

Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Process Evaluation

July 1999--June 2000

**Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Program
Process Evaluation**

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of a process evaluation of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The process evaluation included extensive surveys and interviews with 16 different individuals representing seven different agency perspectives who provided information about the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program for this report. The information in this report is for July 1999 to June 2000.

Implementation funding was granted to the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program in July 1999. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program was implemented April 6, 2000. The mission of Kentucky's Drug Courts is to create a criminal justice environment that stops illicit drug use and related criminal activity and promotes recovery. In the program model developed for Christian County, adolescents will be accepted into the program through a post adjudication track. There will be three phases in the Juvenile Drug Court program, which will take between 9 and 12 months to complete. Clients will work through the program at his or her own pace. In addition, requirements for each of the adolescents will change as they progress through the phases.

Phase I will consist of intensive outpatient treatment. Phase I will last approximately four months. Clients will attend group treatment sessions once per week for one to two hours. All clients will attend one individual session per week, and there will be a minimum of three random urine drug screens per week. The focus of Phase I will be on becoming stable and abstinent. Clients will also attend one Drug Court status hearing each week. Clients will be admitted directly into inpatient treatment upon acceptance to the program only if the severity of the problem indicates that inpatient treatment is needed.

Phase II will last approximately two months. Clients will meet with treatment staff three times each week, two times for group sessions, and once for an individual treatment session. Random urine screens two times each week will screen clients for drugs. Phase II will focus on job readiness, GED, vocational training, and spirituality. Clients will attend one Drug Court status hearing every two weeks.

Phase III will last for approximately three months. Clients will attend two group sessions each week and will be screened for drugs randomly once per week. Clients will attend three group sessions per week and one Drug Court status hearing every three weeks. Group sessions will focus on relapse prevention, aftercare, and education.

Family involvement. Clients and participating family members will attend group-counseling sessions two times per week in Phase I and II. However, family group session attendance may vary by phase depending upon the individual family's needs. The client's parents will be required to work on parenting skills. Parenting skills will be addressed at family group sessions through discussing issues such as communication skills, as well as time and anger management. At least one parent or guardian is required to accompany the adolescent to the Drug Court status hearings. The treatment coordinator and case manager will visit families at home and conduct sessions if necessary. Substance abusing family members will be referred to AA/NA, if deemed necessary by the Drug Court staff. Parents may also attend Alanon meetings. Involvement of the client's family will be central to the adolescent's success in the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program.

Program Goal Achievement. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program has five primary goals: (1) Provide treatment and other services to eligible nonviolent, substance-abusing adolescent offenders and their families; (2) Provide a judicially supervised program to eligible nonviolent, substance-abusing adolescent offenders and their families; (3) Divert eligible adolescent offenders from the traditional adolescent court delinquency proceedings; (4) promote public safety by contributing to a reduction in recidivism among participating adolescents; and (5) Reduce reliance upon secure detention while promoting intense supervision of participating adolescent.

Drug Court Staff. Currently, there are two staff members for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program, the treatment coordinator and the case specialist. One staff member has past experience as an adolescent substance abuse counselor and the other has thirty plus years experience in working with substance abusers as a police officer. One staff member has a Master's Degree in management technology and the other underwent federal and state training in substance abuse awareness and enforcement.

Drug Court Judge. Currently, there is one Judge involved with the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. District Judge James Adams has been on the bench for six years and has been involved with the planning and implementation of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. He has attended various training sessions to prepare for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program and has visited other Drug Court programs in Kentucky. Additionally, Judge Adams has extensive experience in working with the adolescent population through his work as a Juvenile Court Judge, involvement in Boy Scouts of America, and his service for 12 years as Chief Juvenile Court prosecutor.

Benefits and Strengths. Benefits and strengths of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program that were identified include: (1) Drug treatment and other rehabilitation services for clients; (2) Education for clients; (3) Wider referral options for clients; (4) Reduction in both adolescent and adult criminal and substance abuse problems; (5) An increase in positive relations with adolescents and community; (6) Case load reduction for the Juvenile Justice system; (7) Reduced time that officers must spend in Juvenile Court; (8) Extra training for the Law Enforcement staff on Drug Court; (9) Closer relationships between community agencies and resources; (10) An increase in drug awareness in the community; and, (11) More effort targeting the identification and earlier identification of adolescents with drug problems.

Concluding Comments. The following were concluding responses by various respondents. They also are excellent summaries of what respondents think about the Juvenile Drug Court program. “Christian County is glad that a Drug Court (for adolescents) has been established in our community;” “Juvenile Drug Court is still a new entity in Christian County Kentucky, but it has great potential to help the adolescents in this community who have a drug problem through the court and community resources;” and, “We are thankful to have this program in our community and hope it will provide early intervention for those in need.”

Summary. In summary, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program is in the initial implementation stage. One Judge has worked to plan the program. The program will be based on the *Key Components* and will have three program phases that will take clients approximately nine months to complete.

The most compelling aspects of the Juvenile Drug Court program are the immediate sanctions that clients will be given when the program rules are violated. Another compelling aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program will be the judicial involvement. The final compelling aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program is the client accountability. Clients will be required to be responsible for their actions. Additionally, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will have a great emphasis on experiential education.

In conclusion, the Drug Court Judge and treatment coordinator are dedicated to the program and the treatment of adolescent substance abusers. There was support for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program among all respondents surveyed which should facilitate the implementation of the program.

Program Description and Background

The motto for the Kentucky Drug Courts is “A chance...a change.” As a result, Kentucky’s Drug Courts are aligned with more than 400 Drug Courts in operation and 220 Drug Courts that are in the planning process, across the United States.¹ Christian County is one of five Juvenile Drug Court programs in the state of Kentucky. “The number of [adolescent] cases involving drug offenses in 1995 was 145% greater than the number of cases in 1991.”² Consequently, the mission of Kentucky’s Drug Courts is to create a criminal justice environment that stops illicit drug use and related criminal activity and promotes recovery.

Christian County was formed in 1797 and is located in the Pennyroyal region of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Christian County has, as of the 1990 census, a population of 68,941.³ Seventy five percent of the population of Christian County is urban and the remaining 25% of the population is rural. In 1997, a total of 36 adolescents (approximately 5% of the population) in Christian County were arrested for drug and alcohol offenses: 14 were arrested for narcotic drug offenses; 16 were arrested for driving under the influence; 2 were arrested for liquor law violations, and 4 were arrested for drunkenness.⁴

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program is in the implementation stage. Therefore, the responses in this report reflect the Drug Court program plans and expectations of the individuals involved with the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program began April 6, 2000. In the program model developed for adolescents in Christian County, all adolescents will be accepted into the program through a post-adjudication track. Adolescents already committed to the state will also be eligible for entrance into the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. Clients will spend approximately nine months in the Drug Court program before graduation. However, adolescents may stay in the program longer if deemed necessary.

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Juvenile Drug Courts must (1) Counteract the negative influences of peers, gangs, and family members, (2) Address the needs of the family, especially families with substance abuse problems, (3) Comply with confidentiality requirements for adolescent proceedings while obtaining information necessary to address the adolescent’s problems and progress, and (4) Motivate adolescent offenders to change, especially given their sense of invulnerability and lack of maturity.⁵

¹ Office of Justice Programs, Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project. June 1999

² “Offenders in Juvenile Court, 1995.” Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. December 1997.

³ http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/county/co-98-1/98CI_2.txt.

⁴ 1997 Crime in Kentucky Annual Report. 60.

⁵ “The Juvenile Drug Court Movement.” Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. March 1997.

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of a process evaluation of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The process evaluation included extensive surveys and interviews with 16 different individuals representing seven different agency perspectives who provided information about the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program for this report (see Appendix A for process evaluation methodology). The information in this report is for July 1999 to June 2000.

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court will be based on the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts Drug Courts program model and will be grounded in the Key Components described in the 1997 publication *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components*.⁶ The key components were developed by the Drug Court Standards Committee to ensure standardization of core concepts across all Drug Court programs (see Table 1). The overall mission of Drug Courts is to stop the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and related criminal activity. In exchange for successful completion of the treatment program, the court may dismiss the original charge, reduce or set aside a sentence, offer some lesser penalty, or offer a combination of these. Drug Courts transform the roles of both criminal justice practitioners and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) treatment providers. The Judge is the central figure in a team effort that focuses on sobriety and accountability as primary goals.

