



The INSIDER

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

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Janeanne E. Tourtellott
DTC Administrator

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Thomas Jefferson once said: *“America is not governed by the majority, but by the majority of those who participate.”*

Please consider celebrating this month and take action to exercise your constitutional right to participate and speak up as a citizen about what Drug Treatment Court (DTC) has meant to you and to our community – here’s why:

Other states are struggling to fund services and programs. Our DTCs are programs to keep. In North Carolina, we’ve already seen the impact this struggle is having on our own drug court programs. The news was good at first. When this year’s session began, the Governor’s proposed budget included funding for DTCs. The bad news came when the House proposed budget sought to eliminate the entire state DTC program.

At the last minute, the House put DTCs back in their proposed budget but only with enough money for one year (until June 2012). There is also an additional requirement to study the “effectiveness and efficiency” of DTCs. The last minute change happened in part because of the hard work of those people who spoke up for DTCs. They *advocated* by sharing information, their own stories, and their own recommendations to our state legislators and leaders. They spoke about the value – human and financial – of DTCs to our state through phone calls, letters to representatives, or to the newspapers.

Next, the Senate will approve their budget. Then, the House, Senate and the Governor must work together to approve a final budget. The threat to drug courts in North Carolina is not over. They could be left hanging by a thread or be taken out of the final budget entirely. This does not have to happen. We still have an opportunity for more of us to join to-

gether and *inform* our leaders about why our communities need to keep drug treatment court as an option for our judges, court system and law enforcement.

Drug Courts provide real solutions to individuals and families, the criminal justice system and to our communities. At this time, DTCs need people who want to be part of the solution for the wider community – our state. We need people to help talk about, and take action to support, drug treatment court in our state budget.

Many leaders in our state and across the country – law enforcement, judges, attorneys, probation, etc., support drug treatment court programs. Professionals, citizens, former clients, have worked hard, made extra time and effort, to create and keep drug courts going. Why? Because drug courts provide a better chance at life recovery, better use of scarce public resources, and provide better public safety for countless numbers of people and families afflicted with addiction and related problems.



Many of us recognize and associate red, pink, and yellow ribbons with Aids Awareness, Breast Cancer Awareness, and remembering our Soldiers away at war. All of these worthy causes started with just a few dedicated people who were affected by these problems, which then spread outward to many others, even those not directly affected by the problem.

Jamie Lynn Robinson, a family drug court coordinator in Wayne and Lenoir Counties, has created a Drug Treatment Court Awareness ribbon. She says the blue, or “teal” color represents substance abuse awareness and the red color is from the “Just Say No to Drugs” campaign (from the D.A.R.E. program) several years ago.

She is just one person who *Continued on next page...*

took action on behalf of drug court.

Would you join with Jamie and with others who are trying to keep drug courts in our state? If you want to help, please share your own message and take action for drug courts. Your personal message is important to legislators. Here are some additional facts that may be important to know and share:

Drug courts save money.

- *Last fiscal year North Carolina had 25 drug-free babies born to mothers participating in a drug court. Between \$750,000 and \$1.4 million are saved for every baby born drug-free. That equates to \$18,750,000 - \$35,000,000 for FY2009-2010 alone!*
- *NC Adult Criminal DTCs served 1,402 offenders during FY2009-2010. Allowing those individuals to participate in a drug court had a "cost avoidance" benefit to the State of NC of at least \$2.7 million!*

Drug courts protect our community.

- *Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free two years after leaving the program.*
- *Drug courts are six times more likely to keep people in treatment long enough for them to get better. During FY2009-2010, two-thirds of all NC DTC participants remained in treatment for six months or more.*
- *Drug courts significantly reduce crime - as much as 35 percent more than other sentencing options.*



If you're willing, please wear a Drug Treatment Court Awareness Ribbon and if you have the opportunity, let others know how you feel about your involvement with Drug Court. For all those involved, connected with or helped by drug courts and anyone who wants to see drug courts continue here in our state, please participate and share your story and use your voice at this very critical time. Thank you!

