



Measuring Your Program's Fidelity to Research Based Best Practicess: The BeST

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NPC Research




BEST
BEST PRACTICES SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

USER NAME

PASSWORD

GO



What is the BeST Assessment?

The Treatment Court Best-Practices Self-Assessment Tool (BeST)

Overview

- The BeST is an online self-assessment tool developed by NPC Research
- It asks treatment court teams for basic, objective information about procedures and practices in their treatment court



- Based on the answers to the assessment, a report is generated with a list of best practices related to NADCP's Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards and the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts
- The report identifies which best practices have been implemented by the treatment court and which have not
- The BeST assessment is intended to help the treatment court team, TA providers and other stakeholders understand how the treatment court operates and to help identify training and technical assistance needs





The BeST is used in treatment courts for multiple purposes, for example:

- BJA Grant Recipients receive the BeST as a part of NDCI's BJA Training and Technical Assistance activities
- NDCI also asks treatment courts participating in Operational Tune-ups to complete the BeST so that each team can get personalized facilitation during the training
- States use the BeST to help determine technical assistance and statewide training needs, and also to inform peer review and certification activities (*Ohio 2023*)
- Individual treatment courts can complete the BeST to learn about whether their program is following research based best practices including where they are excelling and where they can be doing even better
- NPC and other researchers and evaluators use the BeST as a first step in learning about treatment court practices



How is this relevant to Ohio?

Ohio received a BJA Grant to perform the above, plus the following activities using the BeST:

- Ohio is in the process of updating their treatment court certification process and NPC is assisting
- The idea is that treatment courts can complete the BeST and it will automatically populate the certification materials, leaving just a few items that require additional information to complete the certification application
- In addition, Ohio is (re)starting a peer review process where treatment court team members visit each others' program and provide feedback and support. This process begins with the BeST assessment

Who is NPC Research?



“Informing Policy and Improving Programs to Enrich Lives”

- NPC Research is a private research and evaluation firm based in Portland, Oregon. We work across the country and internationally.
- We perform research and evaluation intended to be used to enhance programs and assist with training and technical assistance. We work in treatment courts, public health, family well-being, substance use and mental health care, education, and community development.
- In the past 25 years, NPC has completed over 500 treatment court evaluations and research studies.



Where did the BeST come from?

First, NPC best practices studies:

- Looked at 101 drug courts around the U.S. (detailed process and recidivism studies)

(About 15% of these had either no effect or increased recidivism and costs)

- In total, this study included 32,719 individuals (16,317 treatment court participants and 16,402 matched comparison group members).



Where did the BeST come from?

- The purpose was to translate the 10KC into practical application – specific treatment court practices
- What are the best treatment courts doing?

Found over 50 practices that were related to significantly lower recidivism or lower costs or both

Many of these were eventually incorporated into NADCP's Best Practice Standards – along with findings from other research



Where did the BeST come from?

Updates over time:

- NADCP's Best Practice Standards (2013/2015, rev. 2018)
 - “Deconstructed” the standards into individual best practices
- OJJDP Family Treatment Court Guidelines
- Other research updates
- Feedback from states and individual users



Treatment courts that used program evaluations to make modifications in treatment court operations had 85% greater reductions in recidivism

Results of program evaluations have led to modifications in treatment court operations

