

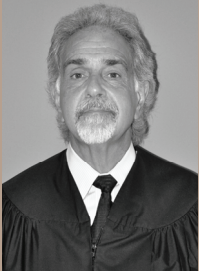
The INSIDER

Mecklenburg County S.T.E.P. Drug Treatment Courts

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Have you heard the news? Drug Court Works!

By: Theo X. Nixon, District Court Judge

Not too long ago, many of us attended the 2010 North Carolina Drug Court Conference. The topic was Evidence-Based Practice Made Practical. At that conference, we heard that national research supports the statement, “Drug Court Works!” We even had the pleasure of listening to one of our own graduates share her story of success.

At first I found myself thinking, “Really? I came to the conference to hear what I already know to be true?” But then I realized how important it was to share this message with all of you. It is time to recognize all the hard work that drug court team members do to make this program a reality in saving lives.

The concept of Treatment Courts became a reality fifteen years ago in Mecklenburg County. A few dedicated and invested individuals wanted to create a healthy structured program to address addiction, provide treatment and supervision, assisting individuals to overcome behaviors that often lead to loss of employment, alienation from families and friends, loss of self esteem, and ultimately incarceration. The concept mandated a very radical departure from the traditional criminal justice model. Instead of the customary adversarial nature of the criminal justice system, all of the moving parts of the system worked towards rehabilitation.

A very delicate balance exists. The drug court team members are each part of that ongoing adversarial system, and have been asked to set aside some of their established notions of the criminal justice system, along with their engrained philosophies, to adopt this new concept.

We ask prosecutors to relax their perspectives for enforcing the law and to work with the drug court team towards helping individuals help themselves. It is not just a relaxed approach to prosecution, it is a therapeutic approach.

We ask public defenders to protect the individual’s rights and best interest, but must also work within the frame-

work of sanctions for non-compliance. They are also asked to adapt to a therapeutic approach to criminal defense.

The treatment providers and treatment court coordinators continue to impress with their dedication and hard work in assisting individuals in their journey to sobriety, stability and personal improvements. They do so in spite of budget cuts, lack of funding, and growing caseloads. On more than one occasion, they have reached into their pockets to buy a bus pass, provide a gift card to a desperate consumer, provide cakes and desserts for a graduation ceremony, or pay an electric bill anonymously.

Perhaps the most overwhelmed and unheralded responsibility of the treatment court falls upon community corrections. We ask probation officers to relax their own models to join in our therapeutic efforts. We ask them to be compassionate social workers, and also ask them to be enforcers. The probation officers have adjusted to sweeping organizational changes, without changing their responsibility to monitor and advise the court on violators and enforce the court’s directives. The new faces in probation have quickly adapted to the team approach, and have won the respect of the rest of the team in embracing the concepts that are employed.

YES, DRUG COURT WORKS! But it works due to the dedication of its many varied components. The drug court team works because all of the working parts allow themselves to work together for the common good of the consumers and the system. Traditional roles are voluntarily transformed into an efficient, evidence-based practice of rehabilitation. What was so satisfying about the 2010 North Carolina Drug Court Conference was to observe all of these parties... the treatment counselors, the court coordinators, district attorneys, public defenders, probation officers and judges coming together to work in a unified manner to advance the functions of the drug treatment courts. **THAT IS WHY DRUG COURTS WORK!**

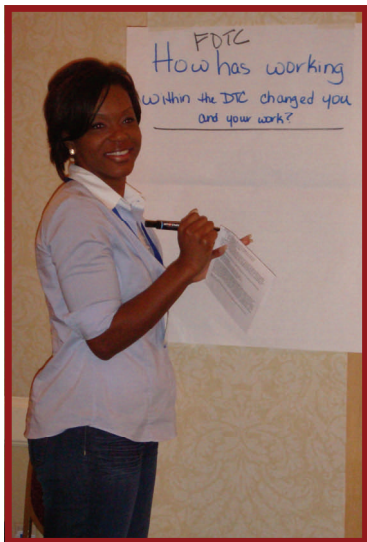
Drug Treatment Court Staff & Team Members Attend The 2010 North Carolina Statewide Drug Treatment Court Conference, “Evidence-Based Practice Made Practical.”

