that focused upon the interaction between the Drug Court judge and participants (including eye contact, physical proximity of the judge to the participant, participant presence in the court room throughout the entire session, and time spent with each participant) and the court room setting (including seating arrangements and ambient noise level). In addition, Drug Court staff were asked to rate how typical the observed sessions were for regular court operations. A copy of the observation coding sheet is attached as Appendix B.

Monthly AOC Statistical Reports

All active Drug Courts in Kentucky, including the Adair/Casey Counties Adult Drug Court, are required to submit monthly reports to the Administrative Office of the Courts. These

reports summarize the number of candidates referred, assessed and eligible, and the number transferred from probation. Also reported are data regarding sanctions, court sessions, urinalysis screens, treatment sessions, employment and educational status, employment and housing verifications, new charges, and terminations. For the current evaluation, monthly statistics reports from May, 2004 through February, 2005 were reviewed and analyzed.

Program Documentation

Several other sources of program documentation also were reviewed for the process evaluation. These included copies of the grant application submitted by the court for funding, handbooks provided by the Drug Court to its participants to outline the design and expectations of the program, and the policy and procedure manuals for the court.

Focus Group and Logic Model

A focus group also was conducted during the process evaluation with Drug Court team members. The goal of the focus group session was to synthesize a comprehensive description of program elements for this Drug Court using a “logic model” approach. A preformatted logic flow model (adapted from Harrell, 1996) was completed during a researcher-led focus group to help Drug Court staff to articulate specific goals, outputs, and activities for their Drug Court, with special emphasis placed on identifying links between specific program activities and their influence on the stated goals and objectives. The logic model figure and accompanying text can be found later in the report under Key Component eight.

Geographic Location and Context of the Adair/Casey Counties Drug Court.

The main office of the Adair/Casey Counties Adult Drug Court program is located in Columbia, KY (Adair County) which also serves as the county seat. Adair County sits in the Pennyriple area of the state, covers approximately 407 square miles and in 2000 reported approximately 42 people per square mile. (Kentucky Atlas & Gazetteer) The 2000 US Census Bureau reported that the population estimate for Adair County was 17,458 residents. US Census figures also indicate that 96% of Adair County's population was Caucasian, 2.6% were African-American, and 0.8% Hispanic.

As of fiscal year 2002, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) had defined Adair county as economically "transitional," meaning that it had met one of the three criteria used to identify economic transition¹. The per capita income reported for Adair County in 2001 was \$17,317, 56.9% of the national average per capita income for that year. The unemployment rate in that same year was 4.8%, and increased to 5.4% in 2002. In 2000, Adair County had 3,954 residents living below the poverty level. This reflects a 24% poverty rate, which was much higher than the national average at 12.4%. Educational data regarding the population provides that in 2000, 60.17% of the county's population had completed a high school degree, while only 10.9% had completed a college degree (ARC, retrieved online April, 2005).

Casey County is located in the Pennyriple and Outer Bluegrass regions of the state covering approximately 446 square miles. Statistics for 2000 reported approximately 35 people per square mile. (Kentucky Atlas & Gazetteer). The 2000 US Census Bureau reported that the population estimate for Casey County was 15,447 residents. US Census figures also indicate that 98.3% of Casey County's population was Caucasian, 0.3% were African-American, and 1.3%

¹ Transitional counties are classified as those that are below the national average for one or more of the three economic indicators (three-year average unemployment, per capita market income, and poverty) but do not satisfy the criteria of the distressed category. (Appalachian Regional Commission)

were Hispanic. As of fiscal year 2002, the ARC had defined Casey county as economically “distressed,” meaning that it had met one of the three criteria used to identify economic distress.² The per capita income reported for Casey County in 2001 was \$16,666, 54.8% of the national average per capita income for that year. The unemployment rate in that same year was 8.3%, higher than the national rate at 4.7%. In 2000, Casey County had 3,885 residents living below the poverty level. This reflects a 25.5% poverty rate which was more than double the national average at 12.4%. Educational data regarding the population provides that in 2000, 57.4% of the county’s population had completed a high school degree, while only 7.4% had completed a college degree (ARC, retrieved online April, 2005).

FINDINGS: DURING PROGRAM IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

The findings presented in this section are comprised of information gathered from the Administrative and Judicial interviews, focus group, participant observation, and participant files. These data were examined and are presented within the context of the 10 Key Components (Drug Court Programs Office, 1997).

Key Component #1. Drug Courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

The Adair/Casey Drug Court is a cohesive group of treatment and criminal justice professionals committed to the program and to the participants The treatment coordinator, who

² Distressed counties are the most economically depressed counties. These counties have a three-year average unemployment rate that is at least 1.5 times the national average; a per capita market income that is two-thirds or less of the national average; and a poverty rate that is at least 1.5 times the national average; OR they have 2 times the national poverty rate and qualify on the unemployment or income indicator. (Appalachian Regional Commission)

transferred from another Drug Court in the state, has attended numerous Drug Court trainings and workshops and brings a vast amount of experience to the team. The Judge works closely with the team by attending all staffing sessions and contacting the treatment coordinator on a regular basis to monitor the participants' progress. Other members of the Drug Court team include defense and prosecution attorneys, probation and parole officers, and citizens from the area who volunteer their time and efforts to the program.

In order to fully incorporate the treatment aspect of the Drug Court philosophy, the team includes staff from The Adanta Group, Inc., a state-funded substance abuse treatment facility located in both Adair and Casey counties. Therapists from Adanta, as well as representatives from other local treatment agencies have been active in the Drug Court since its inception.

All team members work closely together to help each participant successfully reach their goals and graduate from the program. Because the Adair/Casey counties Drug Court includes a broad representation of both treatment and criminal justice professionals, the team is able to provide a wide range of services to participants.

Key Component #2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

Participant observation findings from the court and staffing sessions indicate that the prosecutors and defense attorneys work together within their team to help in the participants' recovery process and cessation of criminal activities. The team works closely together to develop a shared understanding of the values, goals, and operating procedures of both the treatment and justice system components. Staff members are always welcome to voice opinions with the knowledge that everyone's comments are taken into consideration. In this way the due process rights of the participants are ensured as well as the balanced success of the program.

Key Component #3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Drug Court program.

Since the beginning of the program the Adair/Casey counties Drug Court team has worked toward increasing participant enrollment. Team members continue to examine ways to more efficiently identify and assess potential Drug Court candidates. Although participant numbers fall short of the original target, team members are cognizant of this obstacle and are committed to increasing enrollment.

Referrals, eligibility, and admission procedures.

The Drug Court program in Adair and Casey counties is designed to accept candidates on either a diversion or probation track. When a participant successfully completes the program the case is dismissed or probation is completed. However, if a participant fails to graduate from the program, the original case is scheduled for final sentencing, or, if the participant is on a probation track, his/her case will be scheduled for a revocation hearing.

Most potential candidates are introduced to the program by their attorney or the Judge. Other individuals learn about Drug Court by word-of-mouth or through brochures. When the candidate is informed about Drug Court by his/her attorney they are given a list of program requirements (Table 1). By reviewing Drug Court rules and regulations prior to entering Drug Court, participants are better able to assess their ability to actively engage in and complete the program.

In order to qualify for the Drug Court program, participants must meet certain inclusionary criteria. Candidates must have a felony charge that is related to substance abuse

issues. The Drug Court accepts both males and females and, as this is an adult program, all participants must be over the age of 18. Participants with trafficking offenses are excluded from the program; however, individuals may be considered if they have sold drugs solely to fund their own drug habit.

Table 1.

Adair and Casey County Drug Court Requirements 2004

The following may change at any time and is only an attempt to provide potential participants with a partial list of the requirements of the Drug Court Program. Potential participants must be able to meet all the listed requirements. Transportation is not provided at this time and is the responsibility of the participant.

1. All participants are required to write in a journal on a daily basis.
2. All participants must attend random drug testing 3 times each week for no less than two months, then 2 times per week for no less than 6 months, then 1 time per week for no less than 4 months. A 1-800 phone number will be provided. Each morning participants are to call the 1-800 number where they will hear a message detailing who will be tested that day. The message will also indicate when and where testing will occur.
3. All participants must attend 2 therapy sessions each week for no less than two months, then one therapy session a week for no less than 10 months. The therapy sessions must be provided by a licensed facility. The participant is responsible for a minimal payment for outpatient counseling sessions usually \$2.00 per session depending on ability to pay. Residential treatment utilized as needed and payment will be discussed on an individual basis.
4. All participants will attend a court session 2 times per month for no less than 8 months and 1 time each month for no less than 4 months. Court is currently held in Adair County at 8am CST at the Adair County courthouse on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday following the first Monday of each month.
5. All participants must be employed. If you are unable to find work or otherwise are unable to hold a job you must complete 20 hours of directly supervised and documented community service each week.
6. All participants are required to attend 3 self-help meetings each week. You will be provided with a list of meetings with locations in your area.
7. All participants must maintain court-approved housing.
8. All who do not have a high school diploma or a GED will be required to work no less than 5 hours per week on obtaining a GED. If you are unable to read, you will be required to attend adult literacy classes.
9. All participants must begin making arrangements for payment of court obligations including fines and child support.
10. Curfew for all participants is 11pm. This will be verified on a regular basis. Those working night shift will need to discuss curfew with the Treatment Coordinator.

Any travel out of state or more than 100 miles from Columbia, KY will need to be discussed with the Treatment Coordinator and documented before traveling.

Table 1. cont.

If you are unable to abide by Drug Court rules and complete Drug Court requirements the Judge may order that you be transferred to another Drug Court within the state of Kentucky and placed in a Half-Way house in order to assist in your recovery from drugs and criminal activity.

The program lasts no less than one year and may be expected to last up to two years. Progress through the program depends on the participant's compliance and progress. Each participant is closely monitored with progress rewarded by the Judge and noncompliance sanctioned by the Judge.