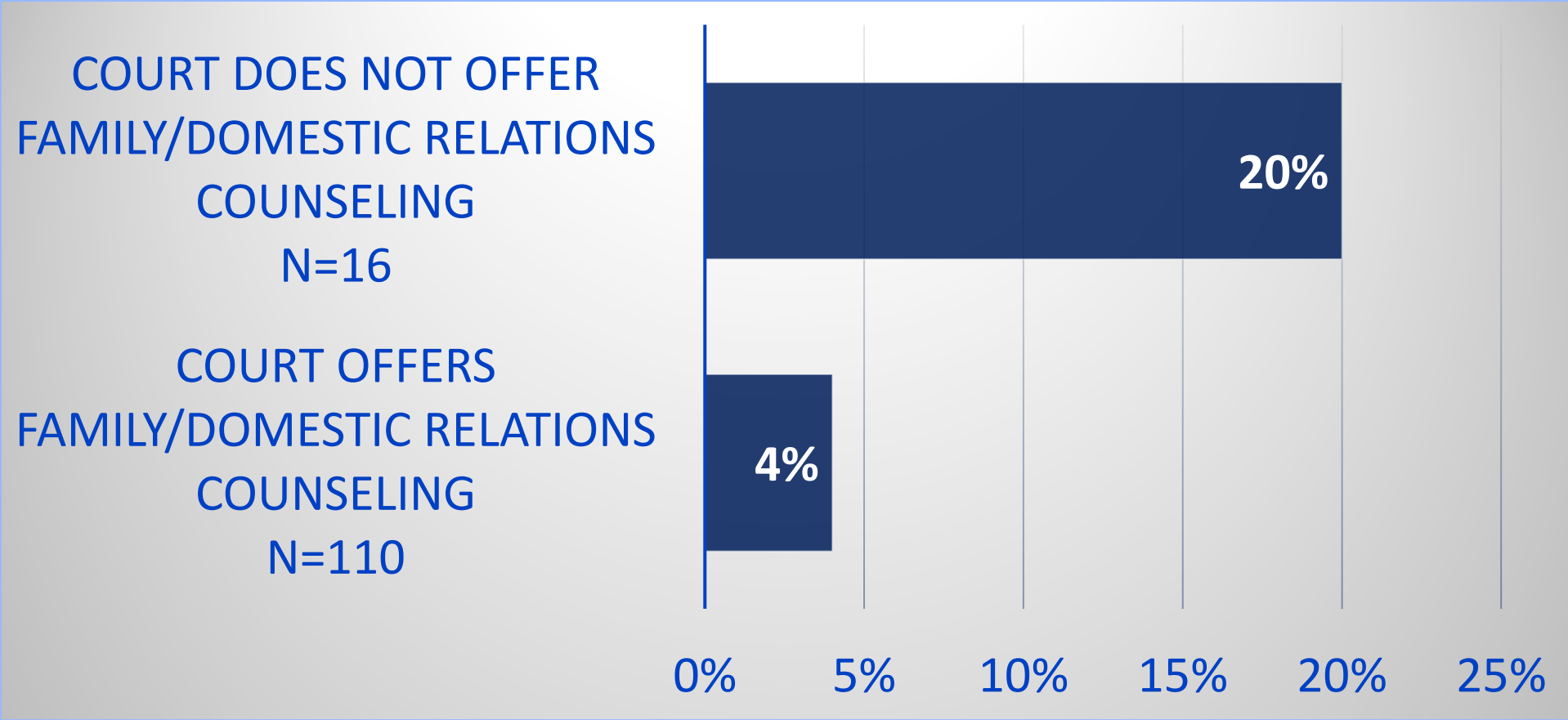


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .10$

Research on Equity and Inclusion:

Courts that offered family/domestic relations counseling 5 times less disparity in graduation rates

**Adult,
DWI,
Reentry**



What topics does the BeST assessment cover?

The BeST assesses:

Program Background and participant population: These questions include when and how the program was implemented, primary drugs used by participants, and who is on the team.

Eligibility (Inclusion and Exclusion) Criteria: Specific inclusions and exclusions for entry into the program, such as what kinds of offenses are accepted, which charges are targeted for admission, family involvement, age restrictions, and whether clients are excluded for having mental health problems, a violent criminal history or gang involvement.





Drug Court Team Activities: This area assesses how often the treatment court team meets, its composition, communication between team members and the roles of each member.

Treatment: This area measures the number of treatment providers involved with the court, their relationship with the court, the type of treatment services offered (residential, outpatient and detoxification) and ancillary services (parenting, anger management, acupuncture and educational training) as well as the use of evidence-based treatment practices.

Drug Testing: This section measures the types of drug tests, how they are performed and the frequency with which they are performed.

