



The INSIDER

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

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Winter 2011

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THE OBSTACLE IN OUR PATH



By: Janeanne Tourtellott,
DTC Program Administrator

I will share with you that I have been struggling to come up with an article for this edition of the newsletter. I have been thinking about all the change we have seen

over the first six months of this year and all the issues that lay before us during the last half of this fiscal year (which ends June 30, 2011) and it can be overwhelming.

DTC team members have been diligently working to ensure there is access to treatment and that our program can continue to serve those who are in need and want to participate. We have had some folks leave our teams and others join. In the midst of continued mental health reform, our service providers struggle to meet the numerous challenges presented to them with what is considered to be the best practice in substance abuse treatment. Additionally, our probation officers have seen a state-wide transition to new supervision standards. On top of our local concerns, we have newly elected state officials who are meticulously reviewing options for producing a balanced state budget.

Change is always difficult, even if it is change for the better. Change always creates a certain amount of stress as we learn the new parameters associated with that change (a new case coordinator, a new probation officer, a new protocol to abide by, etc.). Yet the one thing that is inevitable is change itself.

I believe the best way to improve our condition is to maximize our strengths. It is important we not lose sight of the tremendous number of strengths our program has in its participants, its team members and its results!

✦ We have grown from one drug court in 1995 to eight treatment courts in 2011.

✦ We have had over 700 individuals successfully complete one of our programs.

✦ We have a successful completion rate that exceeds the national average.

✦ 80% of our drug court graduates remain arrest free at least two years after leaving the program.

We had 54 team members attend the North Carolina State Drug Court Conference in August 2010, allowing new team members and seasoned veterans to obtain training on best practices for drug courts.

I ran across this story and believe it captures the message I am trying to convey.

"In ancient times, a king had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the big stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. On approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. As the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many others never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve one's condition."

What is the obstacle in your path? And how can you improve your condition?

Adult Drug Treatment Court Holds 2010 Holiday Court Session

Drug Treatment Court held its annual Holiday Court Session on December 17, 2010. Over 200 participants and 50 team members from DTC's adult programs attended the event held at the Crowne Plaza Charlotte. This special court session is designed to show participants how to engage in and enjoy social activities without the use of drugs or alcohol. This year's program included guest speaker and DTC alumna, Patricia Jones, comments from DTC Administrator, Janeanne Tourtellott, and the presiding DTC Judges. There were also drawings for prizes, refreshments and fellowship. Everyone seemed to enjoy their time together.



Probation Officer, LaCresa Morgan, Guest Speaker and DTC Alumna, Patricia Jones, Retired District DTC Case Coordinator, John Garvin and SAIL Clinical Director, Melissa Quick.

Special recognition was also given to three individuals who have shown incredible dedication to Drug Treatment Court over the years: Steve Ward, Assistant District Attorney and one of the founders of DTC in North Carolina, who retired in December, John Garvin, Retired District DTC Case Coordinator, and Donald Moore, Retired Mental Health Court Coordinator.

Chief District Court Judge, Lisa Bell, District Attorney, Peter Gilchrist and Retired District Court Judge, Philip F. Howerton, Jr. were all on hand to help recognize these individuals for their years of service, dedication, and significant contributions to DTCs in Mecklenburg County.



Erica Oxendine-Hall, FIRST and YTC Program Coordinator and Rosalind James, Criminal Courts Coordinator, serve refreshments.



Edna Ramos, District DTC Case Coordinator and Probation Officer, Teresa Broadway.



Superior DTC Case Coordinator, Jill Valente, with clients, Cecil K., Ronnie L. and Jericka F. at the Holiday Court Session.



A Special Thank You to the Following Organizations:

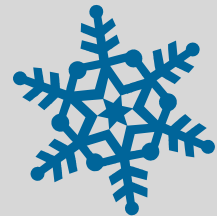
- Justice Initiatives, Inc.
- Recognition Plus, Inc.
- Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center
- Southeast Addiction Institute & Learning Center
- Mecklenburg County

Your financial support of this year's Holiday Court Session and your continued support of our programs is much appreciated!

Youth Treatment Court Holds 2010 Holiday Court Session

The Youth Treatment Court held its annual Holiday Court Session on December 21, 2010. YTC Presiding Judge, Elizabeth Trosch, welcomed the clients, their family members and the DTC team members in attendance. Many clients participated in this year’s program by reciting poems they had written, singing and performing original songs and raps and sharing some of their favorite holiday memories from the past. Parents also participated by sharing their own special holiday memories. The hope was that the kids could hear and remember some “positives” in the midst of these challenging times. We would like to extend a special thank you to Renee Jarrett and Evelyn McGill for coordinating this year’s program. They were instrumental in engaging the clients and parents to participate and reflect on the positives as they work on moving into a brighter tomorrow. Everyone enjoyed dinner and fellowship and, in the spirit of the holidays, each client received a new coat.