There are no Drug Court fees. However, the participant is responsible for partial payment for therapy sessions and for payment for residential treatment if needed.

Most participants are required to be on pre-trial diversion before entering Drug Court. Upon completion of all requirements graduates may have their case dismissed and in some cases may have their record expunged. If the participant does not complete Drug Court requirements he/she will be removed from Drug Court and scheduled for final sentencing.

If you are interested in completing the Drug Court Program discuss this with your attorney. If he/she refers you to the program you will have 24 hours to contact the Drug Court office to schedule an appointment for an assessment. If there is no answer at the Drug Court office please leave a message on the machine with two telephone numbers at which you can be reached. It is your responsibility to schedule an appointment and keep the appointment. Ask your attorney when the next Drug Court meeting takes place. You will be expected to be at that meeting even if you have not been assessed. The Drug Court in Adair County meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the Adair courthouse, in the Judge's chambers behind the upstairs courtroom.

Capacity and Caseflow.

When asked what characteristics of the area suggested that a Drug Court program would be beneficial, staff referred to the high rate of repeat offenders and the large percentage of court cases involving substance abuse. Staff also noted that in 1999 drug related crimes made up

approximately 63% of the total circuit court docket. These characteristics are reflected in the participants enrolled in the Adair/Casey Drug Court program.

At the outset of the program the Drug Court team limited the number of active participants to 50. At the time of the evaluation, the program has not yet reached their target.

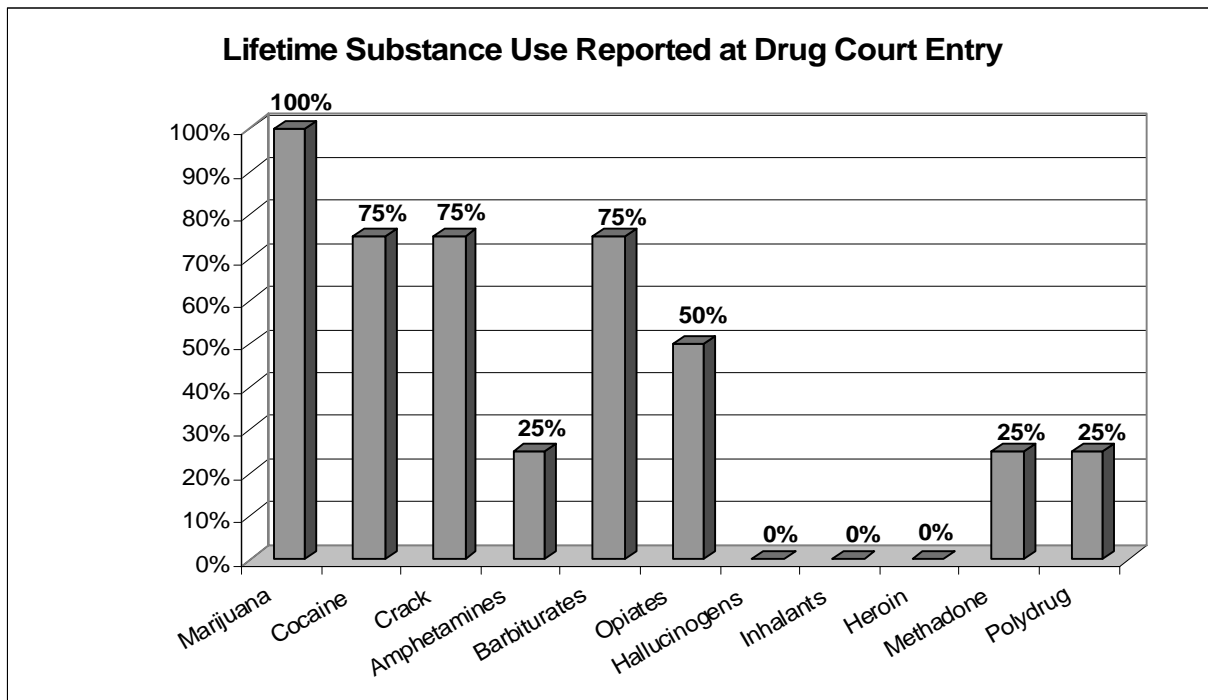
As is shown in Table 2 below, the majority of participants are white females. Half of the participants are between the ages of 18-30 and are employed on a part-time basis. Although most of the participants have a high school diploma or GED, no one reported receiving a college degree.

Table 2. Participant Demographic Information

Gender	
Male	1
Female	3
Race/Ethnicity	
Caucasian	4
African-American	0
Age	
18-30	2
31-40	1
41-50	1
51+	0
Employment	
Full-Time	1
Part-Time	2
Unemployed	1
Education	
Less than High School	1
High School/GED	3
Some College	0
College Degree	0

After a participant is referred to the Drug Court, the treatment coordinator administers the Kentucky Addiction Severity Index (ASI). (Logan, et al. 2001) At that time the participant is asked to provide information regarding their substance use and/or abuse history. This includes types of substances used, age when substance was first used, and how often the substance has been used in the last 30 days. Figure 1, as seen below, illustrates the types of substances used by participants as reported to the treatment coordinator. As in other Drug Court programs throughout the state, marijuana is used most often; in this case 100% of Drug Court participants used marijuana prior to entering the program. In all cases, marijuana was first used when the participants were in their teenage years. The majority of participants (75%) also reported using cocaine, crack, and barbiturates during their lives but did not first use these substances until after age 20. Only one participant reported being a polysubstance user, first at the age of 18.

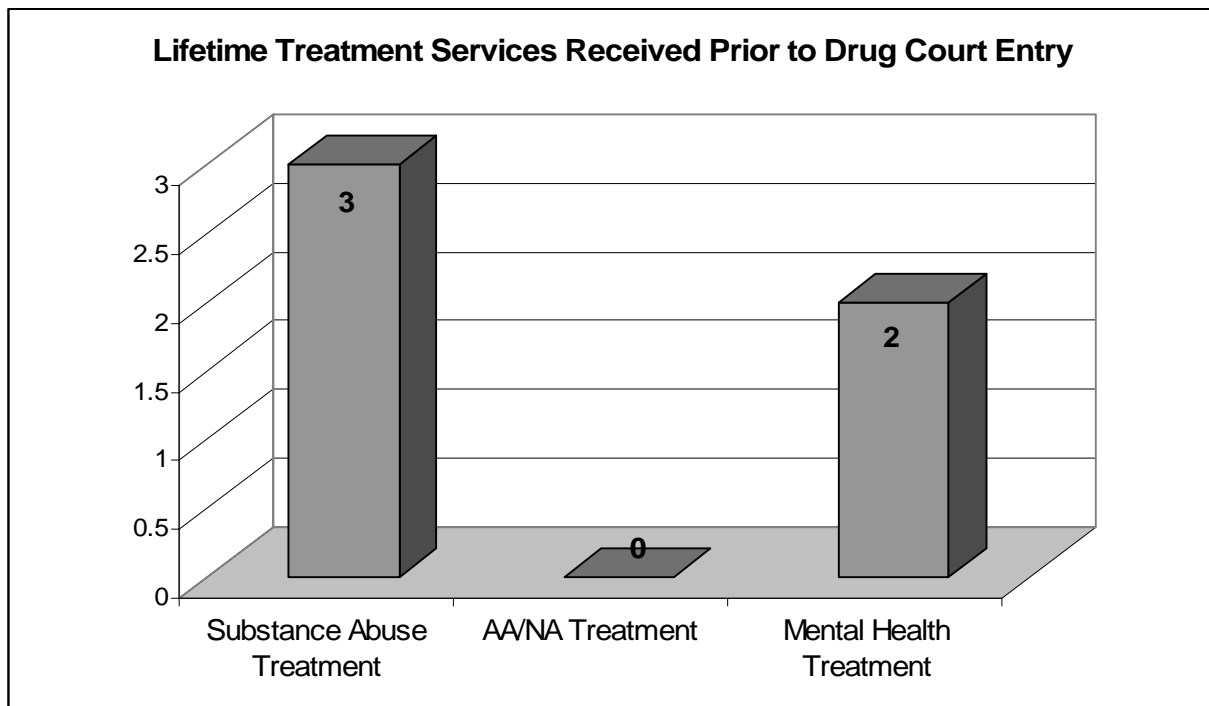
Figure 1.



Participants were also asked to report the treatment services they received during their lifetimes. Most participants (75%) reported prior substance abuse treatment services. Only half

of the participants received any form of mental health treatment and none had attended any AA/NA sessions throughout the course of their lives. The figure below shows the breakdown of treatment received by participants prior to entering the Adair/Casey Drug Court program.

Figure 2.