Judge and Courtroom. Questions including topics such as how the judge interacts with participants, training received, use of incentives and sanctions

Other practices related to best practice standards and the 10 Key Components: Participant statistics, case management, previous evaluation activities,



Sample Questions

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4-2. Is there a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place between the team members (and/or the associated agencies)?

- Yes
- No

4-3. If your program has an MOU, does it specify team member roles?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4-4. If your program has an MOU, does it specify what information will be shared between team members?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

4-5. Is there a written policy and procedure manual for your treatment court program?

- Yes
- No



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Finalize

Tip: Any of these buttons will save your progress. Click "<<" or ">>" to save and navigate to another section.

HELP | FAQ



500 character(s) left

4-11. Please check how often the following people/agencies attend status review hearings (court appearances). Please choose a response for every role in the table, even if the answer is Not Applicable.

	Always	Sometimes	Never	Not applicable - not a member of the team
District Attorney/Prosecuting Attorney	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Defender/Defense Attorney	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychiatrist/Physician	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychologist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Treatment provider(s)/counselor(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Case Managers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Judge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Probation/Parole	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug Court Coordinator	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Court Clerk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bailiff/Court Security	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

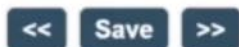
Please specify the title(s) of any other people/agencies attending drug court sessions:





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Information for Your First Phase

9-1. What is the minimum length of phase 1, or for your program if you have no phases? (Note, for multi-phase programs we are not asking details about ALL phases, just your first and last phases.)

There is no minimum

Number of weeks:

9-2. How often are participants administered drug/alcohol tests during phase 1?

- 4 or more times per week
- 3 times per week
- 2 times per week
- 1 time per week
- Once every two weeks
- Once per month
- Less than once per month
- Specific to participant/no general requirements

9-3. How often do participants attend GROUP treatment sessions during phase 1?

- 4 or more times per week
- 3 times per week
- 2 times per week
- 1 time per week
- Once every two weeks
- Once per month
- Less than once per month
- Specific to participant/no general requirements





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20-6. Is your program at maximum capacity? (Is your program full?)

- Yes
- No

20-7. Counting all the participants since the first day of your treatment court to the present (or the 1st date data are available), please answer the following questions. (Note: the first box should add up to the sum of the following four boxes.)

How many participants have entered the program since it was implemented?	<input type="text" value="500"/>
How many participants are currently active?	<input type="text" value="100"/>
How many total participants have completed the program (graduated)?	<input type="text" value="300"/>
How many total participants have been terminated/been revoked/been unsuccessful?	<input type="text" value="75"/>
How many participants have not completed the program due to relocation, medical issues, or death?	<input type="text" value="25"/>

20-8. Are there any questions, issues, or challenges you would like to discuss or have help with? If so, please briefly describe:

No thank you

2488 character(s) left





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300 Character(s) left

2-8. What is/are the primary substance(s) of your participants? To the best of your ability, please estimate the PERCENT of participants whose primary substance used is (percents should add to 100%; enter whole numbers only - no letters or symbols):

Alcohol (%):

Marijuana (%):

Crack/Cocaine (%):

Methamphetamine (%):

Opiate/heroin (%):

Opiate/prescriptions (%):

Other prescriptions (%):

Other 1 (specify the name only):

Other 1 (%):

Other 2 (specify the name only):

Other 2 (%):

2-9. Please estimate what percentage of your participants regularly use more than one substance at a time:

Percentage:



How does the assessment process work?



- Each treatment court fills out **ONE** assessment online. (It should **NOT** be filled out by individual team members.)
 - Complete assessment collaboratively with the team
 - Go over the assessment as a group (e.g., in a team meeting) or check on answers with your team members.
 - *(e.g., coordinator takes the first pass using a printed copy, then take the survey to the team to verify answers and complete remaining questions).*
- Frequently beneficial to the whole team as each team member learns details about how the program operates



New Survey Created for Best Practice Self-Assessment



Brian Lee
To Shannon Carey

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 3/24/2020 3:54 PM

You forwarded this message on 3/31/2020 6:42 PM.