Table 1. Key Components

1. Drug Courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Juvenile Drug Court program.
4. Drug Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
5. Frequent alcohol and other drug testing monitor abstinence.
6. A coordinated strategy governs Drug Court responses to participants' compliance.
7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each Drug Court participant is essential.
8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gage effectiveness.
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Drug Court planning, implementation, and operations.
10. Forging partnerships among Drug Courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Drug Court effectiveness.

⁶ *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components* (January, 1997). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Drug Courts Programs Office.

District Judge James Adams, the treatment coordinator, and the Juvenile Drug Court steering committee have formed a plan for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program based on models of Juvenile Drug Court programs throughout the country. The treatment coordinator stated that they are taking the best and most successful aspects of other Juvenile Drug Court programs in order to create their own unique program. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court plans to model many aspects of Tampa, Florida's Juvenile Drug Court program. They plan to heavily emphasize family involvement and experiential education program components. The treatment coordinator also noted that he plans to implement many principles from the Boy Scouts of America program, such as learning life skills.

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court team has attended several training sessions, locally and nationally, in order to prepare for the program. Trainings they have attended and plan to attend include the following:

- Juvenile Drug Court Planning Workshop I, Pensacola, Florida
- Adolescent Pharmacology in Drug Courts, Louisville, Kentucky
- Juvenile Drug Courts; Partners in Treatment, Covington, Kentucky
- National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCAP) Juvenile Drug Court Conference, Phoenix, Arizona

Judge Adams has served on the bench for six years and intends to work with the Juvenile Drug Court program as long as necessary to ensure the program is successful. The Judge believes that an important difference between other treatment programs and the Juvenile Drug Court program is the court supervision. The adolescent will be more likely to comply with the program in order to have pending charges disposed of and/or avoid commitment to an adolescent detention facility. The Drug Court program incorporates intensive supervision by not only the Judge, but also the rest of the Drug Court team.

The first client began the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program April 6, 2000. Judge Adams is expecting to have 10 clients in the Drug Court program six months after the start date. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program grant will be able to accommodate 40 clients at one time.

The treatment coordinator indicated that the most critical components of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will be the individual sessions and client-with-family sessions, Drug Court family support meetings, reality based therapy approach, and the experiential education components.

Clients will meet with Drug Court staff at the Drug Court office. Treatment sessions will be conducted at a public mental health facility, such as Pennyroyal Center, or one of the local independent treatment facilities, such as Alliance Counseling Center or Cumberland Hall. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court status hearings will be held at the Hall of Justice, in downtown Hopkinsville. The Juvenile Drug Court program will initially serve only Christian County.

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program steering committee has created four major objectives. First, the goal is to have 10 to 15 participants in the Juvenile Drug Court program within the first 12 months of operation. Secondly, the steering committee wants to provide all participants admitted to the program with the following: intake and evaluation, urinalysis testing, case management services, and substance abuse treatment services. The steering committee also wants to maintain statistical data on all participants in the program. The final objective is to conduct routine evaluations of the program and modify the program as necessary.

Program Goals

The primary goal of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program is to provide treatment and other services to eligible nonviolent, substance-abusing adolescent offenders and their families. The next goal is to provide a judicially supervised program to eligible nonviolent, substance-abusing adolescent offenders and their families. Also, the program has a goal to divert eligible adolescent offenders from the traditional Juvenile Court delinquency proceedings; promote public safety by contributing to a reduction in recidivism among participating youth; and reduce reliance upon secure detention while promoting intense supervision of participating adolescents.

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will also make regular reports to the Administrative Office of the Courts about the following goals and measures or benchmarks for goal achievement:

Table 2. Program Goals and Measures

Program Goals	Measures for Goal Achievement
1. Promote abstinence	Clean urines; numbers of meetings attended (support groups, education groups, group sessions, individual sessions)
2. Decrease recidivism	# re-arrests while in the program and after graduation; Reduced truancy
3. Community safety	Lower community drug arrests; lower property crime
4. Increase life skills	Increase personal responsibility; Court approved housing; court approved employment; Increased educational/academic achievement level of clients; Enhanced family functioning; Develop coping skills; improved family communication
5. Community Awareness	# media contacts; national recognition; additional funding; requests to speak; more referrals
6. Expand and maintain resource base	Expanding and maintaining the number of agencies the Drug Court program can refer clients to or who work with the Drug Court program

Recruitment and Screening

Drug Court clients will volunteer. Clients may only enter the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program as post-adjudication track participants. Potential diversion track adolescents will be excluded. Most clients will be identified at their first hearing. Clients are expected to learn about the program through referrals from any of the following sources: public defenders, prosecuting attorneys, police, Department of Juvenile Justice, parents, other clients, treatment providers, judges, and educators. Brochures will be used to recruit potential clients (see Appendix C for brochure).

In order to be eligible, a client must meet the following inclusionary criteria: (1) Be between the age of 14 to 17 years; (2) Have a drug and/or alcohol problem; (3) Status offenders will be admitted on a case by case basis; (4) Meet criteria for drug abuse from the Youth Assessment Index (YAI); (5) Must be mentally able and willing to participate in the Drug Court program; (5) Must be post-adjudication/pre-disposition; and (6) The adolescent and family members must agree to participate in the Juvenile Drug Court program. Exclusionary criteria will consist of violent and/or sexual offenses. Exclusionary criteria include violent offenders and/or sexual offenders (see Appendix B for a copy of the Administrative Office of the Courts Drug Courts Program Procedure Manual). Some clients may be on the border of meeting the eligibility criteria. If this situation should arise, further background checks and an additional eligibility assessment of the client will be conducted in order to determine his or her suitability for the program, whether a client can comply with the regulations of the program, and whether he or she is able to comprehend the stipulations of the program.

After the inclusionary and exclusionary criteria for the Juvenile Drug Court program are met, the Drug Court treatment coordinator will review the adolescent's file and then conduct an eligibility screening. When hired, a female worker of the Department of Juvenile Justice will be used to screen potential female clients. Assessments will be conducted at the Drug Court program office, the adolescent's home in case the offender is restricted to home detention, or wherever is appropriate. Assessments will be administered soon after the offender is referred to the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The treatment coordinator will use the Youth Assessment Index (YAI) to assess the potential client to establish drug dependency and a history of drug use. "The YAI is a structured interview intended to be used as an initial assessment tool. It has been designed to collect data and help screen for problems in the following areas: (1) General Information, (2) Current Living Situation, (3) Legal status, (4) Medical status, (5) Family Relationships, (6) Education/Work, (7) Drug/Alcohol Use; (8) Psychosocial Adjustment, and (9) Personal Relationships. The information obtained results in a data based severity profile of the adolescent."⁷ (See Appendix F for YAI manual and instrument). The treatment coordinator noted that the YAI allows him to be objective. The intake assessment will also allow for individual needs to be identified.

⁷ Youth Assessment Index Manual by Quickstart Systems, Inc. David Metger and A. Thomas McLellan.

The treatment coordinator will explain the rules and requirements of the Juvenile Drug Court program to the potential clients and their family members. If they agree to participate in the program, the adolescents along with their parents, or legal guardian, will each sign an agreement of participation. If a parent or legal guardian does not wish to cooperate with the program requirements, then the adolescent will not be admitted into the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program.

The disposition will be suspended while the adolescent is in Drug Court program. Upon successful completion of the Drug Court program, the adolescent will graduate from the program and the charges will be dismissed. If the client does not successfully complete the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program, a dispositional hearing will be held.

The Judge believes that the adolescents will choose to enter the Juvenile Drug Court program because it offers an opportunity for them to get off drugs. He believes the adolescents will probably remain in Drug Court program in order to stay with their families and to avoid being housed in an adolescent detention facility.

Capacity

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program can financially sustain treatment for up to 40 adolescents at one time, as indicated by the grant. The program intends to have 10 clients six months after implementation. Initially, clients will begin the Juvenile Drug Court program separately. Clients will be accepted thereafter on a “first come first serve basis.”

Timing

In less than fourteen days after the adolescent is deemed eligible for the Drug Court program, the Juvenile Drug Court Judge will refer the adolescent for entrance into the program. The completion of the eligibility assessment to initial drug testing will occur within seven days. Within seven to ten days after a client is determined eligible to enter the Juvenile Drug Court program, he or she will make his or her first Drug Court status hearing appearance. Individualized Program Plans will be developed within fourteen days after a client enters the program, and a client’s first contact with a treatment provider will occur within two weeks of the development of his or her Individualized Program Plan. In addition, family counseling will begin approximately seven days after the client enters the program. After an act of non-compliance, appropriate sanctions will be imposed at the next Drug Court status hearing.

Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Program Overview

Orientation. Orientation will be conducted at the client's first meeting with the Drug Court treatment coordinator and the adolescent's family at the Drug Court program office. The treatment coordinator will explain the program requirements to the adolescent and his or her family at assessment, at formal entry, and also as the adolescent moves through the phases. The requirements will be explained using the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program handbook. (See Appendix D for handbook). Drug Court program requirements will be re-explained to clients and their families any time the Drug Court Judge or Drug Court staff feel that further explanation is necessary.

Program Documentation. Each client will receive the Administrative Office of the Courts Juvenile Drug Court program participant handbook at orientation. The adolescent along with the parent(s) will sign an agreement-to-participate form at the orientation session.

Weekly Schedule. The typical, weekly schedule for a client in the Juvenile Drug Court program will include: frequent and random urinalysis; school attendance; individual, group, and family counseling; supervisory home visits; Drug Court status hearing attendance; community service; and an experiential education exercise. The only variation by phase will be the number of required Drug Court status hearing appearances, treatment sessions, and drug screens. Clients in phase I will attend Drug Court status hearings weekly. Phase II clients will attend Drug Court status hearings biweekly, while phase III clients will attend Drug Court status hearings monthly.

Individual Sessions. Clients will attend individual sessions at least two times per week, throughout the Juvenile Drug Court program. The amount of individual session attendance may be reduced when the client is close to graduation. During individual sessions, issues such as the client's progress in the program, self-esteem, goals, problems, substance use, employment, family, leadership, positive peer role models, cultural education, and Drug Court responsibilities are addressed. The issues addressed during individual sessions may vary by phase and client.

The length of time a client may spend in an individual session is a 50-minute minimum throughout the phases of the Drug Court program. The treatment coordinator indicated that if a client were in the middle of an issue after the 50-minute minimum session is met, it would be inappropriate to end the session at that point. The individual session would continue until the issue is resolved. Drug Court staff will also be able to see clients outside of normal office hours (8:30 AM- 4:30 PM). Emergency counseling for the adolescent and family will also be provided if necessary.

Group Sessions. Family and experiential group sessions will also be a part of the Drug Court program. Family group sessions will typically last sixty minutes; however, there will not be a time limit on the duration of the sessions. A client will attend two group sessions per week in Phases I and II. In Phase III, group session attendance will be dependant on the adolescent's progress in the program. The content of the group sessions will vary by phase depending upon the individual client's needs and progress. Negative bonding among the adolescent participants will be minimized by having gender-separated groups, having positive peer influences through encouraged involvement in school activities, and not allowing inappropriate behavior such as foul language.

The group sessions will cover the following topics: self-esteem; goal setting; ethics; drug and alcohol use; social skills; job skills; coping skills; school issues; family issues; social relationships; as well as time and anger management. Negative influences of peers, gang members, and family members are also addressed during individual sessions. Through addressing ethics, morals, and encouraging a positive peer environment, the treatment coordinator will attempt to counteract the negative influences. Parenting skills will also be addressed during family group sessions. Experiential group activities will include family hiking and/or camping trips to the nearby Land Between the Lakes area. The purpose of experiential education is to learn survival skills, trust in peers, build teamwork, learn leadership skills, and goal accomplishment. Experiential education opportunities will be offered at least once per month. However, the treatment coordinator indicated that at least five adolescents would need to be in the program before an experiential group outing can be held.

Individual Program Plans (IPP). Once the client enters the Drug Court program, an individualized program plans (IPP), will be developed. The treatment coordinator, case specialist, and community treatment staff, as well as the client and his or her family, will assist in developing, updating, and evaluating the IPP. The plans will outline specific responsibilities and goals with timetables. The plans will include family and individual counseling; experiential education opportunities; frequent and random drug testing; educational and vocational training, and health and community activities. Clients will have a role in planning their IPP by aiding in deciding goals and responsibilities. The assessment information and input from the clients will also be included in the IPP. Plans will be updated weekly and modified based on the adolescent's performance and accomplishments. Plans will be individualized by (1) Level of treatment, (2) Any psychological or competency testing done, (3) GED or vocational training to address individual needs, (4) Family issues, (5) Dual diagnosis, and (6) Special group sessions.

The treatment plans will differ by gender. The Individual Program Plans will differ by phase as well. As the adolescents progress through the program, the topics covered in sessions will become more in-depth. The treatment coordinator believes that the adolescents will have an increased level of trust and respect for the Drug Court staff as they progress. In turn, they will be able to process more information and address more intense topics during counseling sessions.

Family involvement. Clients and participating family members will attend group-counseling sessions two times per week in Phase I and II. However, family group session attendance may vary by phase depending upon the individual family's needs. The client's parents will be required to work on parenting skills. Parenting skills will be addressed at family group sessions through discussing issues such as communication skills, as well as time and anger management. At least one parent or guardian is required to accompany the adolescent to the Drug Court status hearings. The treatment coordinator and case manager will visit families at home and conduct sessions if necessary. Parenting skill classes, if necessary, will be offered once per week. Substance abusing family members will be referred to AA/NA, if deemed necessary by the Drug Court staff. Parents may also attend Alanon meetings. The treatment coordinator commented that the involvement of the client's family is critical to the adolescent's success in the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. He stated that the parents are the connective glue in the family unit.

Requirements for each of the adolescents will change as they progress through the phases. There will be three phases in the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. These phases will take a minimum of nine months to complete, but is not limited to that span. Some adolescents may remain in the Drug Court program longer than nine months if deemed necessary by the Drug Court staff and Judge.

Phase I will consist of intensive outpatient treatment. Phase I will last approximately four months. Clients will attend group treatment sessions once per week for one to two hours. This phase will last approximately four weeks. All clients will attend one individual session per week, and there will be a minimum of three random urine drug screens per week. The focus of Phase I will be on becoming stable and abstinent. Clients will also attend one Drug Court status hearing each week. Clients will be admitted directly into inpatient treatment upon acceptance to the program only if the severity of the problem indicates that inpatient treatment is needed.

Phase II will last approximately two months. Clients will meet with treatment staff three times each week, two times for group sessions, and once for an individual treatment session. Random urine screens two times each week will screen clients for drugs. Phase II will focus on job readiness, GED, vocational training, and spirituality. Clients will attend one Drug Court status hearing every two weeks.

Phase III will last for approximately three months. Clients will attend two group sessions each week and will be screened for drugs randomly once per week. Clients will attend three group sessions per week and one Drug Court status hearing every three weeks. Group sessions will focus on relapse prevention, aftercare, and education.

The following table summarizes the phase requirements and the approximate time of completion for each phase.

Table 3. Drug Court Program Phase Requirements.

Phase I	Phase II	Phase III -- Aftercare
Principal Requirements		
Time length of phase: 2 months	Time length of phase: 4 months	Time length of phase: 3 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend one Drug Court status hearing per week • Provide all assigned drug screens each week which reflect no use of drugs • Attend all assigned group, family, and/or individual counseling sessions • Begin to make necessary arrangements for payment of Court obligations • Maintain Court-approved stable housing • Gain or maintain Court-approved employment, training, and/or education referrals • Comply with necessary medical referrals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend one Drug Court status hearing per week • Provide all assigned drug screens which reflect no use of drugs • Attend all assigned group, family, and/or individual counseling sessions • Develop a payment plan to satisfy any restitution, court cost, etc. • Maintain Court-approved stable housing • Gain or maintain Court-approved employment, training, and/or education referrals • Homework assignments • Complete a book report every two weeks • Maintain daily physical activity • Do at least one good deed every two weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend one Drug Court status hearing bi-monthly • Provide all assigned drug screens which reflect no use of drugs • Attend all assigned group, family, and/or individual counseling sessions • Pay a substantial amount of restitution, court costs, etc. • Maintain Court-approved employment, training, and/or education referrals • Maintain daily journal • Read a book and turn in a report to the Judge • Do at least one good deed to be reported to the Judge • Mentor a new Drug Court participant and/or group session

Drug Court status hearings. The Christian County Drug Court participants will be seen on a Drug Court docket. Sessions will be held from 11:30am to 1:00pm one time a week at the Hall of Justice in downtown Hopkinsville. All clients will attend Drug Court status hearings initially, until others progress to a higher phase. Phase II clients will attend Drug Court status hearings biweekly. Phase III clients will attend the Drug Court status hearings monthly.