Key Component #4. Drug Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

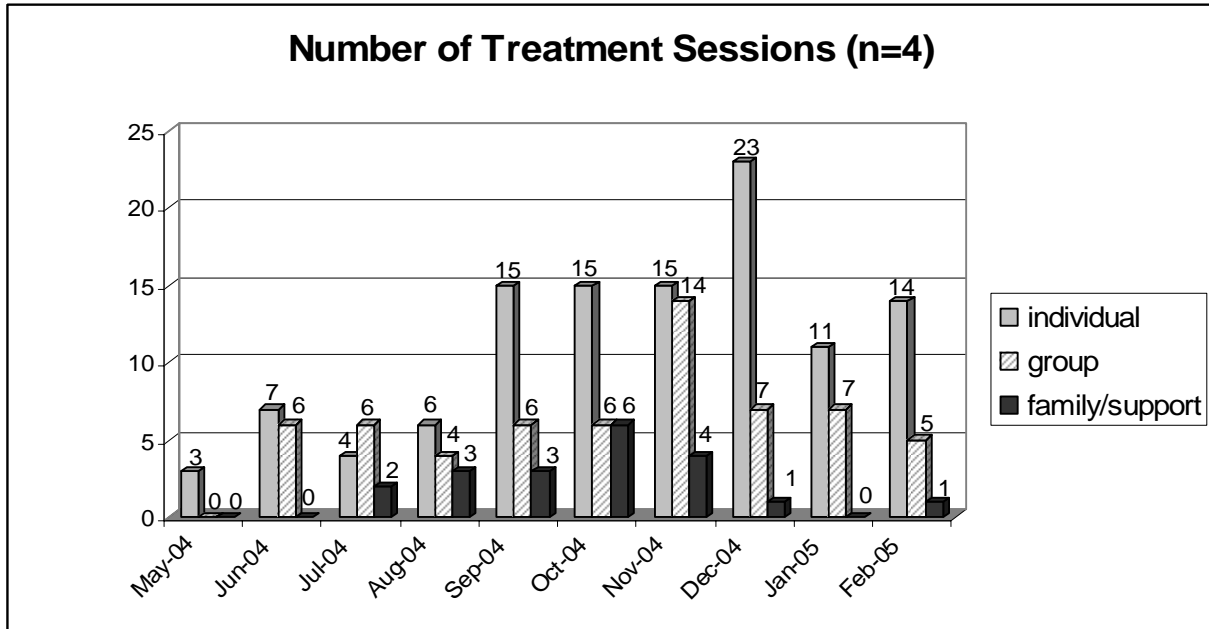
In order to properly assess the treatment needs of each participant, the treatment coordinator completes an Individual Program Plan (IPP) at the outset of the participant's involvement in the Drug Court program. Although substance abuse treatment is comprised of certain basic components, each participant's treatment plan is individualized to better fit their own specific needs. Before a participant begins individual or group therapy sessions he/she meets with the treatment coordinator and participates in developing his/her IPP. During this session the treatment coordinator and participant discuss each treatment phase as well as

personal goals of the individual. During Phase I of the program the participant works through several weeks of a stabilization period. In Phase II the participant moves forward to focus on relapse prevention and in Phase III the participant learns how to apply the skills he/she has developed in the previous phases. The IPP is re-evaluated and modified at each phase change and during a phase if needed. Both the treatment coordinator and the participant are involved in the development, evaluation, and modification of the IPP. Other individuals who may participate in this component of the program include other Drug Court team members and participant's family members.

The Adair/Casey counties Drug Court program has partnered with The Adanta Group, Inc. in order to provide Drug Court participants with a wide range of substance abuse treatment services. All participants are required to attend group treatment sessions. During Phase I, participants must attend two group sessions per week. Phases II and III require participants to attend one group session per week. Group sessions cover a variety of topics which fall under one of two curriculums: educational and therapeutic. Educational sessions address such issues as the disease concept and relapse prevention skills. Therapeutic sessions help the participant to understand and work through current personal situations and recovery problems. Group sessions in each phase typically last 90 minutes. Individual treatment sessions are not required by the Drug Court program but are encouraged. These sessions can be requested by the participant or suggested by the treatment coordinator or therapist as needed. Individual sessions last approximately 60 minutes. During an individual treatment session a participant may work on applying recovery techniques to his/her own situation. These sessions are a place where the participant can develop, with the therapist, crisis management techniques and recovery plans which answer the question, "what do I do if..." Between May, 2004 and February, 2005 a total

of 113 individual treatment sessions were conducted, as well as 61 group contacts, and 20 family/support sessions. These figures were recorded on the Drug Court monthly statistics and can be seen in the figure below.

Figure 3.



The Drug Court also offers gender specific treatment groups as well as parental skills classes and family/marriage classes. In cases where the Drug Court team feels that a participant needs a more intensive treatment regimen they may send the participant to a residential facility. The Adair/Casey counties Drug Court has partnered with facilities including Park Place, Independence House, and Crossroads in order to provide a variety of residential services to participants. Participants are also required to attend AA/NA meetings as part of the treatment and rehabilitation process as well as numerous in-house treatment activities which are detailed later in this report.

Key Component #5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

The Adair/Casey counties Drug Court program requires complete abstinence for participants enrolled in the program. In order to ensure that participants adhere to this rule the Drug Court employs frequent urine testing from the outset of the program. The first drug test is given at the time of assessment. Urine screens are conducted in the Drug Court office by the Treatment Coordinator. A 10-panel screen is used and tests the participants for the following substances: marijuana, cocaine, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), benzodiazepines, methaqualone, propoxyphene, barbiturates, amphetamines, and methamphetamines. Participants are randomly tested a minimum of three times per week in Phase I, twice per week in Phase II, and once per week in Phase III. Participants are also randomly tested with a breathalyzer for alcohol use.

Positive Urine Screens:

During the current evaluation period, May, 2004 through February, 2005, the Drug Court conducted a total of 213 urine screen analyses. As Figure 4 illustrates, the number of screens increased as more participants were enrolled in the program. An average of 21.3 drug screens were collected per month with the fewest (5 screens) in the first month of the program and the most (37 screens) in November, 2004. Figure 5 shows the number of panels used during drug testing. A total of 778 panels were used in urinalysis testing during the reporting period with an average of 77.8 panels per month.

Figure 4.

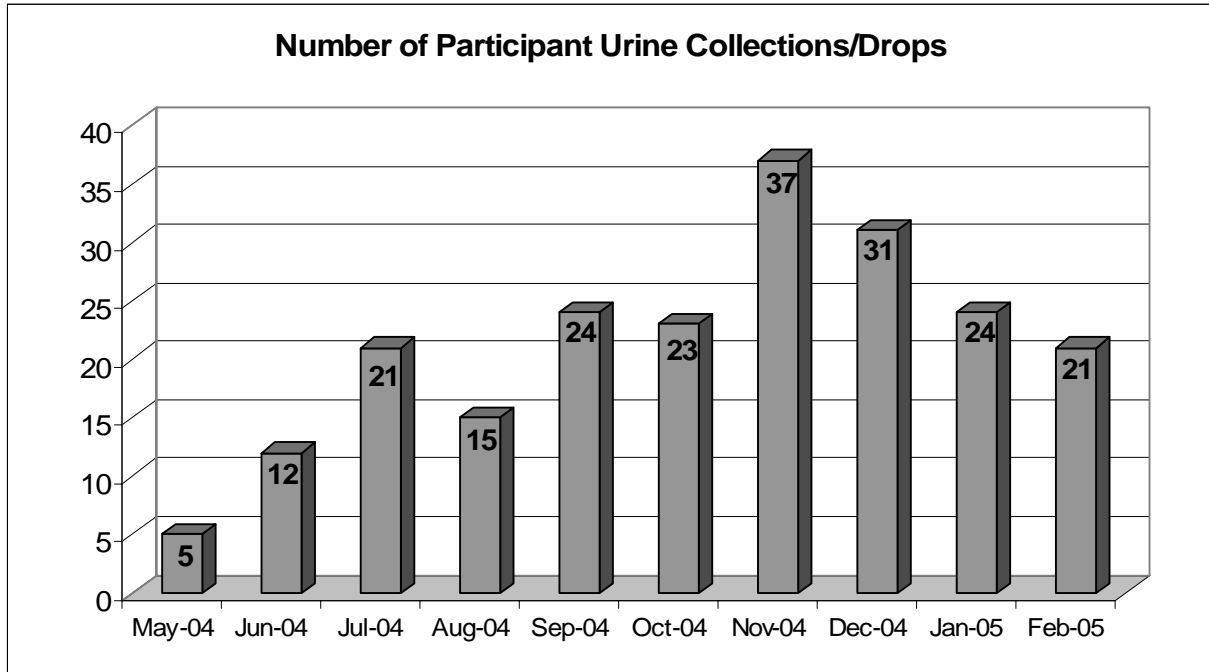
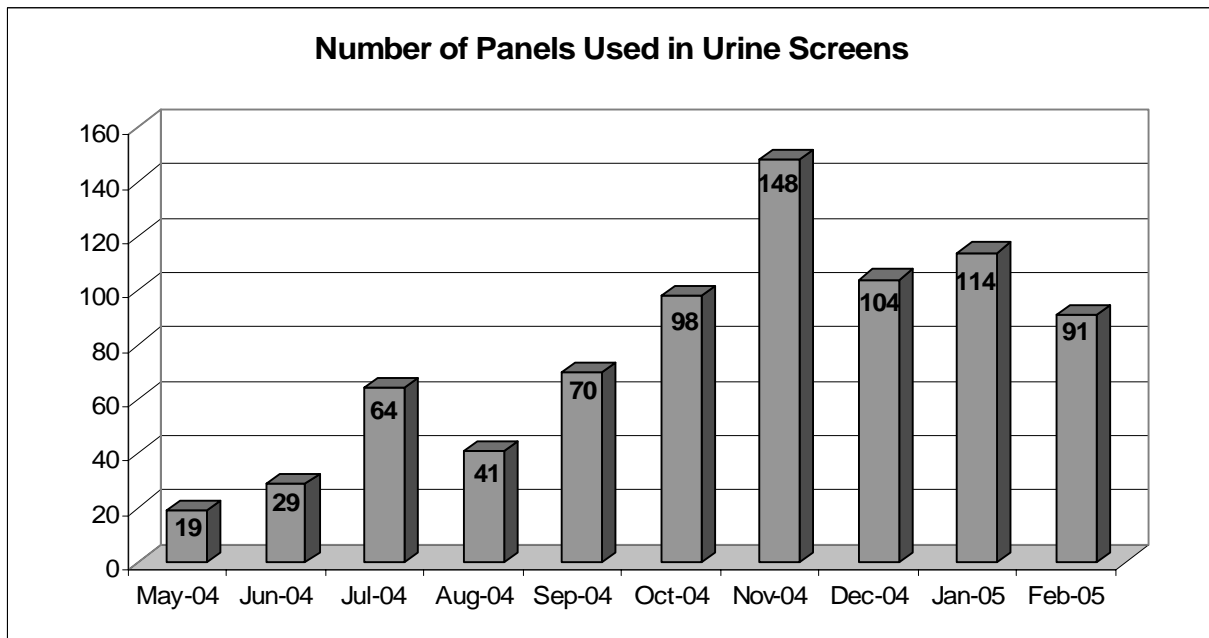
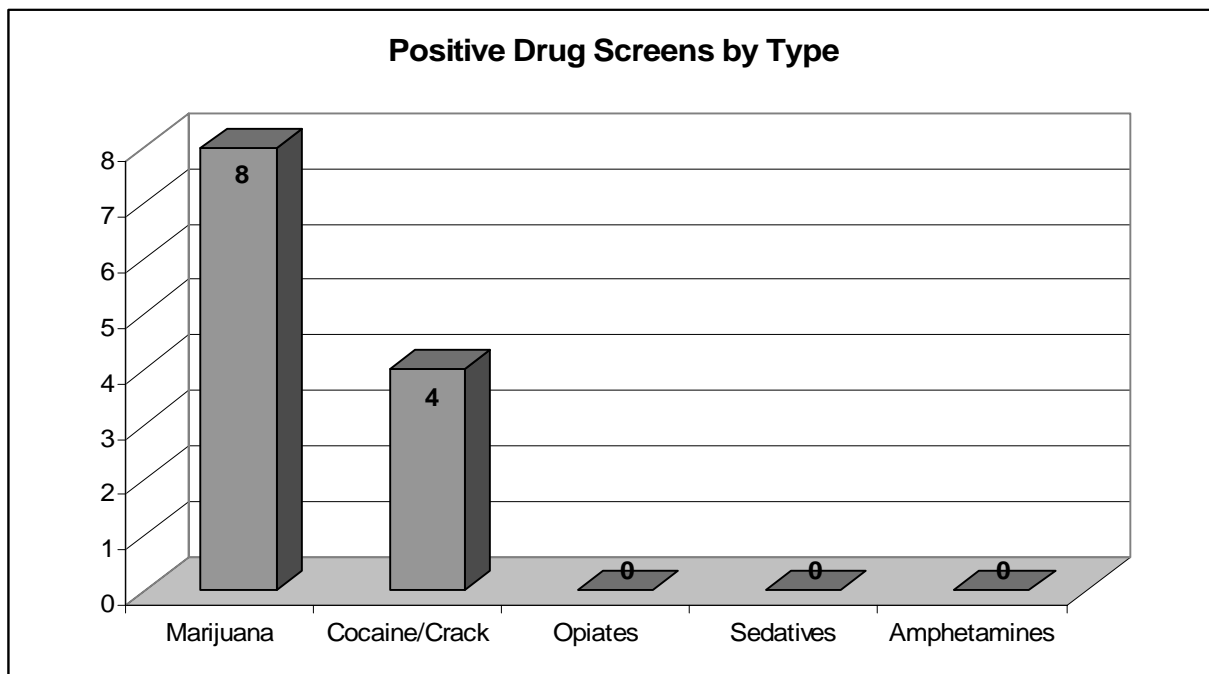