Action Items Get more add-ins

Hello,

A new user has been created for your treatment court(s) in the Best Practices Self-Assessment Tool (BeST). Your login credentials are:

Adult Treatment Court
Username: JaneSmith
Password: *****
Website: <http://best.actinnovations.com>

The BeST is a treatment court self-assessment tool that asks for information on your program's practices and procedures, and is designed to help your treatment court team, BJA and the TA providers understand how your program is uniquely implementing various practices that fall under that 10 Key Components of Treatment Courts. After you finish the assessment





BEST

BEST PRACTICES SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

USER NAME

Scarey03

PASSWORD

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LOG OUT | CONTACT

Current Assessment

There is no active assessment for this court.



BEGIN NEW
(BLANK)



Assessment History



DASHBOARD

ACCOUNT

STATE: NEW YORK

COURT: WARREN
COUNTY
TREATMENT
COURT

TYPE: ADULT

Save



Finalize

Tip: Any of these buttons will save your progress. Click "<<" or ">>" to save and navigate to another section.

LOG OUT | CONTACT

Jump to a specific section selecting from this dropdown (don't forget to **Save** before leaving a page):

1 - CHARACTERISTICS

KEY:



COMPLETE



IN PROGRESS



NOT STARTED



PRINT THIS SECTION



PRINT ENTIRE ASSESSMENT



ADULT TREATMENT COURT: CHARACTERISTICS

NPC Treatment Court Assessment

Welcome to the Best Practices Self-Assessment Tool (BeST). The purpose of this assessment is to help your Drug Treatment Court team understand how your program is uniquely implementing the various practices that fall within the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts and NADCP's Best Practice Standards. The questions in this assessment will ask you for information about various procedures and practices of your Drug Treatment Court program and also about your participant population. It is not a grading tool, it is a first step intended to start conversations and prompt questions and clarifications about your court process.

Please answer every question. We would like you to fill out the assessment collaboratively with your team by going over the assessment as a group (e.g., in a team meeting) or in some way checking on answers with your team members. You can print out the assessment and complete with your team. However, the survey needs to be entered online. It takes about an hour to enter the answers once information is gathered.



DASHBOARD

ACCOUNT

STATE: NEW YORK

COURT: WARREN
COUNTY
TREATMENT
COURT

TYPE: ADULT

Save



Finalize

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LOG OUT | CONTACT

Jump to a specific section selecting from this dropdown (don't forget to **Save** before leaving a page):

1 - CHARACTERISTICS

KEY: COMPLETE IN PROGRESS NOT STARTED



PRINT THIS SECTION



PRINT ENTIRE ASSESSMENT



ADULT TREATMENT COURT: CHARACTERISTICS

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DASHBOARD

ACCOUNT

STATE: NEW YORK

COURT: WARREN
COUNTY
TREATMENT
COURT

TYPE: ADULT

Save



Finalize

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LOG OUT | CONTACT

Jump to a specific section selecting from this dropdown (don't forget to **Save** before leaving a page):

✓ 1 - CHARACTERISTICS

KEY: ✓ COMPLETE ⚙ IN PROGRESS ✕ NOT STARTED

PRINT THIS SECTION PRINT ENTIRE ASSESSMENT

✓ ADULT TREATMENT COURT: CHARACTERISTICS

NPC Treatment Court Assessment

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Save

>>

Finalize

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LOG OUT | CONTACT

Jump to a specific section selecting from this dropdown (don't forget to **Save** before leaving a page):

- ✓ 1 - CHARACTERISTICS
- ✓ 1 - CHARACTERISTICS
- ⚙ 2 - ELIGIBILITY AND REFERRAL
- ⚙ 3 - SERVICES PROVIDED
- ✓ 4 - TEAM
- ⚙ 5 - DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING
- ✓ 6 - STATUS REVIEW SESSIONS
- ⚙ 7 - JUDGE

KEY: ✓ COMPLETE

✓ ADULT TREATMENT

NPC Treatment Court

ENTIRE ASSESSMENT

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What happens after I complete the assessment?