The Judge will review each client’s files with the treatment coordinator and case specialist, prior to all Drug Court status hearings in his chambers. Every client will be required to stay until the Drug Court status hearing is complete. The Judge will speak to each client. Also, the Judge may speak to the client’s family if considered necessary. For instance, the Judge may need to empower the family to assist in monitoring or helping the adolescent through the program and/or express appreciation for the job they are doing already.

Transportation. All sessions and responsibilities to participate in the Juvenile Drug Court program may require transportation. The Judge will encourage the family to assist in transporting their adolescents to Drug Court program sessions. The Juvenile Drug Court program has made arrangements with the local school system, Pennyroyal Center, and through other connections in the community to provide the clients with transportation to Drug Court status hearings and meetings.

Education. Attaining an education is a requirement of the Christian County Drug Court program. Clients will be required to attend and actively participate in school. If the client has dropped out of school, he or she will be required to obtain a General Education Diploma (GED). Education level and needs will be assessed through communication with school counselors for those clients enrolled in public schools and the day treatment counselor for those clients who are in the alternative school. Educational performance will be reflected in the adolescent's daily journal entries and also through contact with the schools.

Employment. Drug Court clients will only be required to maintain employment if they are not enrolled in school. Gaining an education is the first priority for the adolescents in the Drug Court program. However, if the adolescent must pay restitution, then he or she will be encouraged to seek employment that will accommodate his or her school schedule. The treatment coordinator will verify employment by site visits and contacting employers. The client will be required to obtain employment, or community service hours will be required when he or she is not in school.

Living Conditions. Clients' families will also be required to reside in court-approved housing throughout the program. Living conditions will be verified through home visits. The Department of Social Services will be available for those families needing help with housing. If a client's family is unable to find suitable housing, but is in compliance with other program rules, the Juvenile Drug Court program will continue to work with them to find appropriate housing. However, if the client is not in compliance with program rules and does not reside in court approved housing, they will be terminated from the program.

Treatment Modalities

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will utilize local independent treatment facilities to conduct individual and group sessions. Several different substance abuse treatment providers will potentially serve the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program: Cumberland Hall, Pennyroyal Center, and the Alliance Counseling Center. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will send the Drug Court clients to the independent treatment providers for some group sessions as well as some individual counseling.

Other Program Components

In addition to each of the treatment components available to clients, there will be several aspects of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program that make the program unique: community service, mentoring, journals, and experiential education components.

Community service. Community service will be a mandatory component of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. Community service may be used as a sanction, but will also be a requirement for each client. The Drug Court Judge does not want a negative stigma attached to community service. He believes that community service, as a requirement or sanction, should be a positive experience for the adolescent as well as the community. The agencies with which Drug Court program plans for clients to do community service will include the local Humane Society, Adopt a Highway Program, and Pride Incorporated, which is a local landscaping and city beautification project.

Mentoring. The mentoring component has not yet been planned. However, the Judge would like to use a mentoring system in the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. Mentors would make sure that the program is meeting participants' needs and would provide another source of support for clients. The mentors would be leaders and other positive role models from the community.

Journaling. Journals will be used as an aspect of self-awareness. Clients will be able to look back over what they have written about and reflect on their progress.

Experiential Education. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program treatment coordinator is a fervent believer in experiential education. He believes that if an adolescent is given the opportunity to spend time outdoors, he or she will learn respect for the world and things around him or her. The client will also learn survival skills, learn to trust in peers, build teamwork leadership skills, and goal accomplishment.

Relapse Patterns

The treatment coordinator believes that clients will be most likely to relapse in phase III of the program, prior to graduation. He indicated that clients will most likely feel anxious because they are leaving the safety of the program. The treatment coordinator also believes that different stresses are likely to trigger relapses including: movement to another phase, crisis in the family, seeing old friends and old places, truancy, and problems at school. The Judge also believes that if the client's family consists of drug users and/or abusers, then a client may be more likely to relapse.

Client Monitoring

Clients will be monitored by the Judge, the Juvenile Drug Court program staff, and the treatment provider through urine drug screens, in-court sessions, and in individual and group sessions. Parents and the school system, if the adolescent is enrolled, will also assist in monitoring. Most of the Drug Court clients will be in the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Team (JIST) program. The JIST consists of a Department of Juvenile Justice staff person and a law enforcement representative. They monitor the adolescents who are in the JIST program by driving around the community at night, and doing home visits in order to check if the adolescent is adhering to the designated curfew and other probation rules. The treatment coordinator and/or case specialist will ride along with the JIST worker occasionally, in order to monitor the adolescent's adherence to curfew and Drug Court program rules.

Urine Drug Testing. One of the most important ways clients will be monitored is through drug testing. Drug testing will be done frequently and randomly. The first drug test will be conducted at the initial eligibility assessment. Drug testing will be done at least three times per week in Phase I. The testing for Phase II and III will be less frequent, depending upon the progress of the client.

Sanctions. Sanctions will be applied on a case-by-case basis. The Judge, with input from the Drug Court staff, will decide when incentives and sanctions will be used as well as which sanctions will be used. Any action of non-compliance with program rules will prompt sanctions. Sanctions will range from community service to detention. Examples of community service as a sanction include: working at the local animal shelter and working with Pride Incorporated, a local community beautification project. Home incarceration may be used. If employed, home incarceration of the adolescent will be monitored by the Drug Court staff and through the JIST program. Monitoring will be done through home visits and phone calls. Also, electronic monitoring may be utilized to monitor an adolescent on home incarceration. The Department of Juvenile Justice will be in charge of electronic monitoring. The Judge stated that he wants to use adolescent detention only as an extreme sanction. The Judge feels that sanctions should be immediate as well as positive for the adolescent and the community.

The Juvenile Drug Court clients' parents may also be sanctioned if they do not comply with the program requirements. The Judge has the statutory power to sanction the parents. The parental sanctions the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will utilize ranges from increased session attendance to detention time. The treatment coordinator indicated that sanctioning a client's family member will be helpful as long as it is not overused.

Rewards. Measures of success will be rewarded. The Judge believes rewards should be individualized for each client. If the client does not perceive the reward as being something of personal value or incentive, the reward will not be as effective. The Judge also believes, just as sanctions, rewards should be given immediately. The ultimate rewards will include phase promotion and graduation. Other rewards might include movie tickets and field trips. The Judge plans to solicit local businesses for resources to provide rewards for the adolescents. Christian County is close to Nashville, home of the professional football team, the Tennessee Titans. He hopes to allow successful adolescents in the program to be rewarded with a trip to a Titans' football game in the future.

Graduation. The minimum time requirement for graduation is nine months. However, some clients may graduate earlier or later than nine months, since clients will progress at their own pace. In addition, the clients must successfully go through all three phases. Other requirements for graduation have not yet been determined. Graduations will take place at Drug Court with all participants and families in attendance. Members of the Drug Court team and invited guests from the community will be invited to attend also. The graduation will be very festive, as indicated by the treatment coordinator. Clients will be given award certificates that are framed. The treatment coordinator commented that if the certificates are already framed, the participant will be more likely to hang the certificate up on the wall.

Program Removal. Participants will be removed from the program for acts of non-compliance with their treatment regulations. Failure to participate, failure to appear in court, new non-drug charges filed, new drug charges filed, and repeated dirty urine drug screens will all prompt removal from the program. When a client is removed from the program, a dispositional hearing will be held and the charges will most likely be reinstated. When a client fails in the program, the Judge will notify the participant during the next Drug Court status hearing.

Aftercare

Clients will be required to participate in an aftercare program. No formal plan has been drafted for what this program component will entail. The treatment coordinator hopes to include the following components in the aftercare phase: mentoring, newsletter, alumni groups, continued monitoring, required AA/NA attendance, group therapy, relapse prevention, and family counseling. The mentoring module will be informal.

Information Capabilities and Reporting

Case notes are presented to the Judge on a regular basis, prior to Drug Court status hearings. Included in the case notes are urinalysis results, record of treatment attendance, appearance for urinalysis, appearance at court hearings, treatment provider notes, counselor notes, notes on participants' compliance with court ordered conditions, adherence to curfew, criminal history, and personal history. Information will be presented to the Judge in both narrative and score card form. Monthly, quarterly, and annual reports will be made to the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Aggregate status reports on the progress of participants will be produced weekly. Weekly reports on the termination of clients may also be made. Expenditure reports will also be made either monthly or quarterly, according to the stipulations of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Monthly statistical reports will include the number of candidates referred, the number assessed, the number of individual drug screens, the number of candidates eligible, and the number transferred from probation. Also reported will be the number of participants moving to each phase, the number of court sessions, the number of participants identified as using based on urine drug screens, the number of individual sessions, the number of group sessions, the number of family/support sessions, the number of participants referred to outside agencies, employment and educational status of clients, number of employment and housing verifications, amount paid toward court obligations, the number of sanctions, the number of participants rearrested for new charges, the number of terminations, and total number of active participants in the proceeding month. (See Appendix E for monthly statistical reports).