Figure 5.



As the Drug Court program enrolls participants with a history of substance abuse, team members understand that some participants will have setbacks in their recovery process. Because relapse is a possibility, the Adair/Casey Drug Court frequently and randomly tests participants not only for previously recorded drugs of choice but other drugs as well. The following chart shows that during the current evaluation period participants tested positive most often for marijuana use followed by cocaine and/or crack use.

Figure 6



Key Component #6. A coordinated strategy governs Drug Court responses to participants' compliance.

Adair/Casey Drug Court team members are committed to providing an intense level of supervision to each participant. As such, the program has been carefully developed to conform to state and national Drug Court standards. As mentioned earlier in this report, participants are provided with a copy of the Drug Court requirements prior to program entry (Table 1). After the participant is accepted into the Drug Court program they are given a copy of the Kentucky Drug

Courts Participant Handbook and an Agreement of Participation. The treatment coordinator meets with each individual to explain the Drug Court requirements and discuss any questions the participant may have. A list of reminders regarding Drug Court sessions is also given to each participant (Table 3)

Table 3.

<p>Things to Remember for Drug Court Sessions (2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month, Second Floor of Adair County Courthouse)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bring your journal and your NA/AA verification forms with you.2. Bring copies of your pay stubs.3. Bring copies of receipts of any court-related payments that you have made, such as child support, court fines, jail fees, restitution, legal fees, etc.4. If attending GED classes, bring verification of attendance signed by your instructor. These need to be signed weekly.5. Be sure to show up promptly at 8:00 a.m.6. Dress appropriately. (Refer to page 3 of your Handbook.)
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Phase Structure.

Like most Drug Courts throughout the state, the Adair/Casey program is divided into three separate phases, each with a comprehensive set of requirements, goals, and strategies for reaching those goals. A general overview of these three phases can be seen in Table 4. The minimum expected duration of participation in Drug Court is 12 months, but participants may take longer than this to finish the program.

Table 4. Drug Court Phase Regulations

Based on your needs, an Individualized Program Plan is developed. The plan will outline goals you must achieve prior to advancing to the next phase. There are three phases of the program.

Phase I: Stabilizing Period (Minimum Requirements)

1. To attend one Drug Court session per week.
2. To provide all assigned drug screens each week which reflect no use of drugs or alcohol.
3. To attend and document required number of 12-step support meetings.
4. To attend all assigned group, family, and/or individual counseling sessions.
5. To begin to make necessary arrangements for payment of Court obligations.
6. To maintain Court-approved stable housing.
7. To maintain Court-approved employment, training, and/or education referrals.
8. To turn in journal assignments.
9. To comply with any necessary medical referrals.
10. To purchase a NA or AA text book, begin work on a 12-step recovery program, and obtain a sponsor.

Phase II: Educational Period (Minimum Requirements)

1. To attend one Drug Court session per week.
2. To provide all assigned drug screens each week which reflect no use of drugs or alcohol.
3. To attend and document required number of 12-step support meetings.
4. To attend all assigned group, family, and/or individual counseling sessions.
5. To begin payment of any restitution, court costs, etc..
6. To maintain Court-approved stable housing.
7. To maintain Court-approved employment, training, and/or education referrals.
8. To turn in journal assignments.
9. To complete assigned readings.
10. To maintain daily physical activity.
11. To do at least one good deed per court appearance.
12. To obtain/maintain an approved NA/AA Sponsor and continue work on a 12-step program.

Phase III: Self-motivational Period (Minimum Requirements)

1. To attend one Drug Court session every three weeks.
2. To provide all assigned drug screens each week which reflect no use of drugs or alcohol.
3. To attend and document required number of 12-step support meetings.
4. To attend all assigned group, family, and/or individual counseling sessions.
5. To pay a substantial amount of restitution, court costs, etc.
6. To maintain Court-approved stable housing.
7. To maintain Court-approved employment, training, and/or education referrals.
8. To turn in journal assignments.
9. To complete assigned readings.
10. To maintain daily physical activity.
11. To do at least one good deed per court appearance.
12. To maintain a full-time sponsor and continue work on a 12-step program.
13. To regularly mentor a new Drug Court participant and/or group session.
14. To complete an exit calendar; exit interview and plan for aftercare.

A minimum of two months is required to complete Phase I of the program, six months to complete Phase II, and a minimum of four months to complete Phase III. At the time of this report, the Drug Court had no graduations to report. Therefore, average completion times are unavailable.

During Phase I participants must attend group substance abuse treatment sessions at least twice a week and individual treatment sessions as needed or deemed appropriate by Drug Court staff. Participants are also required to present in court twice per month as well as meet with the treatment coordinator at least three times per week. Also during Phase I participants must show proof that they attended at least three AA/NA meetings per week in addition to submitting to a minimum of three random drug screens per week.

Phase II includes similar treatment components; however, the level of supervision decreases. Participants are still required to appear in court twice per month, but contact with the treatment coordinator is reduced to twice per week. Group treatment sessions are reduced to one per week and individual and family counseling sessions remain on an as needed basis. Urinalysis screens are decreased for Phase II participants from at least three per week to a minimum of two per week. Additionally, participants are required to attend at least three AA/NA meetings per week.

Participants in Phase III are required to appear in court once per month and meet with the treatment coordinator at least once per week. At this point in the program urine screens, as well as group treatment sessions, have been decreased to once per week. As in the previous phases, participants are required to show proof of attendance to at least three AA/NA meetings per week.

In addition to the requirements described above, participants must follow all rules and regulations outlined in the Kentucky Drug Courts Participant Handbook. This includes

completing all assignments, homework, and journal entries. Participants are also expected to obtain full-time employment or, if enrolled in an educational program, obtain a part-time job. Participants in Phase III are also required to obtain a sponsor and mentor newly enrolled Drug Court participants in addition to regularly attending NA/AA meetings.

At the time of this evaluation, the Adair/Casey counties Drug Court had enrolled four participants. In-house records and monthly statistics reported one participant was in Phase I, two participants were in Phase II, and one was currently enrolled in Phase III (Figure 7). A total of four phase promotions and one phase demotion have been given to participants (Figure 8).

Figure 7.