Post Assessment

- NPC reviews individual assessments for completeness and illogical answers
- Translate answers on the assessment into best practice report for the treatment court





ANYTOWN TREATMENT COURT BEST PRACTICE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Adult Treatment Courts

This report has been created using the results of NPC's treatment court assessment tool. The best practice ratings below are made based on how questions were answered on the assessment.

Treatment Court Background

▶ Implementation year	2001
▶ Current active caseload / current capacity	71 / 100
▶ Graduates (successful completions)	2,008
▶ Non-graduates (unsuccessful completions)	1,000

The most commonly used substance(s) among participants is/are Opiates/Heroin (27%)

The treatment court serves high, moderate, and low risk and high and low need participants. The treatment court has separate tracks for participants of different risk/need levels.

Best Practices by Key Component - Quick Review:

The statistics in this summary table indicate the percent of best practices (BPs) met within each component. The intention is to help identify which components need additional focus and support. Note, some practices are easier to implement than others (e.g., require less time or fewer resources) and some practices are restricted by local and state policies. This summary is not intended as a score or a grade indicating the quality of your program, but rather a navigational tool to aid in guiding your attention in the report to where you can celebrate best practices met and where you may require more assistance.

KC1. Team Collaboration		70%
KC2. Public Safety & Due Process		100%
KC3. Participant Eligibility & Program Entry		90%
KC4a. Treatment Practices		90%
KC4b. Treatment & Auxiliary Services		71%
KC5. Drug Testing		88%
KC6. Responses to Participant Behavior		50%
KC7. Role of the Judge		80%
KC8. Monitoring & Evaluation		60%
KC9. Team Training		0%
KC10. Program Support and Sustainability		0%

KC Review Key: Meeting most practices In progress, room for improvement Priority area for discussion





ANYTOWN TREATMENT COURT BEST PRACTICE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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Key Component	% of practices met
KC1. Team Collaboration	 70%
KC2. Public Safety & Due Process	 100%
KC3. Participant Eligibility & Program Entry	 90%
KC4a. Treatment Practices	 90%
KC4b. Treatment & Auxiliary Services	 71%
KC5. Drug Testing	 88%
KC6. Responses to Participant Behavior	 50%
KC7. Role of the Judge	 80%
KC8. Monitoring & Evaluation	 60%
KC9. Team Training	 0%
KC10. Program Support and Sustainability	 0%

KC Review Key:  Meeting most practices

 In progress, room for improvement

 Priority area for discussion

ANYTOWN TREATMENT COURT

Results as of March 2022

The tables below provide a list of treatment court best practices and whether your program is meeting that best practice, based on the answers in your assessment. The results for your treatment court on the key best practices listed in the table are meant to serve as a *starting point* for discussion about how you are implementing best practices in your program including what you are doing well and what you would like to do better. We hope that it will be useful for beginning or continuing conversations with your team.

The answers to the best practices below are compiled based on the treatment court's responses to one or more questions on NPC's Treatment Court Assessment:

- "Yes" indicates that the treatment court reports performing the practice.
- "No" indicates that the treatment court reports not performing the practice.
- "Missing" indicates that the treatment court did not respond to the question, or set of questions, necessary to determine whether the treatment court is performing the practice.

Key Component 1:

Treatment courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing

 **7 of 10 practices met (70%)**

	Performing this practice?
1.1 The treatment court has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place between the treatment court team members (and/or the associated agencies)	Yes
i. MOU specifies team member roles	Yes
ii. MOU specifies what information will be shared	Yes
1.2 The treatment court has a written policy and procedure manual	Yes
1.3 All key team members ¹ attend pre-court team meetings (staffings)	Yes
1.4 All key team members ² attend court sessions/status review hearings	Yes

¹ Key team members include the judge, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a substance use disorder treatment representative, the treatment court coordinator, and a representative from probation. Best practice research currently defines supervision as represented by someone from probation. However, treatment court programs where participants enter pre-plea or pre-conviction may not have a representative from probation on the team. Probation may not have legal authority or jurisdiction over participants in these situations, and the role of supervision monitoring may fall under a case manager or other team member. NPC recognizes that the role of supervision may be met by someone from an agency other than probation, and NPC commends programs who have this role identified and actively engaged in staffings and court sessions.