Quarterly reports will summarize monthly statistics, the progress toward the outlined objectives, and performance indicators listed in the Program Goals and Measures section of this report. Annual reports will include statistics about participants, successful completion of phases, number of discharges, number involved in an education program, level of compliance and attendance at treatment, family participation and compliance, the drugs of choice, the recidivism rate, and the number and results of urinalysis.

The following information will be used in producing annual aggregate status reports on the progress of participants: age, sex, and race of participant; offense and drug of choice; number of relapses; participant level of compliance; treatment session attendance; family participation and compliance; number of participants that successfully complete phases; number that remain clean and sober throughout the entire program; number that complete the program successfully; and amount terminated. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court plans to institute an automated data collection procedure in order to make the program as proficient as possible.

Funding

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court will first be funded by a federal implementation grant. As the program progresses, the Judge will seek funding from local resources. Drug Court clients will be required to pay any fees such as restitution, medical fees, victim payment, and court costs. Clients will also be required to pay an undetermined amount of fees in order to cover urine screens and other costs. Fees could be worked off or excused for those clients who do not have the financial resources to pay. Adolescents will also be able to earn incentives to reduce their fees.

Some treatment costs may be paid for through the client's family insurance, if available. Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) may also be utilized as a third party payment resource. Clients will also be required to pay some fees occasionally for experiential education programs.

Program Decision Making

The Judge, Drug Court staff, and the Drug Court program steering committee will make decisions about the Juvenile Drug Court program. Any changes to the program will be documented and noted in the Drug Court policy and procedure manual and/or the Drug Court client handbook.

Evaluation

The treatment coordinator plans to use the following to assess the effectiveness of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program: number of relapses per client, percent of clean urinalysis, frequency of new arrests, improved coordination of justice system and social services, better use of judicial time, reduction in probation violation caseloads, recidivism, cost, retention in program/treatment, time in detention, school progress, employment status, stable living environment, reunified families, and family functioning.

At graduation, clients will be asked to evaluate the program by completing a formal survey. The treatment coordinator would like to inquire about what components of the program were helpful for the graduates and which were less helpful. Through these questions, the treatment coordinator hopes to find out what needs to be done in order to make the program more successful. Dropouts will be informally tracked until they reach the age of 18. Tracking of the dropouts will be done through local law enforcement and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Payments or incentives will be offered to graduates and dropouts for follow-up information if funding is available.

Potential Program Changes

The Judge can foresee some changes to the program structure after implementation. He plans to keep the program completion within nine months. However, later in the program, the time frame may need to be adjusted. He also believes that it will be a challenge to meet each adolescent's individual needs. The treatment program will have to be modified to tailor fit the client.

Program Strengths

The strengths of the Juvenile Drug Court program mentioned by the Judge included the fact that clients will get treatment with monitoring and sanctions. The treatment coordinator believed the most useful components of the Juvenile Drug Court program was the early intervention, prevention of substance abuse, strengthening families, and enabling adolescents to utilize educational tools in order to be successful in life.

Staff Characteristics

The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program is in the early implementation phase. The team has been mainly involved with the planning of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The treatment coordinator has been with the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program since November 1999. The case specialist was hired in early February 2000. One staff member has past experience as an adolescent substance abuse counselor, and the other has thirty plus years experience in working with substance abusers as a police officer. One staff member has a Master’s Degree in management technology and the other underwent federal and state training in substance abuse awareness and enforcement. One staff member has been with the Drug Court program for seven months, and the other has been with the program for two months. The normal full-time workweek is 37.5 hours.

Table 4. Staff Roles

Staff Position	Task
Drug Court Coordinator	Assessment for intake
	Assessing success
	Agency coordination
	Identification of client needs
	Information management
	Treatment
	Client monitoring
	Program reviews
Drug Court Team	Program planning
	Recommending modifications
Case Specialist	Assessing success
	Client monitoring
	Treatment
	Case management
Judge	Program monitoring and supervision

Staff Training. The planning coordinator, Drug Court Judge, and team have attended various seminars and conferences about Juvenile Drug Courts throughout the state and country. They will continue to attend trainings and meetings to learn more about the Juvenile Drug Court program.

Drug Court Team. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program team consists of the Drug Court program treatment coordinator, case specialist, and the Drug Court Judge.

Drug Court Judge. One Judge currently works with the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. Judge James Adams has worked with the treatment coordinator to plan the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. Judge Adams intends to work with the Drug Court program for the rest of his term and the program is successful. He has been on the bench for six years and was the Chief Juvenile Court prosecutor for 12 years. He has also served as the adolescent judge and has worked directly with the community's Teen Court.

Judge Training. In order to prepare for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program, the Judge attended National Association of Drug Court Professionals training session on Juvenile Drug Court programs in Phoenix, Arizona, in January of 2000. He also visited the Juvenile Drug Court in Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Interns. Currently no interns work for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. However, the treatment coordinator plans to use interns when authorized and available. Interns would be trained by going to in-services, observing staff, and reading manuals about the Drug Court program.

Volunteers. The treatment coordinator plans to use approximately 10 volunteers three to five hours per week. Training will be conducted in house through reading manuals and shadowing Drug Court staff. The volunteers will also be certified in CPR and First Aid.

Oversight Committee. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court Oversight Committee has thirty-seven members. The committee includes the Drug Court Judge, treatment coordinator, case specialist, public defenders, prosecuting attorneys, representatives from the Department of Juvenile Justice, treatment providers, police officials, and representatives from the local schools. The committee is divided into subcommittees based on areas of expertise in order to develop the policies and procedures of the program. For example, the treatment coordinator indicated that the Judge, Department of Juvenile Justice representatives, defense and prosecuting attorneys comprise a sub-committee that will work on the rewards and consequences of the program. The committee meets monthly for two hours at the Christian County Courthouse, usually on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. The committee sets the policy for the Drug Court and monitors the program. The quarterly and annual reports will be submitted to the committee. Some oversight committee members attend Drug Court training sessions throughout the state and around the country. For example, law enforcement representatives, the treatment coordinator, case specialists, and others attended the NADCP COPS Workshop: Building Linkages Between Drug Courts, Law Enforcement, and Probation in Lexington, Kentucky, April 2000.

Community Organizations

The community organizations, with which the Juvenile Drug Court program will work, are hoped to help generate a positive perception of the Juvenile Drug Court program's impact on the community and also generate funding for the program. The community organizations will be used for media coverage. The following table presents a list of organizations with which the Juvenile Drug Court program is already planning to work and some of which the program hopes to work with in the future.

Table 5. Community Linkages

Agency
Alliance
Cumberland Hall
Pennyroyal Mental Health Center
Chamber of Commerce
Community Service Organizations
Department of Parks and Recreation
Health Department
Local Educational Systems
Rotary Club
Local Employers
Vocational Rehabilitation
Local Faith Communities

The treatment coordinator indicated the working relationship and collaboration with most community agencies and other involved parties as very high on a scale of 1 to 10, where one represents very poor and 10 represents excellent. The only party that received less than a nine was the potential clients' families. The treatment coordinator expects that some families will resent the program because of the heavy involvement required of the family. He also noted that he expects other families will be very supportive and involved with their children's participation in the program. The ratings are depicted in the following table.

Table 6. Community Agency Collaboration

Agency	Collaboration Rating
School System	9
Families	7.5
Community	10
Court System	10
Treatment Community	10
Department of Juvenile Justice	10
Law Enforcement	10
Department of Community Based Services	9

Client Characteristics

Target Population. The targeted group of clients for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program is adolescent offenders aged 14 to 17. The following charges will be representative of the criminal history of the clients in the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program: truancy, status offenses, theft and property offenses, prescription drug fraud, forgeries, alcohol intoxication, trafficking for non-entrepreneurial purposes, public offenses, and possession. The Judge expects the potential clients to have two to three prior non-violent drug related offenses. He also believed that approximately 85% of the clients will have been in some type of drug or alcohol treatment prior to entering the Juvenile Drug Court program. The primary drugs of choice for the clients are presumed to be alcohol, marijuana, and crack-cocaine. The treatment coordinator believes the potential Juvenile Drug Court clients most likely obtain drugs from friends, casual contacts, and family members such as older siblings.