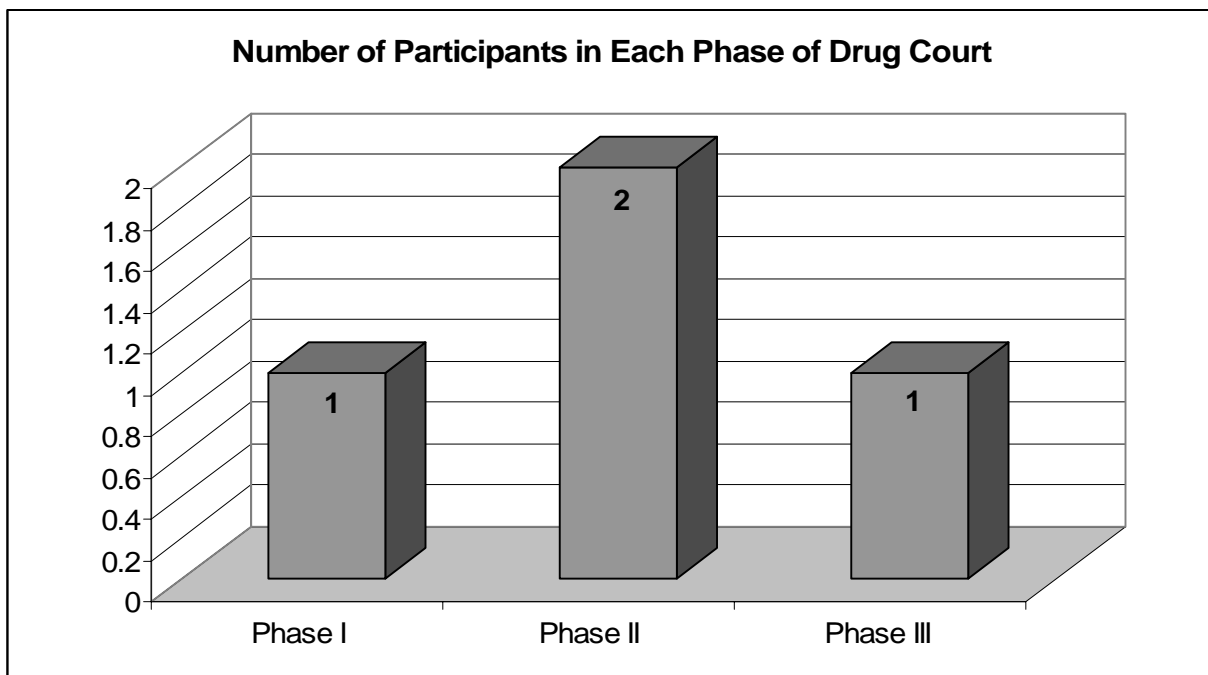
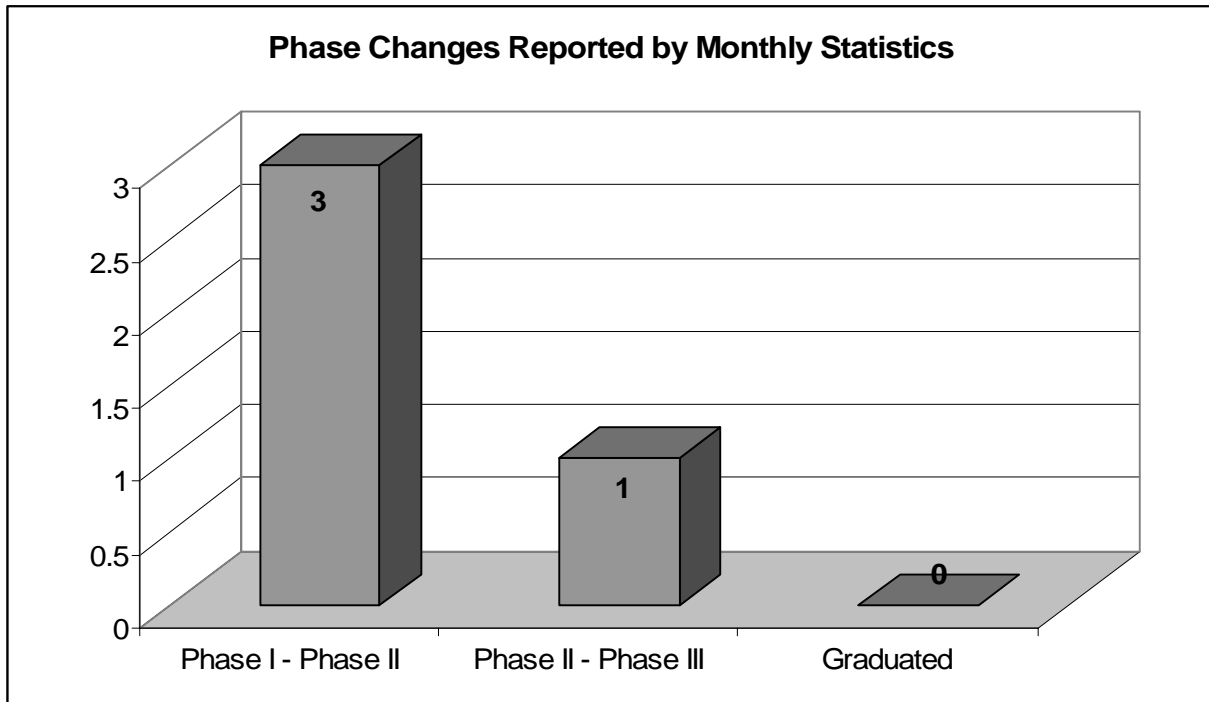


Figure 8.

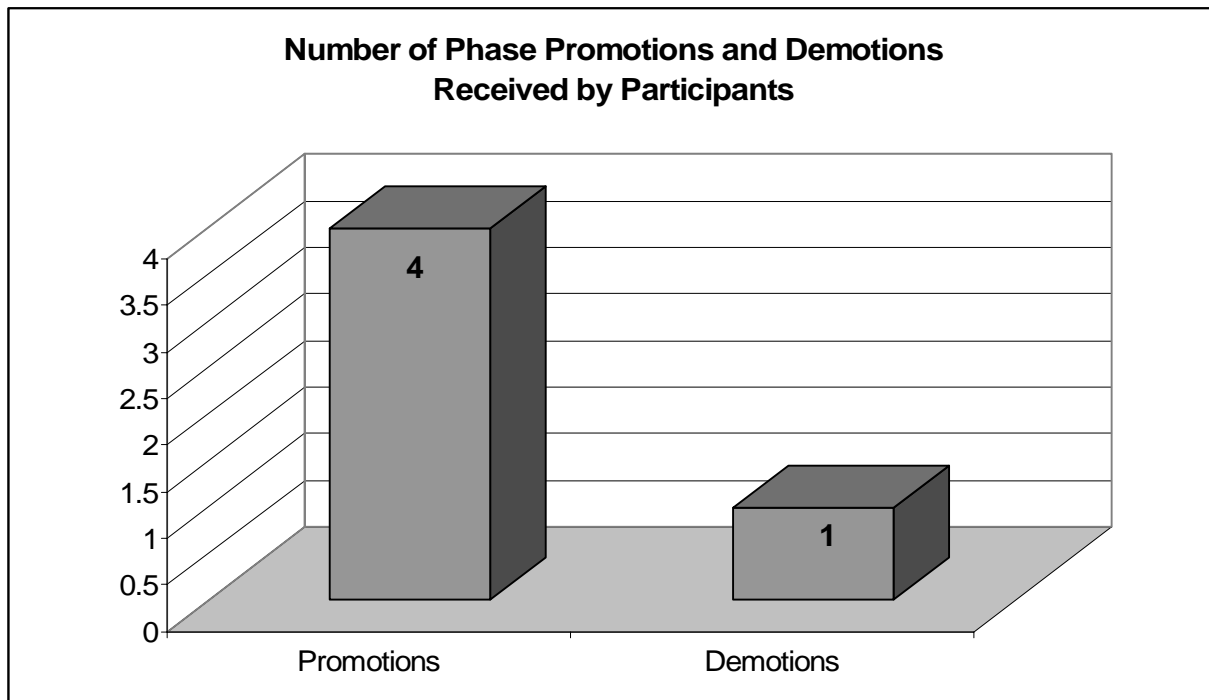


Team members of the Adair/Casey counties Drug Court believe that a swift and consistent system of rewards and sanctions is critical to a successful program. As such they have developed a comprehensive system of rewards and sanctions that link specific behaviors to specific consequences in order to encourage compliance with program rules, goals and objectives. Rewards and incentives are provided when a participant continues to act in a manner that conforms to program rules, and achievements are regularly acknowledged during court sessions. Conversely, participants are sanctioned in a timely manner when they fail to act in a manner that is compliant with program regulations.

Rewards.

Drug Court participants are given rewards when they meet treatment goals, consistently follow program regulations, or achieve success in a particular area of their personal lives. Although rewards follow a consistent pattern, they are tailored to fit the actions of the individual. Team members agree that what may constitute a reward for one person may not for another. Therefore, rewards can range from positive feedback from the team, verbal reinforcement from the Judge and the participant's peers during a court session, or phase promotions. Figure 9 below shows the number of phase promotions given to Drug Court participants during the reporting period of May, 2004 through February, 2005.

Figure 9.



Sanctions.

As with the use of rewards, sanctions are given to participants as consistently and swiftly as possible. Also similar to the Drug Court’s use of rewards, sanctions generally follow a consistent pattern; however, sanctions can and may be modified to fit the individual actions of the participants. The Adair/Casey Drug Court has established a sanction algorithm so that individuals are made aware of the sanctioning process from the outset of their participation in the program (Table 5). In this way the team can remain consistent when giving sanctions, and participants are less likely to question the fairness of a specific sanction. Although the entire team is included when deciding on sanctions, the Judge retains the right to finalize the decision. Participants will receive a sanction for failing to meet program requirements or committing any acts of non-compliance such as testing positive for drugs, breaking curfew, or failing to complete homework assignments. Possible sanctions may include written essays, community service, increased supervision, jail time, phase demotion, and in extreme circumstances, termination. The figure below shows a break-down of sanctions which have be given to participants during the reporting timeframe.

Figure 10.