² See previous footnote.

ANYTOWN TREATMENT COURT

Results as of March 2022

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² Supervision is defined as...

Key Component 2:

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



4 of 4 practices met (100%)

	Performing this practice?
2.1 A prosecuting attorney attends pre-court team meetings (staffings)	Yes
2.2 A prosecuting attorney attends court sessions (status review hearings)	Yes
2.3 A defense attorney attends pre-court team meetings (staffings)	Yes
2.4 A defense attorney attends court sessions (status review hearings)	Yes

Key Component 3:

Eligible participants ^[No Title] are identified early and promptly placed in the treatment court



9 of 10 practices met (90%)

	Performing this practice?
3.1 The time between arrest (or the incident that prompts a referral) and treatment court entry is 50 days or less	Yes
3.2 Current treatment court caseload/census (number of individuals actively	Yes

The results of the assessment can be used for many purposes, including

- 1) improvement of program procedures and practices for better participant outcomes (the primary purpose),
- 2) Grant applications to demonstrate program needs or illustrate the program's capabilities
- 3) Requesting resources from boards of county commissioners or other local groups
- 4) Requesting training and TA from the state



NEXT STEPS

- **Distribute copies of the report** to all members of your team, advisory group, and other key individuals involved with your program.
- **Set up a meeting** with your team and steering committee, etc., to discuss the report's findings and recommendations. Ask all members of the group to **read the report** prior to the meeting and **bring ideas and questions**.
- During the meeting(s), **review each best practice**, discuss any questions that arise from the group.
- Request training or technical assistance – Contact:

Lisa Williams Lisa.Williams@sc.ohio.gov

Shannon Carey carey@npcresearch.com



Statewide Report Options

Key Findings & Training Needs



The results of the BeST assessment also allowed NPC to evaluate those practices that courts grappled with achieving. The following trainings topics/modules are recommended to address areas where **1/3 or more of the BJA grantees were not implementing best practices.**

Current training and technical assistance needs

Curricula should include materials, exercises and written resources covering the following topics:

- Law enforcement representation on the team, at staffing meetings and at court sessions.
- Swifter participant entry into the program (within 50 days of arrest)
- Caseloads for probation/supervision officers do not exceed 30 participants (or 50 if mix of low risk and no other responsibilities)
- Practices are in place so that participants can demonstrate sobriety for *more than* 90 days prior to graduation.
- Courts have an advisory committee that includes community members and a steering committee or policy group that meets regularly to review policies and procedures.

- Creating integrated (including treatment and supervision), client driven case management plans
- The science behind risk/needs/responsivity and how to use validated/standardized risk and needs assessment tools to determine program eligibility

- Training probation officers on core correctional practices
- Integrating incentives and sanctions into the case planning process (which includes providing staff with written incentives and sanctions policies)

- The proper use of detention/jail in the treatment court setting
- Addressing new charges and violations via case management

- TOC
- Background 1
 - 2
 - 3
- Training Needs 1
 - 2
- Grantees 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
- Team 1
 - 2
- Attorneys
- Eligibility
- Treatment 1
 - 2
- Drug Testing
- I & S
- Judge
- Evaluation
- Training

Statewide Report Options

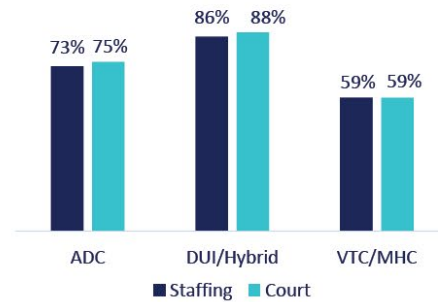
KC #1 – Team Collaboration



Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing. The focus of this component is on the integration of treatment and other complementary services with traditional court case processing. Practices that illustrate an adherence to service integration include the role of the treatment provider in the treatment court program and the extent of collaboration among all the agencies and representative staff involved in the program.