Special recognition was given to Greg McCall, Donna Fair and Jessica Modra for their years of service with YTC. Greg retired in January and Donna Fair and Jessica Modra have transitioned to different programs within Drug Treatment Court. Erica Oxendine-Hall and Sherrill Foust were introduced as the new Program Coordinator and Case Coordinator, respectively.



DONALD MOORE RETIRES

Mental Health Court Coordinator, Donald Moore, retired this past October. Don was one of the three original case coordinators hired in 1998 to implement the new drug court programs in Mecklenburg County, working with the District Court DTC. Don was instrumental in our program expansion as he transitioned to the MHC Coordinator position in 2005. We all wish him the best!!



DRUG TREATMENT COURT WELCOMES CALVIN STANTON, SR. AS NEW DWI COURT CASE COORDINATOR



Welcome to Calvin Stanton, the newest member of the Drug Treatment Court Team. Calvin will be the Case Coordinator for one of the DWI Treatment Courts. Calvin comes to us with a wealth of legal knowledge, as well as experience in substance abuse service coordination. We are excited to have him join our team!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ... RECOGNITION PLUS, INC.

Recognition Plus, Inc. has been supportive of Mecklenburg County's Drug Treatment Court Programs for many years. They recently acquired a gift certificate to a local Charlotte salon and decided to donate it to DTC so that some of its clients could benefit from it. DTC is greatly appreciative of this gesture. Our clients will truly enjoy a day at the salon! We want to extend a BIG thank you to Leigh Ann Neely, Owner and Chief Operating Officer, and her team at Recognition Plus!



Jessica Wells, Linda Ross, Leigh Ann Neely and Dot Foust of Recognition Plus, Inc.

DTC staff members are in the process of coordinating this "salon day."

We are looking forward to being able to give the clients something to look forward to and a "reward" for all of the effort they are making towards their recovery. Thanks again, Recognition Plus!! Your continued support truly makes a difference!

**PHOTOS FROM THE "SALON DAY" EVENT WILL BE FEATURED IN THE
NEXT EDITION OF OUR NEWLETTER! STAY TUNED... !**



PROBATION RAISES THE BAR

The Division of Community Corrections has implemented a new probation/parole supervision strategy where offenders are supervised based on their risk of re-arrest, not simply on the offender's latest conviction. North Carolina joins a growing group of probation agencies across the nation using Evidence Based Practices (EBP) to implement supervision strategies that are proven to work through empirical research and discontinuing those strategies that don't work.

This commitment to EBP brings a new method of assigning supervision levels. Probation officers will be supervising offenders based on the results of a data-driven risk-needs assessment, overlaid with the sanctions and requirements of the Court. The approach considers not only an offender's risk of re-arrest, but also his or her criminogenic needs related to things such as dysfunctional family environment, criminal peers, antisocial behavior and values, and substance abuse. Research shows these factors are most important in determining which offenders need more attention, and which need to be removed from the community quickly in the event of non-compliant behavior.

Probation officers assess offenders using 10 questions that make up the Offender Traits Inventory (OTI). This assessment tool very accurately determines the offender's probability of re-arrest within one year. A "high" risk level means a 31% chance of re-arrest within the first year of supervision. An offender's score on the OTI is one factor in determining what level of supervision he or she should be assigned.

To determine what supervision level is appropriate, an offender's risk and needs are reviewed. Data shows that offenders fall into a variety of risk and needs levels -- with many scoring high in one area and moderate or low in others. Those potential combinations were analyzed and supervision levels created. National research shows that offenders with the highest risk and needs require more supervision and treatment with frequent officer contact while the lowest risk offenders require minimal supervision and can benefit from self-reporting programs and technologies.

An important aspect of offender supervision is the response to non-compliance. Responses to negative offender behavior are based on the severity of the behavior and level of supervision. Matching supervision and severity levels give officers options in dealing with noncompliance. Behavior determined to be a risk to public safety results in an offender's arrest and return to court. Intervention strategies such as modifying the judgment, increasing frequency of contacts or drug screens can be used in mid-level risk areas.

These approaches are designed to have positive effects on revocation and absconder rates and to encourage successful completion of supervision, treatment and community service.

---Timothy Moose, Director
North Carolina Division of Community Corrections

SPOTLIGHT: Clients of the Quarter



SUPERIOR

Superior Drug Treatment Court is proud to introduce you to its client of the quarter, Jason P. Jason has been on the “A-Team” for several months and attends daily recovery support meetings. He is currently enrolled part-time at Central Piedmont working on conversational Spanish. Great work, Jason!!

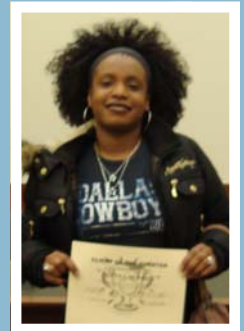


DWI-C

Lee O. has been in the DWI TC since March 2009. Lee has always managed to maintain 100% compliance. He attends well in excess of 20 meetings per week and seems to understand the need to put his recovery first in his life. Congratulations!!