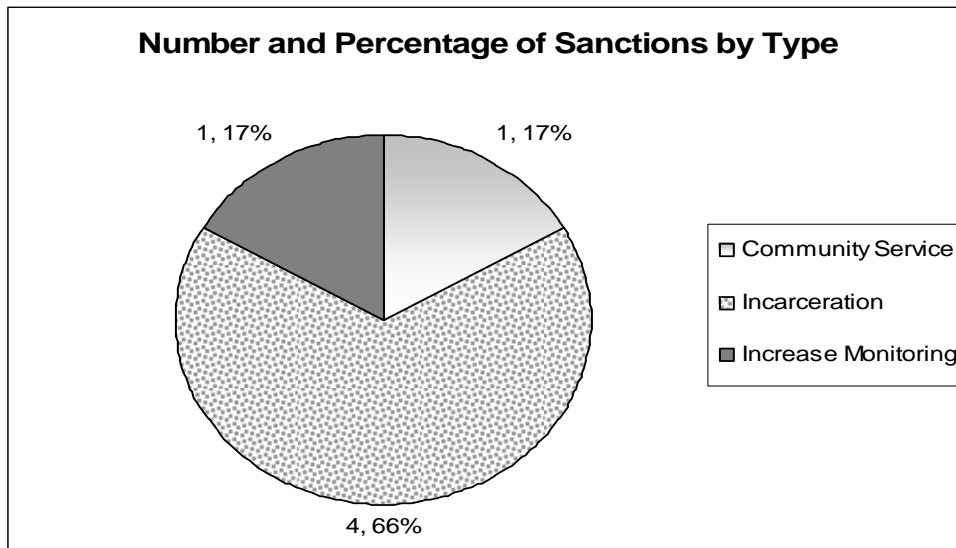


Table 5.

Adair and Casey Drug Court Sanction List

Missed Drug Screen Positive Drug Screen 1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th or more	10 hours community service 1 weekend in custody and Phase Demotion 7 days in custody and Phase Demotion 2-4 weeks in jail and possible termination
Failure to Produce Urine	Sanctioned same as positive screen
Missed 12 Step Meeting	Make up meeting next week, failure to make up missed meeting 5 hours community service, second failure to make up meeting 10 hours community service
Missed Treatment Session 1 st 2 nd 3 rd	5 hours community service 10 hours community service and possible weekend in jail weekend in jail
Failure to Complete Assignments	Additional assignments and 5 hours community service
Failure to Complete Ordered Community Service	1 weekend in custody
Reporting Late to Custody	2 hours extra in custody for every one hour reported late
Failure to Appear for Drug Court or Jail	Warrant issued
Absconding from Drug Court	Warrant issued; after 2 week period, termination from program
Loss of Employment	Given 2 weeks to find new employment, 20 hours of supervised community service each week until job is found and possible Phase demotion
New offense while in Drug Court	Reviewed by Judge on case-by-case basis; Judge will give recommendation and team will vote. Termination possible.

***For any listed or unlisted offense Phase demotion is possible. If demoted on Phase you will spend no less than 30 days in that Phase before being considered for promotion.

***The Drug Court team may utilize the above sanction list or may for any offense impose more harsh sanctions as the team deems necessary.

Program rules and termination.

Participants may be terminated from the program for committing additional crimes, engaging in violent activities, drug trafficking, or consistently failing to comply with Drug Court rules and regulations. The participant is notified of his termination by the Judge during a regular court session. Participants who are on a diversion track will be returned to the regular court docket where their case will be set for final sentencing. Probation track participants who are terminated from the program will be scheduled for a probation revocation hearing.

Key Component #7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each Drug Court participant is essential.

The Adair/Casey counties Drug Court team is committed to providing an active relationship between the judge and the participants. “Drug Courts require judges to step beyond their traditionally independent and objective arbiter roles and develop new expertise.” (DCPO, 1997) The Drug Court team in Adair and Casey counties support this idea and consistently depend on judicial interaction to reinforce the program’s supervision.

The Judge plays an active role in monitoring the progress of each participant. By attending all staffing meetings and providing input into the participants’ lives, the judge stays abreast of their progress while in the Drug Court program. The Judge speaks with the treatment coordinator on a regular basis and also makes himself available to all other team members.

Drug Court evaluators from the University of Kentucky noted that the Judge took an active role during pre-court staffing sessions by inquiring into the status of each participant and providing information when appropriate. Staffing sessions are held in the conference room of the Adair County courthouse and begin approximately one hour before Drug Court begins. Before addressing each participant’s weekly status reports, the team discusses any new Drug Court

business that may have occurred during the previous week. The treatment coordinator then presents the cases of each participant who will be appearing in court that day. Team members appeared to be well acquainted with the personal and program-related situations of each participant and participated actively in the discussion. Possible sanctions are suggested and decided upon in response to acts of non-compliance. Conversely, decisions regarding possible rewards are discussed and decided upon by the entire team. Although the opinions of each member of the team are accepted and valued, final decisions rest with the Judge. Issues regarding the treatment and supervision of participants are also addressed. If any time remains at the end of the staffing session, the team discusses possible Drug Court candidates and makes referrals.

Immediately following the staffing session, the Drug Court session begins and participants are brought into the conference room individually to discuss their status in the program. The treatment coordinator addresses current issues and activities from the participant's previous week which may require sanctions or rewards. All team members actively participate in the court session and interact with the participant; however, the Judge issues warnings, sanctions, rewards, or praise. Participants spent between four and eleven minutes with the Judge and team. Researcher observations noted that the Judge communicated often with the participant and kept a sustained level of eye contact. Participants did not remain throughout the entire court session but were called individually and left after their own session was complete.

Key Component # 8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement or program goals and gauge effectiveness.

This report is submitted per Bureau of Justice Assistance requirements for an externally-conducted process evaluation of all federally-funded Drug Courts. One piece of this process evaluation is a researcher-led focus group consisting of the Drug Court team members. The focus group follows a Logic Model approach (Harrell, 1996) which allows the Drug Court to participate in its own program development and evaluation (Figure 11). The researcher asks the treatment team to brainstorm to identify key components of their program. These key components are revisited during a follow-up focus group one year later to determine whether the program has changed or remained static, which methods did and did not succeed, and what obstacles they felt the program needed to overcome in the future. Program development and evaluation is an integral part of every new program's development process and is essential to program sustainability.

The end result of this focus group is a one-page graphic representation of important elements of the team's mission. The team was asked to identify their target population, discuss the short- and long-term programmatic goals, therapeutic activities, community resources available to the program, characteristics of their participants, factors that influenced their activities, and concerns regarding program operations.

Target Population.

During the focus group, the Drug Court team was first asked to identify the target population of the program. Staff members reported that all participants are adult men and women who have current felony offenses. In order to meet Bureau of Justice Assistance requirements, candidates for the Drug Court program must be non-violent offenders. This means that if any

potential Drug Court participant has current charges of a violent nature or a prior history of violent activities, he/she is immediately excluded from program participation. The participant's criminal charges must be related to substance abuse issues. Staff members pointed out that prior to being accepted in the program, the participant is assessed as to his/her level of substance abuse and treatment need. Trafficking offenses are usually excluded, but decisions are made on a case by case basis. If the participant is known to sell drugs for the purpose of supporting their own drug use, they may be accepted into the program. One team member noted that the team "will know who is a big trafficker." The team also reported that although participants who live in adjacent counties will be accepted, their criminal charges must be in either Adair or Casey County.

Goals/Outcomes.

The team next discussed the long term goals of the Adair/Casey Counties Drug Court. Upon graduation from the program, participants should be drug free and have "continued interaction in a 12-step community." Staff agreed that participants should leave the program as "law-abiding members of society." After graduation, participants should be able to maintain steady employment and cease any previous criminal activities. A requirement of the program is for high-school dropouts to obtain a GED. Participants are also encouraged to continue their education by attending vocational training or college classes. Team members hope that by changing participant lifestyles during the program, they will be healthier and more self-sufficient. Team members also noted that honesty is an important factor in Drug Court. Participants are required to be honest with the Judge and Drug Court staff in addition to learning

to be honest with themselves. In doing this, the team believes that the participants' social skills and relationships will improve. By offering family and parenting classes throughout the program, participants should be able to develop better family relationships. One goal of the program is to develop a participant-based mentoring system, which the team believes will benefit future Drug Court participants.

Initial Goals

The Drug Court team was next asked to identify any short term goals which have been established to help the participant reach their goals. Team members agreed that the "number one" goal is to be alcohol and drug free. Participants are also required to begin the 12-step process and a substance abuse treatment program. As self-sufficiency is important, participants are required to obtain employment and to begin payment of any financial obligations. One team member stated, "that's a good feeling too when they become self-sufficient." As previously mentioned, if a participant enters the program without a high school diploma he/she is required to begin working toward a GED. Participants are also required to find a suitable housing situation and to avoid the "people, places, and things" related to their substance abuse. Other short term goals include court attendance, homework completion, and regular journal entries.

Activities which work toward long term goals are random drug tests, individual and group therapy sessions. Team members agreed that participants are strongly encouraged to develop respect for the criminal justice system. One team member noted that when the participant enters Drug Court he or she has "a total disregard for the law." Participants are also required to attend AA/NA meetings and to accept their substance abuse problem.

Treatment Activities.

In order to reach the goals described above, team members were asked to discuss the treatment components of the Drug Court program. The team noted that all participants in the program immediately begin substance abuse therapy by attending weekly group treatment sessions. Individual therapy sessions are also a component of the program but are available on an individual basis. Participants are also offered gender specific treatment groups if they opt for that mode of treatment. If the team believes that a participant needs more intensive treatment, the individual is referred to a residential facility such as Volta, VOA, Lifeskills, Riverdale, Crossroads, Communicare, and Spectrum. Parenting classes are also offered, as well as family and marriage classes. One team member reported that some participants need anger management and domestic violence therapy. Participants are required to write regular journal entries and to complete coursework related to their substance abuse treatment process. The Adair/Casey Drug Court also provides a variety of case management services including mental health and psychiatric evaluations as well as working with the participant to find a suitable housing arrangement.

Community Resources.

Community businesses and agencies play a critical role in the Drug Court process. Although the Adair/Casey Drug Court team members are continually working to develop relationships with community resources, they agreed that community support for the program has been positive. The Drug Court program has partnered with The Adanta Group, Inc. to provide participants with outpatient group and individual substance abuse treatment. If a participant requires more intensive therapy the Drug Court program can contact one of the above

mentioned residential treatment facilities as well as Volta, VOA, Lifeskills, Riverdale, Crossroads, Communicare, and Spectrum. Team members also mentioned that they receive a great deal of support from the area's faith based community. The local churches and ministerial association have been helpful in providing a variety of services for the program and its participants. Participants are able to receive temporary housing, emergency funds, and clothing from such agencies as the Salvation Army, food bank, social services, and the health department. The Drug Court program in Adair and Casey counties also receives support from local law enforcement and the probation and parole office. If a participant volunteers or is required to seek educational assistance, the Drug Court contacts the Adult Learning Center and the Vocational Rehabilitation office which are both willing to offer their services.