Best Practice Results

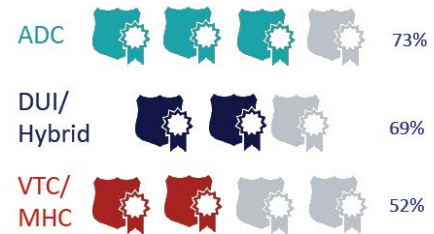
All Key Team Members Attend Staffing and Court



All key team members attend pre-court (staffings) and court. Members include judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, treatment, program coordinator and probation. VTC/MHC courts tend to have a smaller percentage of courts following this practice, while all courts could work to improve this requirement.

Law enforcement is a member of the drug court team. Like many treatment courts, BJA grantee treatment courts struggle with finding law enforcement representatives that can actively participate on the team. Typically, law enforcement involvement is uncompensated, resulting in limited availability as they grapple with staffing shortages within their own departments.

Law Enforcement is Member of the Team



KEY COMPONENT #2

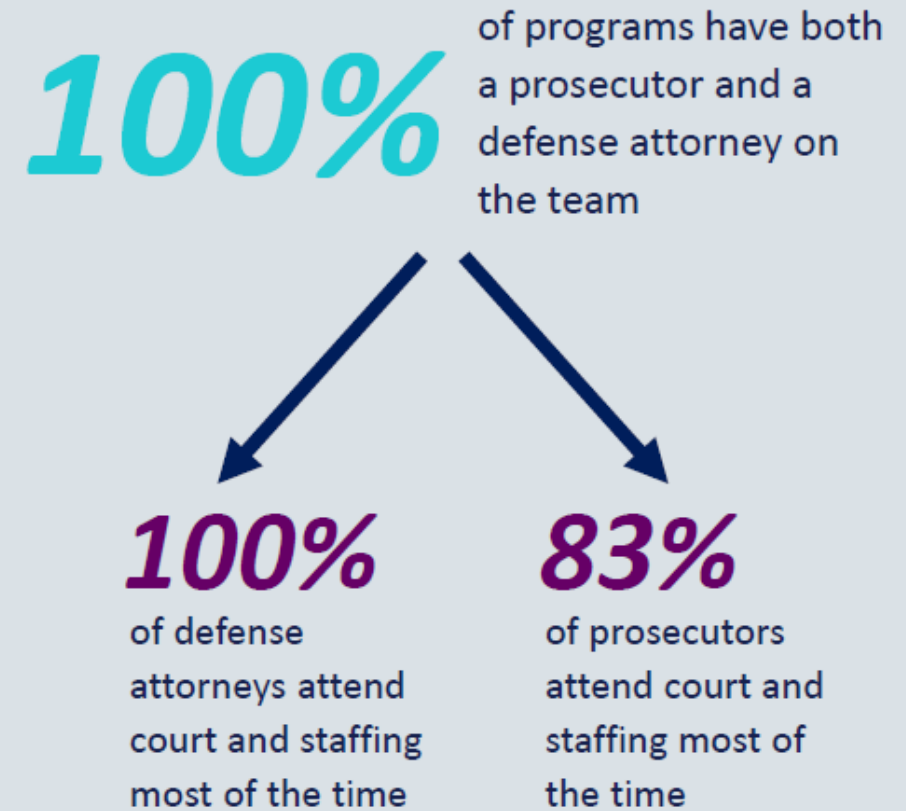
DUE PROCESS

The Key Components state that using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights

- JDTC Objective from the national JDTC Guidelines include:
 - Ensure equitable treatment for all youth by adhering to eligibility criteria and conducting an initial screening
- Three important facets:
 - Relationship between prosecution and defense counsel is collaborative
 - Programs remain responsible for promoting public safety
 - Programs must protect participants' due process rights
- Research found that participation by the prosecution and defense attorneys in team meetings and at status review hearings was correlated with lower recidivism and costs in addition to significantly higher graduation rates (Carey et al., 2008 and 2012)



Pennsylvania JDTCs' Results



QUESTIONS?



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*Informing Policy, Improving Programs
to Enhance Lives*