The 2010 North Carolina Statewide Drug Treatment Court Conference was held in Winston-Salem on August 30th, 31st and September 1st. Over 400 people were in attendance, including 58 dedicated team members from Mecklenburg County. This year’s conference, “Evidence-Based Practice Made Practical,” took a look at what we know about evidence-based practice in the fields of addiction, mental health, human development, neuroscience, community interventions and court interventions and how to use these lessons learned as we interact with drug treatment court participants everyday.

Douglas B. Marlowe, JD, PhD kicked off the conference with an opening plenary sharing the latest national research and its support for the effectiveness of adult, juvenile, DWI,



Members from the FIRST Team (Left to Right) Front: Judge Louis A. Trosch, Erica Oxendine-Hall, Linda Pierce Back: Yvonne Jones, Bridget Happney and Pili Flemming.



Yvonne Jones, FIRST Case Coordinator, facilitates a group during the conference’s “break-out” session.

and family dependency treatment courts. Doug Marlowe is Chief of Science and Policy at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Additionally, conference attendees heard a first-hand account about how Drug Court Works from Patricia Jones, a Mecklenburg County Drug Court alumnus. At the conference luncheon the following day, Chief Justice Sarah Parker voiced her support for North Carolina’s drug courts. Experts from across the state and nation were on hand to present and share their expertise on various subject matters.



Left to Right: DTC Case Coordinators Michael Hamilton, Edna Ramos and John White attend a session.

DRUG COURT WORKS!!

- ◆ As of October 21, 2010, DTC's current participants have accumulated over 20,788 drug free days, which is also the equivalent of 57 years!!!
- ◆ Since 1995, the Mecklenburg County S.T.E.P. Program has served over 6,500 clients. (Does not include numbers for FY10/11.)
- ◆ We have had 1,013 individuals who have successfully completed one of our programs. (Does not include numbers for FY10/11.)

SPOTLIGHT: Clients of the Quarter



SUPERIOR

It is our pleasure to introduce you to the Superior Drug Treatment Court “Client of the Quarter,” Joshua P. Josh came to the program in February of 2010. Since entering, he has been in 100% compliance, held down two jobs and has been on the “A-Team” since April of this year. Please congratulate Josh on his accomplishments!!



DISTRICT A

Robert “Bobby” L. has been a District A client since May 2010. During this time, he has had nearly 100% compliance in every aspect of the Drug Court Program. He was recently placed on the “A-Team,” the very first time he was eligible. He is the proud father of a 17 year old daughter and desires to continue being a great role model for her. He takes his recovery very seriously and is a positive role model for many of his peers. Congratulations to Robert for being the District A Client of the Quarter!!



DISTRICT B

Frank P. has been a District B client since November 2009. During this time, he has had to overcome many obstacles on his path to recovery. Today, he is an "A-Team" member and a role model for many of his peers. Frank is working with Vocational Rehabilitation and is doing very well there. We are proud of his efforts and hope that he continues to work on his recovery one day at a time. Congratulations, Frank!!



DWI-C

Michael S. entered the DWI “Diamond” Court in October 2009. Michael successfully completed all program requirements substance free. He actively participated and continuously offered positive feedback in his group settings while attending treatment at Anuvia. Michael has been a positive role-model to others. He was able to experience being on the “A-Team” on 10 occasions during his participation. He has truly established a strong foundation in his recovery process and is an active participant in the community. Congratulations!!

DWI-D

Steven L. has been a participant in the DWI “Phoenix” Court since November 2009 and has been an “A-Team” member since May 2010. Steven has maintained a full-time job while in the program, which he has had for the past five years. The DWI Team congratulates Steven on all of his good work and strong efforts!



MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Erica C. proudly displays her “Client of the Quarter” certificate. As a member of MHC, Erica has made positive strides towards achieving her goals for independence and recovery. We are proud of your accomplishments, Erica. Congratulations!