Client Background Characteristics.

The Adair/Casey Counties Drug Court program enrolls men and women at least 18 years of age. Team members stated that most of their participants are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and many are considered indigent. The majority of participants have a high-school diploma, but are unemployed. Staff also agreed that many participants have a criminal record as well as a previous substance abuse history. Drugs of choice for Drug Court participants are most often crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. The majority of the participants have also had their drivers licenses revoked due to multiple DUI charges. Team members pointed out that many participants come from dysfunctional families and are manipulative and dishonest. Most participants also present with depression and low self-esteem. Medical and dental problems are also common with this population in Adair and Casey counties.

Other Factors.

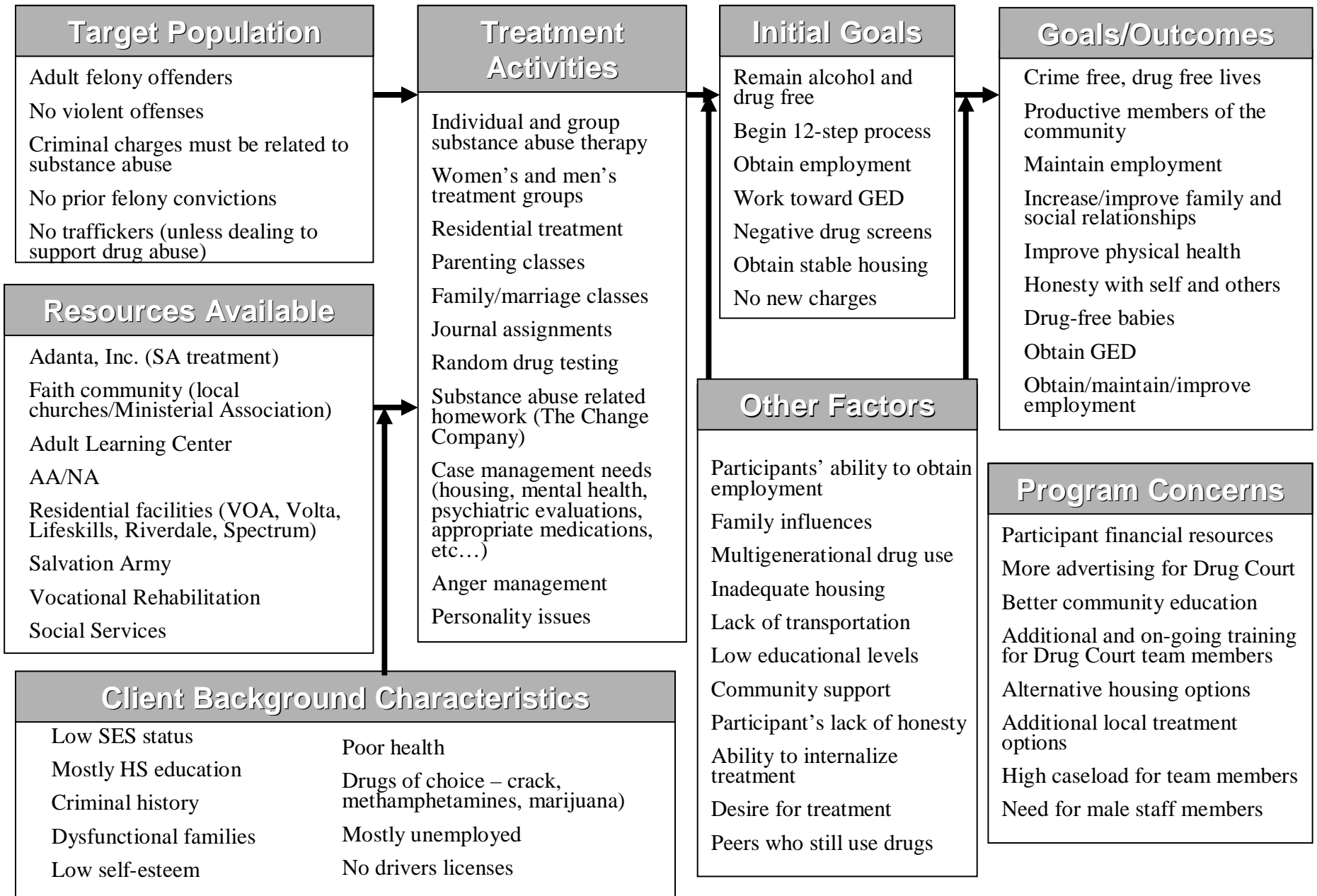
The team was then asked to identify any other factors that influence either the Drug Court program or the participants' progress through the program. Staff members agreed that the area's lack of employment opportunities is a problem. Although the team noted that they have received much support from the community, some business still hold on to stereotypes regarding Drug Court participants and are hesitant to hire them. As with other Kentucky Drug Courts located in rural areas, lack of transportation is a major concern. Many participants have had their drivers' licenses revoked and the counties have no public transportation services. This causes a problem for participants who are required to attend court sessions, treatment groups, AA/NA meetings, and jobs. One staff member noted that "according to participants, the lack of transportation and jobs affects their [participants] success the most." Another staff member reported that multigenerational drug use is also a problem. Participants often struggle with family members who are still using and not supportive of the treatment process. Friends and social acquaintances also "can do a lot of damage" to a Drug Court participant fighting to stay clean and sober. Team members also agreed that the participant's "ability to internalize treatment" is a key factor in program success. Participants who have not yet become honest with themselves and others are less likely to progress through the program.

Program Concerns.

To conclude, the focus group researchers asked the team to discuss any other issues they might have regarding the Drug Court program. A primary concern for team members is ongoing financial resources for participant treatment. Staff also noted that they would like to raise community awareness regarding substance abuse problems in the area. Team members also

expressed the desire for additional training regarding Drug Court issues. As the team has experienced some turnover, not all members attended the Bureau of Justice Assistance training. Ongoing education, staff agreed, would benefit both the participants and the program. In order to increase the enrollment of the program, team members would like to better advertise the benefits of the Drug Court, not only to the community at large but also potential Drug Court candidates. One team member stated that some candidates “don’t see the appeal of the program”, and another noted that the Drug Court “needs more people, [that’s the] number one problem.” The lack of full-time staff is also a concern to the team. The addition of a male case specialist would be valuable in terms of drug testing and home visits. Other concerns included the need for additional local treatment options and alternative housing.

Figure 11. Logic Model for Adair/Casey Drug Court Focus Group



During Program Impact and Outcomes.

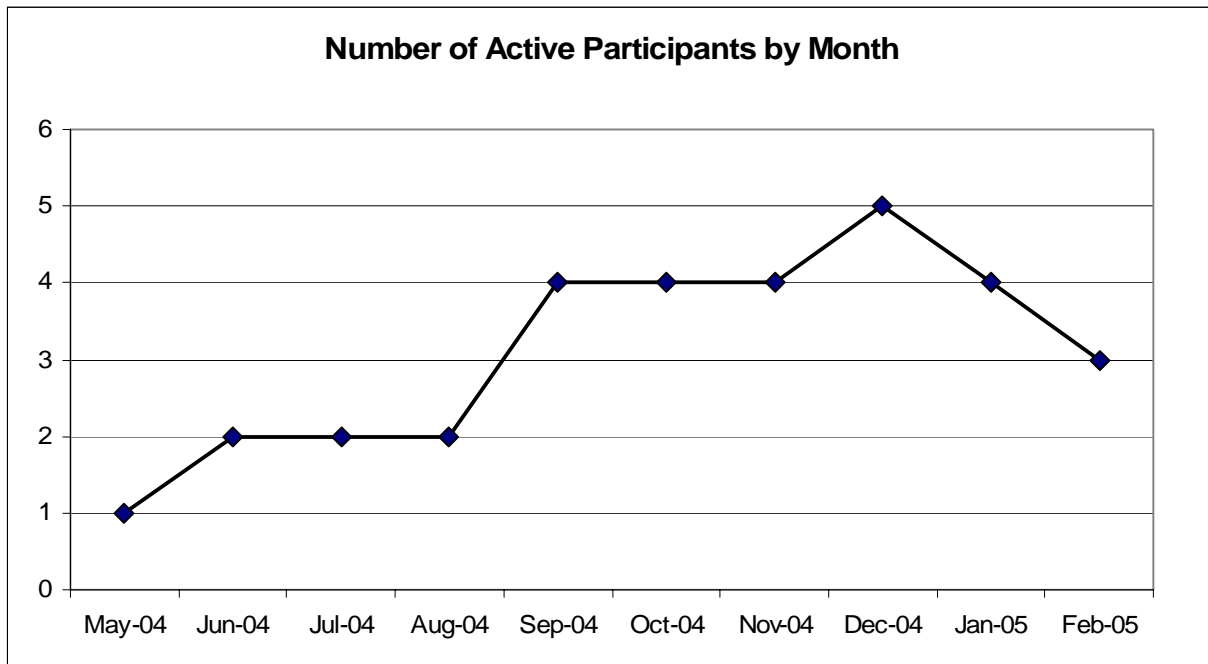
As with all Kentucky Drug Courts, the principal focus of the Adair/Casey Drug Court is to help participants become clean and sober and cease criminal activities. In order to achieve this goal, the Adair/Casey counties Drug Court program has combined substance abuse treatment and intense supervision to most effectively serve the needs of all participants. Program retention is one measure that provides insight into the progress of participants during their stay in the program.