Once clients are in the program, the Judge believes they will remain with it in order to avoid detention and because they realize that they are becoming successes. The Judge believes that a great portion of the reason why clients choose to remain in the program is the “carrot and the stick” factor. Clients see the end goal of sobriety, but are also prodded along by the fact that detention is a reality; thus, they try not to fail.

Special Client Needs. In dealing with the issue of pregnancy, the Drug Court program will refer the adolescent to the appropriate sources. If there is a teen-mother or father in the program, parenting skills will be addressed during family group sessions.

The Drug Court program will educate the Drug Court clients and make the clients aware of sexually transmitted diseases with assistance from the Christian County Health Department. If the adolescent should have a history of abuse and trauma, additional sessions with the clinician will be conducted, including appropriate referrals.

Perceptions

Judge Perceptions

One Judge currently works with the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program, Judge James Adams. Judge Adams has served on the bench for six years. He has never worked with a program such as Drug Court before; however, his experience in working with the adolescent population is substantial. He is the founder of Hopkinsville Big Brothers-Big Sisters program. He spent 12 years as Chief Juvenile Court Prosecutor and was also part of the task force for writing the Juvenile Criminal Code in 1988. He is also active with Boy Scouts, is a Sunday school teacher, and is the father of 3 children. Presently Judge Adams presides over Teen Court and Juvenile Court.

The Judge believes that the Juvenile Drug Court program will be very time consuming for the Judicial System, initially. However, he feels that in time, there will be a decrease in the time he spends on the adolescent docket due to a decrease of the recidivism rate. The timesaving is also expected in Circuit and District courts.

Judge Adams believes the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will have a very positive impact on the community. In his opinion, the Drug Court program will assist adolescents in becoming clean and sober in order to lead productive lives in the community.

The Judge believes that 85% of the clients will have been in some sort of drug or alcohol treatment prior to entering the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The individuals eligible to participate in the Juvenile Drug Court program will be between the ages of 14 and 17. The typical client will have two to three non-violent, drug-related prior convictions, will show evidence of substance abuse, yet will not be a true addict.

In the Christian County area, there are three other programs that serve the adolescent population for substance abuse treatment: Cumberland Hall, the Pennyroyle Center, and Alliance. Important factors that the Judge feels will make the Juvenile Drug Court program different from these other available treatment programs are: the intense court involvement with the adolescents, the chance for disposal of charges, and possible threat of detention for the client.

The Judge believes that clients will find out about the Juvenile Drug Court program through public defenders, Department of Juvenile Justice workers, and probation officers. He feels that clients will choose to enter the Juvenile Drug Court program for the opportunity to get off drugs and to prevent having to leave their families because they must live in an adolescent residential treatment facility. The Judge indicated that the program plans to use residential treatment services as little as possible and only as a last resort in sanctioning. He believes that the clients will choose to remain in the Juvenile Drug court program because they will realize that a clean and sober life will give them self-esteem. He also feels that older kids will help mentor the younger ones and give them a reason to stay in the program and stay off of drugs.

The Judge noted that the Juvenile Drug Court program will take four to nine months to complete. He believes adolescents think in the “here and now,” referring to the adolescents’ perception of time. He said it is difficult for adolescents to comprehend the consequences of their actions and picture long-term goals. In turn, the Drug Court program must be intense and fall within a reasonable time frame. The adolescents expect to see instant accomplishments, which will be harder to fulfill if the program were as long as the Adult Drug Court program, which is 12 to 18 months.

The Judge stated that random urine tests will be administered at least 3 times a week in Phase I, once every two weeks in Phase II, and once a month in Phase III. He intends to keep up with the adolescents’ progress in the program by having constant supervision and monitoring through the Drug Court status hearings, contact with the treatment coordinator, communication with the Department of Juvenile Justice worker, and contact with the Hopkinsville Police Department.

The Judge’s philosophy regarding the sanctioning process is that sanctions need to be positive. They should provide punishment, but be positive for the adolescent and the community. One of the sanctions he plans to employ on the adolescents is community service at the local humane society, such as bathing the animals and other maintenance. Another planned option for sanctions will be landscaping the local park. Judge Adams believes these sanctions will incorporate pride in the adolescent because they are able to see actual accomplishments resulting from their hard work that beautifies the community.

The Judge’s philosophy regarding the reward process is that the reward must be individualized to the client. If the adolescent does not appreciate the reward, then the purpose will be lost. He thinks local businesses will help provide resources for rewards and also serve as a networking system. The Judge also believes that incentives, such as less time in the program, will be used as a reward. The Judge further commented that in order for the sanctions and rewards to impact the adolescent, they need to be employed immediately or else the impact will fade.

The client’s family will be required by mandate to attend Juvenile Drug Court status hearings, will assist in monitoring clients, will be sanctioned for noncompliance, and will also be treated, through referrals, if they commit to volunteering to the program. Judge Adams feels that one must know the dynamics of the substance abuse surrounding the entire family. He believes that in order for the client to recover, the family members must stay clean themselves.

The Judge believes that meeting the rigorous requirements of the program will be particularly difficult for the adolescents. Judge Adams feels that the adolescents are a different population with a different mindset. He stated that they possess a “here and now” attitude that does not allow them to see consequences and that they lack the concept of time. The Judge feels that weekly attention will allow the adolescents to see their progress, the consequences of their actions and will be necessary for the adolescents to complete this program.

Situations in which the Judge believes a client will be likely to relapse are peer pressure and stress caused from substance abuse of family members. In an essence, the Juvenile Drug Court program will become a family Drug Court in that the whole family will be treated in order to rehabilitate the child.

The Judge believes that the most important things that a client will have to do in order to be successful in completing the Juvenile Drug Court program are to stay clean, perform community service, be involved in group sessions and individual therapy, and participate in aftercare services. He feels that if an adolescent acquires a positive role within the community, such as holding down a part-time job, then that will be the most important difference between clients who complete the program and those who do not. Those clients, who do not obtain a positive role, will probably relapse and be back in the Court system.

According to the Judge, Christian County Juvenile Drug Court clients will have aftercare services provided, which he considers to be very important. The Judge suggests aftercare mentors and role models for clients as services that he would like for the Juvenile Drug Court program to offer. Judge Adams believes that mentors and role models will give the clients a reason to stay clean.

The Judge feels that the critical aspects of the Juvenile Drug Court program are weekly Court involvement, the team approach, working with the community, and the involvement of the Administrative Office of the Courts. It was indicated that gaining 100% of support from all involved parties is crucial in the implementation of the Drug Court program. The Judge sees himself as someone who plays the role of a leader and team member of the Juvenile Drug Court program, who seeks input from all facilitators, and who makes the ultimate decisions. He sees the school system having an extremely important role in the Drug Court program. The Judge has received confirmation from principals and superintendents of both public and private high schools that they will be supportive and assist in monitoring the clients. He expects open communication between the Drug Court program and the schools. Formal reports regarding those Drug Court clients in the school system will be obtained from the clients' teachers and counselors.

The Judge believes that the most helpful aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program is that it will offer treatment for adolescents who, otherwise, could not afford or were not successful with previous treatment. It will also keep the adolescents out of trouble due to the intense schedule they must maintain as part of compliance with the program.

Judge Adams indicated that due to the infancy of the Juvenile Drug Court program, he was unsure as to what will need to be changed after implementation. The Judge anticipates that the challenge of meeting each adolescent's needs in the treatment program will be a major problem during the program start up. He also believes the legislature is becoming more punitive on adolescent offenders and not focusing on treatment, which is another major problem. He thinks that in order to overcome the problem of meeting each client's needs, the treatment program should be "tailor-made" to fit each client. The Judge's solution is, "Don't put the youth in a parameter. Think outside of the box. Know what the youth's box is."

In order to conclude that the Juvenile Drug Court program is successful, the Judge believes an evaluation and follow up of the clients on not only a short term basis, but also on a long term basis, would be needed. He believes that if the client stays out of prison and the adult court system, then the program has been a success.

Defense Perceptions

Four defense attorneys completed surveys regarding the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. One staff member from the County Attorney's office will be assigned to the Juvenile Drug Court program.

The attorneys stated that the most compelling reasons for implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community were: (1) It involves the whole community in helping adolescents stay off drugs; (2) It provides an alternative method of dealing with drug offenders; (3) It will help battle major drug problem in the community; and (4) It offers early intervention to prevent addiction.