YOUTH TREATMENT COURT PARTICIPANTS PARTICIPATE IN ROPES COURSE

On Friday, August 20, 2010, the Youth Treatment Court participants and several team members traveled to Rutherford County, NC to participate in a day-long outing on the Ropes Course at Camp Schiele. The day was spent in activities designed to help build self-confidence and encourage team building. Our partnership with Boy Scouts of America and Project Challenge made this event possible and we would like to extend a hearty thanks to both organizations.



A YTC participant makes his way up the climbing rock wall.



Above and Right: YTC participants complete exercises focusing on "teamwork."



THANK YOU, DWI COURT!!

Angel, a DWI client, chose to use her graduation as an opportunity to show appreciation for the DWI drug court team. Recognizing all of the hard work the team put into assisting her toward her goal of sobriety, she presented Sherrill Foust, her case coordinator, with a plaque and gave certificates of appreciation to her judge, probation officer, public defender, court coordinator and to another DWI case coordinator.

*"Some see a hopeless end, while others see an endless hope."
~Author Unknown*

DRUG TREATMENT COURT WELCOMES MICHAEL HAMILTON AS NEW DISTRICT COURT CASE COORDINATOR

Michael Hamilton joined Drug Treatment Court in June 2010. Before his current position, Michael worked for Area Mental Health in the juvenile division. He was born and raised in Goldsboro, North Carolina and moved to Charlotte in 1985. He attended J.C. Smith University where he majored in sociology and minored in criminal justice. Michael has two sons who are quickly making names for themselves on the football field. In his spare time, Michael likes to go to the gym and has coached youth football, basketball, and baseball for the past twelve years.



Drug Treatment Court Staff Attends Anuvia's Annual Luncheon & Awards Presentation

Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center held its annual luncheon and awards presentation on September 30, 2010. Several Drug Treatment Court staff and team members were in attendance at the event, which was held at The Westin Charlotte. Two individuals who hold a special place in the hearts of Mecklenburg County Drug Courts were the award recipients at this year's event: retired District Court Judge, Philip F. Howerton, Jr., who presided over one of our treatment courts from their inception in 1995 until his retirement on December 31, 2007, and his wife, Dr. Mary Howerton.

Judge Howerton was the recipient of the Jody Kellermann award, which recognizes excellence in leadership and service in the field of substance abuse treatment and prevention.



Hon. Philip F. Howerton, Jr. (Ret.) and Dr. Mary Howerton.



Hon. Philip F. Howerton, Jr. (Ret.), Chief District Court Judge Lisa C. Bell and Dr. Mary Howerton.

The Martha Bedell Alexander award was awarded to Dr. Howerton, recognizing her excellence in leadership and service in advocating for appropriate, accessible and person-and-family centered substance abuse prevention and treatment services.



UPCOMING TRAININGS

ANUVIA PREVENTION & RECOVERY CENTER

Community Wellness Professional Development Trainings & Workshops

Trainings will be held at the following location:

100 Billingsley Road, Charlotte, NC 28211

Cost: \$20.00/session

Participants should pre-register online at www.anuvia.org and follow the “trainings” tab.

“Barriers and Solutions to Working with the African American Community”

Speaker: Jonathan P. Belton, BS, CSAC, CSAPC

November 4, 2010 (2:00PM - 4:00PM)

“The Teenage Brain: Why Logic Won’t Work with Teens”

Speaker: Jenny Wade, BS

November 11, 2010 (2:00PM - 4:00PM)

“Tobacco Dependence”

Speaker: Ashley Walters Falls, MSN, PMHNP-BC

November 18, 2010 (2:00PM - 5:00PM)

“Save the Drama: Conflict Resolution Skills for the Substance Abuse Professional”

Speaker: John A. Basilice, Ed.S., M.Ed., LPC

December 2, 2010 (2:00PM - 4:00PM)

“Substance Abuse Issues in Older Adults”

Speaker: Jeanette H. Day, CCS, CSAC

December 9, 2010 (2:00PM - 5:00PM)

MCLEOD ADDICTIVE DISEASE CENTER

Trainings will be held at the following location:

McLeod Conference Center

515 Clanton Road, Charlotte, NC 28217

“Understanding and Implementing the American Society of Addiction Medicines (ASAM) patient Placement Criteria to make patient placement and level of care decisions”

Speaker: Thomas H. Coyne, Ed.D., LCSW

November 12, 2010

8:30AM - 4:00PM

“Responding to Families and Communities Impacted by Methamphetamine”

Speaker: Jodi Flick, LCSW, ACSW

December 10, 2010

8:30AM - 4:00PM

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

ON NOVEMBER 2ND!!