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Sen, President Pro Tempore, Phil Berger
Phil.Berger@ncleg.net
(919) 733-5708

Speaker of the House, Thom Tillis
Thom.Tillis@ncleg.net
(919) 733-3451

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rep. Harold Brubaker
Senior Chairman
Harold.Brubaker@ncleg.net
(919) 715-4946

Rep. Mitch Gillespie
Chairman
Mitch.Gillespie@ncleg.net
(919) 733-5862

Rep. Jeff Barnhart
Chairman
Jeff.Barnhart@ncleg.net
(919) 715-2009

Rep. Linda Johnson
Chairman
Linda.Johnson2@ncleg.net
(919) 733-5861

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sen. Peter Brunstetter
Co-Chairman
Peter.Brunstetter@ncleg.net
(919) 733-7850

Sen. Neal Hunt
Co-Chairman
Neal.Hunt@ncleg.net
(919) 733-5850

Sen. Richard Stevens
Co-Chairman
Richard.Stevens@ncleg.net
(919) 733-5653

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS JPS SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rep. Leo Daughtry
Chairman
Leo.Daughtry@ncleg.net
(919) 733-5605

Rep. David Guice
Chairman
David.Guice@ncleg.net
(919) 715-4466

Rep. Shirley Randleman
Chairman
Shirley.Randleman@ncleg.net
(919) 733-5935

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS JPS SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sen. Harry Brown
Co-Chairman
Harry.Brown@ncleg.net
(919) 715-3034

Sen. Thom Goolsby
Co-Chairman
Thom.Goolsby@ncleg.net
(919) 715-2525

DRUG TREATMENT COURT CELEBRATES NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH

May 2011 is National Drug Court Month and Mecklenburg County’s Drug Treatment Court Programs are celebrating with the following:

Local Proclamation

A local proclamation was signed at the May 3rd Board of County Commissioner’s meeting, declaring May 2011 “Drug Court Month” in Mecklenburg County.

“Drug Court Month” Display

A display board and informational materials regarding substance abuse, prevention and recovery have been set up outside of the Drug Treatment Court suite and are available to the public. A “Celebrate Success: Drug Court Works!” banner is also a part of that display.



Drug Treatment Court Posters

Posters designed to show that addiction affects individuals from all walks of life are being displayed throughout the courthouse. In an effort to reach the public, multiple posters have been placed in the Jury Room.

Drug Court Rally

A Drug Court Rally was held on Friday, May 20th at 10:30 AM on the Plaza of the Mecklenburg County Courthouse. Speakers included Richard D. Boner, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Lisa C. Bell, Chief District Court Judge. Several media outlets were present and several clients (past and present) and team members were on hand to show support.



The Honorable Richard D. Boner.



Above: Rally attendees show support.

Below: Hand-made posters serve as the backdrop for rally speakers.



The Honorable Lisa C. Bell addresses the crowd.

2nd Annual Drug Court Cookout

On Saturday, May 21, 2011, DTC clients, team members and family members enjoyed an afternoon cookout at Hornet's Nest Park. There was great food, live music, clowns, face-painting, games and fellowship!



DTC Team Members serve cookout attendees.



Clowns entertain the guests.



Great food and fellowship!



MHC & DWI Court Coordinator, Donna Fair, Raymond Fair and Rubin Hernandez manage the grill!



Chandler Austin of the band, Luna's Lament, played for the crowd.



Family members enjoying the day!

Media Coverage Focuses on Drug Treatment Courts and Budget

President Obama and West Huddleston, CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, both wrote Opinion/Editorials in support of Drug Courts. To read their pieces type the link in your web browser:

President Obama - <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/presidentsmessage/>

West Huddleston - <http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/addiction/%e2%80%9call-rise%e2%80%9d-national-drug-court-month-demonstrates-that-drug-courts-are-a-proven-budget-solution>

Over the past few months, local print and broadcast media have covered the proposed budget cuts to eliminate Drug Treatment Courts. Some of that coverage has been outlined below and can be viewed by going to the links provided. For the latest information, continue to monitor the local media.



“Cuts to Court System Could Cost Taxpayers In Long Run”

WSOC-TV (Channel 9) produced two stories, which highlighted the cost-savings of Drug Treatment Courts on March 29th. Hope Haven was featured in one of the articles and displayed strong support for DTC programs. The video and printed versions can be viewed on their website at: <http://www.wsoc.tv/news/27362955/detail.html> and <http://www.wsoc.tv/news/27351713/detail.html>



“Local Court Systems Facing Big Budget Cuts”

WCNC also printed a story on March 29th, which focused on the crippling impact budget cuts would have on the court system. It can be viewed at: <http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/Courts-Facing-Big-Cuts-118816694.html>



“Court System Could be ‘Crippled’ by State Budget Cuts”

News 14 Carolina covered the potential elimination of Drug Court and Family Court programs on March 29th. To read the full article, go to the following link: http://charlotte.news14.com/content/local_news/charlotte/638789/court-system-could-be--crippled--by-state-budget-cuts



“Proposed Cuts Take Big Swipe At Court System”

Mecklenburg County Trial Court Administrator, Todd Nuccio, was interviewed by WFAE’s Mark Rumsey on April 1st. Read or listen to the interview at: www.WFAE.org



“Drug Treatment Court Program on the Chopping Block”