The biggest problem or barrier with implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community, according to the attorneys, are changing the hard-line attitudes regarding punishment and getting the community to admit that there is drug problem in the area. One attorney stated that a drug-supporting environment surrounds many of the adolescents with substance abuse problems, both at home and away. This will make rehabilitation much more difficult.

One attorney noted that the Juvenile Drug Court program has had an impact on attorney and staff orientation, by implementing an orientation session on Drug Court for new attorneys. The orientation teaches the attorneys what Drug Court is and what the attorney's responsibilities to his or her client is, with regard to Drug Court.

Two attorneys indicated that they expect the Drug Court program to impact their offices' relationships with community groups. One attorney commented "Hopefully, being involved in such a program will provide positive PR [public relations] for [the] public defender's office with community groups." Another attorney stated that the program "May increase knowledge of services and interaction between our agency and other community organizations."

The attorney listed the following as the most critical components of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program: (1) Individual and family counseling; (2) Routine and frequent contacts with Drug Court staff; (3) On-going judicial interaction; (4) Drug Court is a community partnership; (5) Drug Court is non-adversarial; and (6) Early prompt intervention.

The attorneys believe that clients will enter the Juvenile Drug Court program to avoid being committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice, and it offers an opportunity to change substance-abusing behavior. The attorneys feel that clients will remain in the Juvenile Drug Court program because they want to avoid being committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice, and they may want to seriously beat their drug habit. One attorney noted that the adolescents might choose to remain in the program because they like the experiential education component and the rewards of the program.

One attorney agreed that the Juvenile Drug Court program will provide a savings to the jurisdiction by providing less time spent in court appearances, savings in time saved in terms of case preparation, and by reducing number of re-arrests. The attorney disagreed that the program will provide savings in jury costs. One attorney noted that the Juvenile Drug Court program may reduce the number of repeat offenders.

One attorney feels that the program will eventually provide savings to her office in time. She stated, "...Once adolescents and their families complete the program, hopefully we will not see them again due to re-offending." A difficulty she expects, as a result of the program, will be the time factor. She commented that the "caseload is so high and court appearances so often in other cases, it makes it hard to work in time for another docket." To overcome this difficulty, the attorney stated that the Judge is trying to set other adolescent dockets lighter to make time for the Drug Court docket.

The attorneys agreed that measuring the recidivism rate would be important in evaluating the effectiveness of the Juvenile Drug Court program.

Benefits the attorneys expect from working with the Juvenile Drug Court program are: (1) Clients receive drug treatment and other rehabilitation services; (2) There is a case load reduction; (3) There would be more time to devote to other cases; (4) There would be a reduction in recidivism; (5) There would be education for clients; and (6) It would offer referral options.

Potential strengths that the attorneys feel the Juvenile Drug Court program will have are: (1) Early and prompt intervention of adolescent substance abuse problems; (2) Individual and family therapy; (3) Positive view of Court System; (4) Constant and frequent supervision; and (5) Accountability through drug screens.

One attorney commented "We are thankful to have this program in our community and hope it will provide early intervention for those in need."

Prosecution Perceptions

One prosecutor completed a survey regarding the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The prosecutor does not currently have any staff members who are solely dedicated to the Juvenile Drug Court. She believes that the most compelling reasons for having a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community are, "Obtaining treatment, awareness, education and behavior management for young people who are using drugs to escape is very important to our community. Immaturity, impulsive behavior and boredom are destructive attitudes and circumstances that are only aggravated by drug use. I'd like to see us boost self-esteem and let kids know that there are clean ways to enjoy themselves. If they learn this while young, they stand a better chance of being productive adults."

The prosecutor also stated that she believes that the biggest problems with the Juvenile Drug Court program are that the adolescents will not be allowed to participate without parental consent, and it will be harder than traditional treatment.

The prosecutor noted that she does expect the Juvenile Drug Court to have an impact on the staff training programs. She feels that the Juvenile Drug Court will impact the staff training programs because, "The other prosecutors will probably need to be cross-trained to fill in with schedule conflicts, etc." In addition, the prosecutor also expects to see an impact on arrest/detention policies and procedures as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program. She stated, "There may need to be reassignment of current duties if the drug court load gets too large." The prosecutor feels that the Juvenile Drug Court will have an impact on her agency's relationship with community groups. Her comment was, "I predict that we will have a closer communication with the Boy Scouts and possibly Champions Against Drugs. We may also tighten the link between churches and some student organizations."

The prosecutor surveyed feels that there are several things that are important in evaluating the effectiveness of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program: (1) Conducting follow-ups on whether participants re-offend for one to two years after completion; (2) Surveying of treatment providers to get a compilation of results for their specific programs; and (3) Generating statistics on crime reduction.

The prosecutor feels that two of the main reasons that clients would enter the Juvenile Drug Court program are to get charges informally adjusted and to prevent getting placed in residential treatment. She also believes that reasons clients would remain in the Juvenile Drug Court program are that they will be achieving new methods of coping and an increase in self-esteem.

According to the prosecutor, the Juvenile Drug Court program will have an impact on the community and her office. She stated, “We will devote additional resources to helping ten to fifteen kids become drug and alcohol-free. We will have these duties with no additional staff provided. The community will realize an eventual reduction in instances of adolescent crime.” She also feels that there is an additional way that the Juvenile Drug Court program might impact her office. She stated that, “Eventually, we might have fewer kids requiring adjudication hearings; we can refocus our efforts.”

The prosecutor feels that the Juvenile Drug Court program provides savings due to reduced number of re-arrests and in police overtime. She did not believe that the Juvenile Drug Court provides savings in less time spent in court appearances.

The prosecutor feels that the most critical components of the Juvenile Drug Court program are the motivation of participants, family cooperation, and intensive, consistent supervision. Two problems she feels her agency may have, as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program, are scheduling conflicts of “staff” and less time to devote to other responsibilities. When asked what could be done to overcome any problems or difficulties concerning the program she stated, “Do preparation and have conversations prior to staffing it won’t consume as much time. Be flexible with other court schedules so as not to cause a conflict.” Three benefits the prosecutor expects to see in her office as a result of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program are: (1) Reduction in repeat offenses; (2) Fewer adjudications; and (3) Helping ‘create’ drug-free adults.

Three strengths expected to result from the Juvenile Drug Court program are: (1) Reducing treatment costs; (2) Healing family problems within the community; and (3) Reducing supervision case load for the Department of Juvenile Justice workers.

School Representative Perceptions

Two school representatives filled out surveys regarding the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The representatives feel that the most compelling reason for implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program is that statistics indicate an alarming number of adolescents in Christian County are using drugs. The representatives feel that the biggest problems/barriers with implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program will be adequate time and funding.

One school representative feels that the Drug Court will have an impact on the school orientation/training programs or the school policies/procedures. He stated, "There is a need to provide in-service to schools on dealing with their problem." One representative believes that the Juvenile Drug Court program will have an impact on school policies and procedures as well by creating a partnership between the schools and Drug Court. The representatives do not feel that the Juvenile Drug Court program will have an impact on the school's relationship with community groups.

The school representatives feel that recidivism rates will be important in evaluating the effectiveness of Juvenile Drug Court. The representatives believe that the most critical components of the Juvenile Drug Court program are: (1) Close monitoring, (2) Effective counseling, and (3) Effective treatment/education.

The representatives believe that clients will enter the Juvenile Drug Court program to avoid further prosecution in Court and to keep the conviction off their records. One representative feels that clients will remain in the Juvenile Drug Court program for the same reason, but the other representative believes that they will remain in the program to get their lives straightened out.

The representatives believe that the school and community will benefit from the Drug Court program. They do not expect to incur any additional costs to their office as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court Program. One representative believes savings in drug-related complexities and hassles will result from the Juvenile Drug Court program.

According to one representative, the most significant benefits that the schools will receive from the Juvenile Drug Court program are that it will provide a better learning environment and as a result will develop better students. The other representative does not feel that there will be any benefits directly to the school, as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program.

Some of the potential strengths of the Juvenile Drug Court program according to the representatives are: (1) It will recognize the problems that exist; (2) It will provide counseling to students experimenting with drugs; and (3) It will reduce the adolescent court load.

Police Perceptions

Four police representatives completed surveys regarding the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. The most compelling reasons for implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program according to the representatives are: (1) To keep first time adolescent drug offenders from being a number in the drug recidivism statistics; (2) To educate the adolescents on the consequences of use; (3) The program combines punishment and treatment in an effective way; and (4) The program gives offenders an incentive to remain drug-free.