For information on where to register

and vote, go to:

www.meckboe.org



DTC CALENDAR

2010



2011

NOVEMBER 2010				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM	3 MHC— CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST— CR4330 @ 2PM	4 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—C—CR 4330 @ 4PM	5 Superior—CR 5310 @ 2PM
8	9 YTC Team Meeting 12:30 PM—4420	10	11 HOLIDAY	12
15	16 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM	17 MHC— CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST— CR4330 @ 2PM	18 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—D—CR 4330 @ 4PM	19 Superior—CR 5310 @ 2PM
22	23	24 FIRST Team Meeting 12:30 PM—4420	25 HOLIDAY	26 HOLIDAY
29	30			

DECEMBER 2010				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 MHC— CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST— CR4330 @ 2PM	2 DTC A&B—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI C&D—CR 4330 @ 4PM	3 Superior—CR 5310 @ 2PM
6	7 YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17 Holiday Court Session— All Adult Programs @ 3:30 PM
20	21 YTC Holiday Court Session @ 4:00 PM	22	23	24 HOLIDAY
27 HOLIDAY	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2011				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM	5 MHC— CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST— CR4330 @ 2PM	6 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—C—CR 4330 @ 4PM	7 Superior—CR 5310 @ 2PM
10	11 YTC Team Meeting 12:30—4420	12	13	14
17 HOLIDAY	18 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM	19 MHC— CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST— CR4330 @ 2PM	20 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—D—CR 4330 @ 4PM	21 Operations Comm Mtg 8:30—9610 Superior—CR 5310 @ 2PM
24 District Team Meeting 8:30—4420	25	26 DWI Team Meeting 9:30—4420 FIRST Team Meeting 12:30—4420	27	28
31				

AA Meetings
24 Hour Hotline:
704-332-4387
Toll Free: 1-877-233-6853

NA Meetings

Charlotte: 704-336-8980
Concord: 704-933-5559
Conover: 828-323-3752
Cornelius: 866-879-7166
Davidson: 866-879-7166
Huntersville: 866-879-7166
Matthews: 704-336-8980
Monroe: 704-366-8980
 Mooresville: 866-879-7166
Pineville: 704-336-8980

DTC GRADS

DISTRICT A

Teresa L.
James S.

DWI C

Kimberly G.
Jatun H.
Joshua M.
Andrea N.
Michael S.
Ralph T.
Brett T.
Angel T.

DISTRICT B

Mark C.
Tameka L.

Landoaldo V.

FIRST

Shavone C.
Chiketa M.
Pansy S.
Nasheba T.

DWID

Taru C.
Terry C.
James D.
Andre D.
Heidi E.
Ramon M.
Brandon W.

SUPERIOR

Julie B.
Xavier H.
LaTonda R.
Christopher R.

MHC

William C.
Ebonee H.
Charles I.
William O.
John U.

YTC

Robert B.
Nelson J.
Lawtan C.

Partners with Adult DTC Programs

Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office
Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office
Mecklenburg County Division of Community Corrections
Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
Mecklenburg County Area Mental Health
Southeast Addiction Institute and Learning Center, Inc.
Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center
McLeod Addictive Disease Center
Mecklenburg County Jail Inpatient Treatment Program
Freedom House
Urban Ministries
Salvation Army Residential Program
Joblink Transformation Center
CPCC Pathways Program
Uptown Men's Shelter
Emergency Winter Shelter

Partners with FIRST Program

Mecklenburg County Area Mental Health
Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center
Community Choices CASCADE
McLeod Addictive Disease Center
Southeast Addiction Institute and Learning Center, Inc.
Women's Commission
NOVA
Behavioral Health Center
Department of Social Services, Youth & Family Services Division

Partners with YTC Program

Primary Care Solutions
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Children's Law Center
Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Project Challenge

**NEXT ISSUE:
WINTER 2010**

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