On May 20th, News 14 Carolina covered the Drug Court Rally, which was held on May 20th. Their coverage includes a video and printed story on the effectiveness of drug courts and how it saves money in the long-run. Check it out at: http://charlotte.news14.com/content/top_stories/641289/drug-treatment-court-program-on-the-chopping-block

**NORTH CAROLINA’S DRUG TREATMENT COURTS
NOW HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!**

FIND US AND “LIKE” US AT:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Drug-Treatment-Court-in-North-Carolina/121670557907509>

**YOU CAN ALSO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY JOINING OUR
“CAUSE” PAGE:**

http://www.causes.com/causes/598432?recruiter_id=173194248



Drug Treatment Court Clients Receive an “Evening of Makeovers” at Planet 21 Salon in Charlotte

Recognition Plus, Inc. recently presented Drug Treatment Court with a generous donation: a gift certificate for salon services for 12 of its female clients. Each client received an “evening of pampering” at Planet 21 Salon and enjoyed every minute of it! Hors d’oeuvres and sodas were provided throughout the evening for the clients to enjoy. Each client was given her own stylist, who helped the ladies achieve a new “look!” They were able to choose from a hair cut, coloring service or waxing service. Throughout the evening, the ladies & staff shared in tears of joy and laughter. Clients went home with a new “look,” a great experience and a small gift bag with goodies from the salon.

Thanks Planet 21 for such a wonderful evening and for being so gracious to our ladies! Thanks also to Recognition Plus, Inc. for your on-going support and this amazing donation!



Tawanica enjoys some refreshments.



Planet 21 Staff Members, Drug Treatment Court Clients and Staff Members.



Linda poses for the camera after getting her hair done.

“The event was definitely a thumbs up ... I would love the opportunity to do it again! It was great and I really enjoyed it!”

- Sonya (Planet 21 Attendee)



Deborah getting her hair styled.



FIRST Case Coordinator, Yvonne Jones, chats with Bonnie, who received a makeover at the event.



YTC Case Coordinator, Sherry Foust, and Tawanica.

*"Thank you to the team for this wonderful gift. I think we all deserve to feel special at some point. It was great bonding with the other ladies."
- Bonnie
(Planet 21 Attendee)*



Deborah with her short new locks!



Markeisha shows off her new look!



Finishing Touches!



Bonnie after her makeover!

*"This is the best experience I have ever had—Queen for a Day! I was treated like royalty!"
- Tawanica
(Planet 21 Attendee)*



Sonya models her new hairstyle!

DRUG COURT T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!!

Rosalind James and Erica Oxendine-Hall model the new DTC T-Shirt!

Stop by the DTC office (Suite 4351) to buy yours today!
Cost is only \$10.00!!



DTC CALENDAR



2011

JUNE 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 MHC @ 11AM FIRST @ 2PM	2 DTCA—11AM DWI-C—4PM	3 Superior—CR5310 @ 2PM
6	7	8 MHC Team—12:30	9 DTC Staff - 4420	10 8:30 Operations - 9610
13	14 YTC-CR8130 @ 4PM DTCB @ 3:30	15 MHC @ 11AM FIRST @ 2PM	16 DTCA—11AM DWI-D—4PM	17 Superior—CR5310 @ 2PM
20 District Court ADA Conference	21 Judges' Conference	22	23 Superior Court	24 Judges' Conference
27	28	29	30	

JULY 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4 <i>Court Holiday</i>	5 YTC-CR8130 @ 4PM DTCB @ 3:30	6 MHC @ 11AM FIRST @ 2PM	7 DTCA—11AM DWI-C—4PM	8 Superior—CR5310 @ 2PM
11	12 YTC Mtg - 12:30	13 MHC Team—12:30	14 DTC Staff - 4420	15 8:30 Operations - 9610
18	19 YTC-CR8130 @ 4PM DTCB @ 3:30	20 MHC @ 11AM FIRST @ 2PM	21 DTCA—11AM DWI-D—4PM	22 Superior—CR5310 @ 2PM
25	26	27 DWI Mtg - 12:15 FIRST Mtg. - 12:30 LMC—12:15	28	29

AUGUST 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 YTC-CR8130 @ 4PM DTCB @ 3:30	3 MHC @ 11AM FIRST @ 2PM	4 DTCA—11AM DWI-C—4PM	5 Superior—CR5310 @ 2PM
8	9	10 Superior Mtg. - 12:30 MHC Team—12:30	11 DTC Staff - 4420	12
15	16 YTC-CR8130 @ 4PM DTCB @ 3:30	17 MHC @ 11AM FIRST @ 2PM	18 DTCA—11AM DWI-D—4PM	19 8:30 Operations - 9610 Superior—CR5310 @ 2PM
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

CLIENTS OF THE QUARTER

SUPERIOR

Debra Y. is Superior Drug Treatment Court’s “Client of the Quarter.” Debra graduated the program on May 6, 2011. She was a member of the “A-Team” for several months and was instrumental in showing her support of DTC during our recent budget concerns. The team would like to thank Debra for all her hard work and congratulate her on her accomplishments. We wish her continued success in all of her endeavors!