Retention in Drug Court

Retention in Drug Court, similar to other substance abuse treatment programs, has been correlated with more successful long-term outcomes for participants (Peters, Hawes, and Hunt, 2001; see related substance abuse literature including Zhang, Friedmann, and Gerstein, 2003 and Simpson, Joe, and Rowan-Szal, 1997). The Adair/Casey Drug Court team is committed to not only engaging participants in the program but also retaining them through to graduation. For the majority of the reporting period (May, 2004 – February, 2005) the number of active participants in the Drug Court program has risen. Team members are aware that the number of current participants is far below their original targeted estimate and they continue to develop new methods of reaching potential Drug Court candidates. Figure 12 shows the total number of participants per month. At the time of this report one participant was in Phase I, two participants were in Phase II, and one participant was in Phase III. It should be noted that the participant currently in Phase III began the program in the pilot stage, prior to Bureau of Justice Assistance funding, and was immediately placed into Phase III due to the participant's length of stay and positive progress in the program. The minimum number of days spent in the Drug Court program

is 121 days, the maximum number of days in the program is 275 and the average is 190.5 days. The average number of days spent in Phase I is 57.6 which corresponds with originally targeted estimates. As there have not been enough participants to progress through Phases II and III, it is not possible to calculate the average number of days for these periods.

Figure 12.



Graduates

During the reporting period, May, 2004 through February, 2005, the Drug Court program did not graduate any participants. However, this can be attributed in part to the brief amount of time the Drug Court program has been in operation. In the initial development of the Adair/Casey counties Drug Court, team members estimated that participants would require a full 12 months to complete all aspects of the recovery process. Since, at the time data was collected for this report, a 12-month time period had not yet passed it would be precipitate to expect any graduates.

The Drug Court team has planned for graduation ceremonies and has outlined specific requirements which must be met before a participant is allowed to graduate. Participants must remain in the program for a minimum length of time (12-months) and successfully progress through all stages of substance abuse treatment. Participants must also have obtained stable living conditions, employment, served as a mentor, tested negative on all drug screens, and paid all fines and court fees.

Graduation ceremonies will be held quarterly. Participants will be allowed to invite any family members and friends who wish to attend. Community businesses and agencies who have supported the Drug Court program will be invited as well as local media representatives.

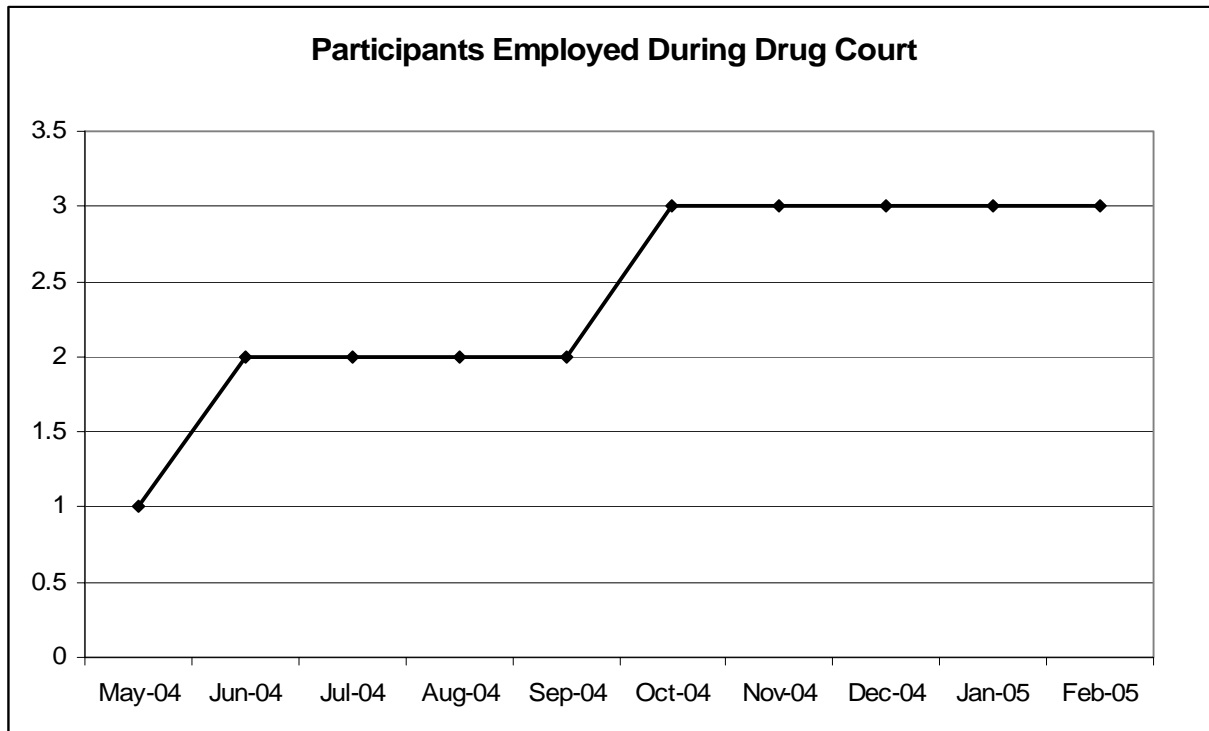
Employment

Employment problems are a reliable predictor of early dropout from treatment among adults in community-based substance abuse treatment programs (Platt, 1995). The participants in the Adair/Casey Drug Court are required to obtain and maintain employment throughout their stay in the program. A participant who is enrolled in school is allowed to work on a part-time basis; however, all other individuals not seeking to further their education must obtain full-time employment.

As mentioned previously, Adair County is considered an economically transitional area and Casey County is considered economically distressed. According to the Appalachian Regional Commission, Adair County had a three-year average unemployment rate, between 1999 through 2001 of 6.56%. This is 2.2% higher than the national unemployment rate of 4.3%. Casey County, which had a three-year average unemployment rate of 6.9%, is 2.6% higher than the national rate. Because unemployment is a critical factor affecting these two communities it is

significant to notice the employment status of participants in the program. As Figure 13 illustrates, the employment level of the program consistently increases with the intake of new participants. At the time of this report all active participants were employed.

Figure 13.



Key Component # 9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Drug Court planning, implementation, and operations

The members of the Adair/Casey Drug Court are in favor of continuing education and plan to attend future Drug Court trainings and workshops in order to further their knowledge of the process as well as new research related to substance abuse. Previously, the Judge has attended several Drug Court trainings provided by the Drug Court Planning Initiative (DCPI). The treatment coordinator has also attended several DCPI trainings and two national conferences as well as a number of regional workshops given by the Kentucky Administrative Office of the

Courts. By attending future trainings, team members will broaden their knowledge of the interdisciplinary principles critical to building and maintaining a successful Drug Court program.

Key Component # 10. Forging partnerships among Drug Courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Drug Court effectiveness.

Since the inception of the program, the team members of the Adair/Casey counties Drug Court have worked to create valuable and successful relationships with community agencies in order to offer the best possible services to all participants. Public social services organizations such as the health department and extension office provide participants with medical treatment, food stamps, and nutrition information. The Salvation Army and the local hospital indigent care facility also offer important services to the program. The Drug Court has partnered with numerous residential substance abuse treatment facilities including Volta, VOA, Lifeskills, Riverdale, Crossroads, Communicare, and Spectrum. The local police department and probation/parole office has worked with the Drug Court program and continues to provide valuable services including drug tests, curfew checks, and general information regarding current participants and potential candidates.

The Drug Court team itself consists of an interdisciplinary group of individuals who bring a wide base of knowledge and experience to the program and who work together for the interest of the program and the participants. Attorneys from both the Commonwealth Attorney and public defense offices as well as individuals from the probation and parole office are active team members. Treatment providers are another essential component of the Adair/Casey Drug Court program and attend all staffing and court sessions. The Drug Court has also involved

several members of the community including a local minister in order to forge partnerships with extra resources as well as gain an additional source of community information and insight.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The Adair/Casey Drug Court program has successfully united professionals from the criminal justice and treatment communities to establish a program committed to the rehabilitation of substance abusing criminals. Team members have formed a cohesive unit and cooperate to provide participants with the most beneficial services possible. The Drug Court program is in compliance with the 10 Key Components and continues to work toward enhancing the goals of each element. Relationships within the community and with local agencies have been cultivated so as to develop a well-rounded and holistic approach to treating both substance abuse and criminal issues. In keeping with national and state guidelines, the Adair/Casey Drug Court has established regulations which govern both program structure and participant supervision. The following information discusses the individual strengths of the Drug Court program in Adair and Casey counties as well as provides recommendations for the continuation and improvement of the program.

Strengths.

The Adair/Casey Adult Drug Court program is composed of a wide range of professionals who are committed to developing a solid program. Team members are concerned with participants' lives and remain active and interested in their progress throughout the program. Prosecution and defense attorneys work well together and are open to various methods of confronting participants' actions and consequences. The Judge is dedicated to the success of

the program and has developed a non-adversarial relationship with each participant in order to better facilitate the individual's treatment. The treatment coordinator brings a vast array of experience to the table and works closely with each participant. The level of supervision that is maintained by the enthusiasm and perseverance of the treatment coordinator has proven beneficial to each participant's treatment regimen. As with many newly funded Drug Courts, the Adair/Casey team continues to encounter difficulties such as participant enrollment and a lack of regional services. At this time, they are only operating at 8% capacity.

Recommendations.

1. Continue operation of Drug Court Program in accordance with the ten Key Components.
2. Develop methods to increase participant enrollment in order to reach target goal established in the original grant application. It is recommended that the team review and resolve any individual or program-related issues which may be hindering the enrollment process.
3. It is recommended that team members become more actively involved with the treatment coordinator in decision making processes in matters regarding program regulations and participant supervision.
4. Continue to build relationships with local agencies and community businesses in order to provide additional services and employment opportunities to participants.
5. Recruit male team/staff members who can be available for drug testing male participants and aiding in participant supervision such as curfew checks and home visits.

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