Police representatives expect that the Juvenile Drug Court program will impact the officer/staff orientation and training programs because the Drug Court program duties will need to be added to officer training. Several of the representatives expect an impact on arrest/detention policies and procedures as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program. In addition, police representatives indicated that procedures would require more time as a result of having to transport the adolescents to Drug Court.

Three of the representatives believe that the Juvenile Drug Court program will impact their offices and community. One representative stated, "I believe a Drug Court program will help promote the police department [and] judicial system as more caring for people with drug problems and [we will be] seen as wanting to help them rather [than] just putting them away. It will give us another option other than probation or incarceration." Another representative commented, "This program gives our agency other means of specifically dealing with adolescents who habitually use. We already work closely with the county police; however, it will definitely bring our agencies closer."

The police do expect an impact on their agency's relationship with community groups as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program. One representative stated, "It will enable our law enforcement agency to work more closely with other community groups and organizations involved in court." Another representative commented, "I believe our participation in the program will enhance our public image and community policing perspective."

Three of the police representatives agreed that the Juvenile Drug Court will provide savings through the reduced number of re-arrests. The representatives also feel that savings will be provided in less time spent in court appearances, savings in jury costs, and that there will be saving in police/corrections overtime.

The biggest problems/barriers with implementing a Juvenile Drug Court program, according to the representatives, are lack of staff and difficulty with pulling together the efforts of all the involved agencies. An additional problem according to one representative may be scheduling. Representatives indicated that careful scheduling and additional staff members would overcome some problems their offices might encounter with the Juvenile Drug Court program.

The factors that will be important in evaluating the effectiveness of the Juvenile Drug Court program are the number of successful graduates and the reduction in recidivism rates.

The most significant benefits to the law enforcement agency as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program according to the representatives are: (1) Reduced recidivism in adolescent crime; (2) Closer relationships between community agencies and resources; (3) Extra training for the Law Enforcement staff on Drug Court; (4) Reduced time that officers must spend in Juvenile Court; and (5) “More people may get involved with identifying adolescents with drug problems, if they know our options include this type of program.”

Potential strengths of the Juvenile Drug Court program according to the representatives include: (1) It creates better working relationships for all service providers involved; (2) It provides better community counseling for participants; (3) It holds adolescents accountable; (4) It reduces recidivism rates for adolescent drug offenders; and (5) It provides a more structured court for adolescent offenders involved with drugs.

Additional comments made by representatives about the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program included “Christian County is glad that a Drug Court (for adolescents) has been established in our community.” And, “Juvenile Drug Court is still a new entity in Christian County Kentucky, but it has great potential to help the adolescents in this community who have a drug problem through the court and community resources.”

Department of Juvenile Justice Perceptions

One representative from the Department of Juvenile Justice completed a survey regarding the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. According to the representative, the most compelling reason for having a Juvenile Drug Court program in the community is the degree of substance abuse and related cases in adolescent court.

The representative believes that lack of family involvement and client motivation will be the biggest problems with the Juvenile Drug Court program. An additional problem for the Department of Juvenile Justice with the Juvenile Drug Court program is drug testing for female clients if there are no female staff members.

The representative noted that he does expect the Juvenile Drug Court to have an impact on the staff training programs. He stated, "Staff would need specific training on drug-related issues and how Drug Court operates." The representative also feels that the Juvenile Drug Court program will impact his agency's relationship with community groups. They are already deeply involved with treatment resources and will probably continue to become more involved. The representative believes that the Juvenile Drug Court program will provide savings in jury costs and in reduced number of re-arrests.

The main factors listed by the representative as important in evaluating the effectiveness of the Juvenile Drug Court program were: (1) The decline in adolescent drug use and arrest rates; (2) Community attitudes about the effectiveness of the program; and (3) The juvenile offenders' attitudes about the program.

Some problems that the representative feels his agency may have, as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program, are: (1) Lack of voluntary involvement of some clients; (2) Length of program; and (3) Lack of family participation.

Three benefits that the representative expects to see in his office, as a result of the Juvenile Drug Court program, are: (1) A decline in substance abuse related case load; (2) An increase in positive relations with adolescents and community; and (3) An increase in drug awareness in the community. Three potential strengths of the Juvenile Drug Court program will be: (1) Community involvement, (2) Family involvement, and (3) Duration and commitment of staff and resources.

Conclusions

In summary, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court received a federal implementation grant in July 1999. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program began April 6, 2000. This program is based on the *Key Components* and has three program phases, which will take an average client approximately nine months to complete.

The Drug Court staff and Drug Court Judge are both dedicated to the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program and the adolescents served. The Judge and many of the Drug Court staff members have worked extensively with adolescents inside and outside of the court system. The Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program has made linkages with approximately 12 agencies in the community to better serve the clients and their families.

The most compelling aspects of the Juvenile Drug Court program are the immediate sanctions that clients will be given when the program rules are violated. Another compelling aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program will be the judicial involvement. The final compelling aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program is the client accountability. Clients will be required to be responsible for their actions. Additionally, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will have a great emphasis on experiential education. The treatment coordinator is a strong believer in experiential education and the ability for adolescents to learn life skills through experiential education components.

The treatment coordinator and Judge agreed that clients will find out about the Drug Court program most often through their attorney, a Judge, other clients, their family, or an educator. The main reasons cited for why clients will enter the Drug Court program were to avoid detention and to get charges dropped or probation sentence shortened; and a small percentage also enter to get help for their substance abuse problem. Respondents believed Clients will remain in the program for similar reasons.

There was agreement from respondents that some of the most difficult aspects of the Drug Court program for clients will be motivation and involving their families.

Benefits and strengths of the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program that were identified include: (1) Drug treatment and other rehabilitation services for clients; (2) Education for clients; (3) Wider referral options for clients; (4) Reduction in both adolescent and adult criminal and substance abuse problems; (5) An increase in positive relations with adolescents and community; (6) Case load reduction for the Juvenile Justice system; (7) Reduced time that officers must spend in Juvenile Court; (8) Extra training for the Law Enforcement staff on Drug Court; (9) Closer relationships between community agencies and resources; (10) An increase in drug awareness in the community; and, (11) More effort targeting the identification and earlier identification of adolescents with drug problems.

The following were concluding responses by various respondents. They also are excellent summaries of what respondents think about the Juvenile Drug Court program. “Christian County is glad that a Drug Court (for adolescents) has been established in our community;” “Juvenile Drug Court is still a new entity in Christian County Kentucky, but it has great potential to help the adolescents in this community who have a drug problem through the court and community resources;” and, “We are thankful to have this program in our community and hope it will provide early intervention for those in need.”

In summary, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program is in the initial implementation stage. One Judge has worked to plan the program. The program will be based on the *Key Components* and will have three program phases that will take clients approximately nine months to complete.

The most compelling aspects of the Juvenile Drug Court program are the immediate sanctions that clients will be given when the program rules are violated. Another compelling aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program will be the judicial involvement. The final compelling aspect of the Juvenile Drug Court program is the client accountability. Clients will be required to be responsible for their actions. Additionally, the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program will have a great emphasis on experiential education.

In conclusion, the Drug Court Judge and treatment coordinator are dedicated to the program and the treatment of adolescent substance abusers. There was support for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program among all respondents surveyed which should facilitate the implementation of the program.

Process Evaluation Methodology

The process evaluation for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program included a one-hour interview with the Drug Court Judge and an extensive three-hour interview with the Drug Court program treatment coordinator. The treatment coordinator provided contact information for representatives from relevant agencies who were working with the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. Semi-structured surveys of defense attorneys, prosecutors, Department of Juvenile Justice representatives, police department representatives, and school representatives were conducted. Information was collected from July 1999 to March 2000. Table 7 displays the response rates for surveys.

The limitations for this process evaluation report include generalizations over time and among programs. This report is specifically for the planning period for the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program, from July 1999 to June 2000. Changes that occur after this point in time are not reflected in this report. In addition, the representatives surveyed for this report may or may not reflect all attitudes toward the Christian County Juvenile Drug Court program. Regardless, the report is critical for documenting the program or the planning process through the stated time period.

Table 7. Process Evaluation Methodology

Interviews:	Number Completed	Response Rates
Judge	1	100%
Drug Court Treatment Coordinator	1	100%
Drug Court Staff	1	100%
Defense Attorneys	4	80%
Department of Juvenile Justice	1	100%
Prosecution	1	100%
Law Enforcement	4	80%
School Representatives	2	50%
Total	15	89%