DWI-C

Michael B. has been an outstanding DWI client and we are proud to recognize him as "Client of the Quarter." Michael is an all-around pleasant guy and has been in 100% compliance, staying on top of all program requirements while maintaining his recovery. Congratulations, Michael!! We are proud of you!

DWI-D

Roy W. has been a model DWI client and we are proud to recognize him as "Client of the Quarter." Congratulations, Roy!! We are proud of you!



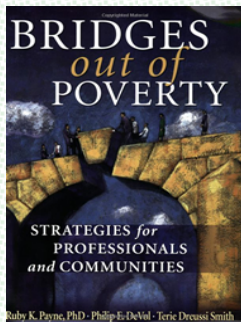
DISTRICT-B

Roger L. entered the Drug Treatment Court in November 2010. He successfully completed the first phase of the program and is currently attending After Care. Since his enrollment, he has been a role model for his peers, is a regular A-Team member and an active member of his home group. His positive attitude, desire for success and his dedication to his family and job make him an exceptional individual and a good example to others. We are very proud of his efforts and hope that he continues to work on his recovery one day at a time. Congratulations, Roger!

MENTAL HEALTH COURT (Photo Not Available)

Cathy F. was chosen as MHC’s “Client of the Quarter” and presented with a \$10.00 gift card on April 20, 2011. She has maintained full program compliance for several months now! MHC would like to congratulate her on the birth of her child born on May 2, 2011, less than two weeks after being deemed “Client of the Quarter.” Congratulations, Cathy!!

Drug Treatment Court Teams Attend Bridges Out of Poverty Training



On Friday, April 8, 2011, Drug Treatment Court hosted a training session entitled Bridges out of Poverty. This curriculum provides professionals who work directly with those in poverty a better understanding of the challenges and strengths of their clients without judgment. Participants explored ways of using Bridges out of Poverty within the criminal justice system, as we encourage the promotion of equal justice under the law for all persons regardless of economic status. The challenge is to identify obstacles within the criminal justice system for those from generational poverty. Once identified, the obstacles are to be eliminated without jeopardizing the integrity of the criminal justice system. Attendees received a copy of the book *Bridges Out of Poverty*, which was included in the cost of registration.

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
(FEBRUARY - MAY 2011)

DISTRICT A

Roger B.
 Esama E.
 David M.
 Patrick M.
 Anthony S.
 Michael S.

DWIC

Thomas A.
 Barry C.
 Christopher E.
 Angela M.
 Lee O.
 Eiji O.
 Aaron P.
 Alan R.
 Casey R.
 Lorenza T.
 Adrienne W.
 Francisco Z.

DISTRICT B

Jonathan C.
 Emmanuel G.
 Frank H.
 Joshua J.
 Frank P.
 Antonio S.

DWID

Nicholas A.
 Richard B.
 Sharon B.
 Andrew C.
 Rob M.
 Tad P.
 Edward R.
 Almir S.
 Lester S.
 Roy W.



YTC

Julio G.
 Jalene F.
 Micah K.
 Blake N.
 Alexis S.

MHC

Mia B.
 Lovette H.
 Cecilia M.
 Shanta R.

SUPERIOR

Markeisha B.
 Zephaniah H.
 Cecil K.
 Jerry M.
 Joshua P.
 Jason P.
 Calvin V.
 Debra Y.

FIRST

Darryl B.
 Fenisha C.
 Chekelia C.
 April Q.

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
 Freedom House
 Urban Ministries
 Salvation Army Residential Program
 Joblink Transformation Center
 CPCC Pathways Program
 Men's Shelter of Charlotte
 FIRST, Inc.
 CMC-Behavioral Health Center

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
 CMC-Behavioral Health Center
 Department of Social Services, Youth & Family Services Division
 David Hitchens
 Neighborhood Law Center

Partners with YTC Program

Mecklenburg County Area Mental Health
 Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 Council for Children's Rights Center
 Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office
 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
 Family Preservation Services
 CMC-Behavioral Health Center
 Primary Care Solutions
 Medical University of South Carolina

NEXT ISSUE:
SUMMER 2011



Drug Treatment Court
 832 East Fourth St., Suite 4351
 Charlotte, NC 28202
 Phone: 704-686-0150
 Fax: 704-686-0172

DRUG COURT WORKS