DWI-D

Dayna M. has been an outstanding DWI client and we are proud to recognize her as "Client of the Quarter." Dayna is working both a full-time and part-time job and has been able to stay on top of all program requirements and maintain her recovery. She even still finds time to volunteer at the Women's Shelter. Congratulations, Dayna!! We are proud of you!

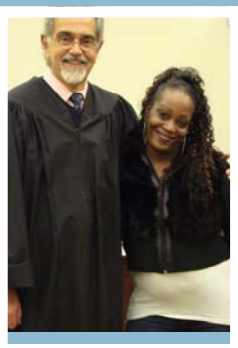
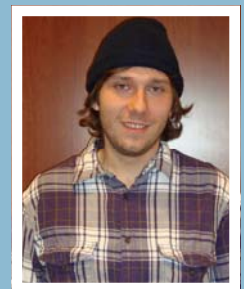


DISTRICT A

Gary M. has been a District A client since May 2010. During this time, he has displayed a desire to better himself in all aspects of his life. He is routinely on the “A Team.” Gary is a very motivated and driven person. He is a full-time student at CPCC in the BMW Automotive Technician program. He is a certified Barber and the proud father of two sons in which he is very involved. He is a STUDENT, FATHER, BARBER, and has taken his recovery seriously as well. What a Man on the Move! Congratulations to Gary for being the District A Client of the Quarter!!

DISTRICT B

Nikola R. has been a District B client since August 2010. He always has a positive attitude and has been an “A-Team” member on multiple occasions. Nikola is actively seeking employment and is doing excellent work in treatment. Congratulations!!



MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Shanta R. has been a participant in the Mental Health Court since July 2009. Shanta actually volunteered to participate in the program even though she only had one day left on her actual sentence and could have avoided it altogether. However, Shanta wanted help with getting her life back on track so that she could be a good mother to her young son. After suffering a few setbacks in the beginning, Shanta engaged in treatment and complied with her person centered plan. Today, she has a good handle on her illness and is living independently. Great work, Shanta!

DTC CALENDAR

March 2011

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | 1 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM | 2 MHC—CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST—CR4330 @ 2PM | 3 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—C—CR 4330 @ 4PM DTC 101 Training | 4 Superior—CR 5350 @ 2PM DTC 101 Training |
| 7 | 8 YTC Team Mtg—12:30 PM | 9 MHC Team Mtg—12:30 PM | 10 DTC Staff Mtg—9:00 AM | 11 |
| 14 Rx Training—DTC Teams | 15 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM | 16 MHC—CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST—CR4330 @ 2PM | 17 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—D—CR 4330 @ 4PM | 18 Superior—CR 5350 @ 2PM Operations Cmte Mtg 8:30—9610 |
| 21 District Team Mtg—8:30 AM | 22 | 23 FIRST Team Mtg—12:30 PM | 24 | 25 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



April 2011

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|-----|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | 1 Superior—CR 5350 @ 2PM |
| 4 | 5 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM | 6 MHC—CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST—CR4330 @ 2PM New DTC Judge Training | 7 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—C—CR 4330 @ 4PM New DTC Judge Training | 8 Bridges Out of Poverty Training—DTC Teams New DTC Judge Training |
| 11 | 12 | 13 MHC Team Mtg—12:30 PM | 14 DTC Staff Mtg—9:00 AM | 15 Superior—CR 5350 @ 2PM Operations Cmte Mtg 8:30—9610 |
| 18 | 19 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM | 20 MHC—CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST—CR4330 @ 2PM | 21 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—D—CR 4330 @ 4PM | 22 HOLIDAY |
| 25 | 26 | 27 DWI Team Mtg 9:30 AM LMC Mtg 12:15 | 28 | 29 |



May 2011

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 2 | 3 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM | 4 MHC—CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST—CR4330 @ 2PM | 5 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—C—CR 4330 @ 4PM | 6 Superior—CR 5350 @ 2PM DTC for ADAs Training |
| 9 | 10 YTC Team Mtg—12:30 PM | 11 Superior Team Mtg—12:30 PM MHC Team Mtg—12:30 PM | 12 DTC Staff Mtg—9:00 AM | 13 |
| 16 District Team Mtg—8:30 AM | 17 DTCB—CR 4330 @ 3:30PM YTC—CR 8130 @ 4PM | 18 MHC—CR4330 @ 11AM FIRST—CR4330 @ 2PM | 19 DTCA—CR 4330 @ 11AM DWI—D—CR 4330 @ 4PM | 20 Superior—CR 5350 @ 2PM Operations Cmte Mtg 8:30—9610 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 FIRST Team Mtg—12:30 PM | 26 | 27 |
| 30 HOLIDAY | 31 | <u>SPECIAL MAY DATE:</u> MAY 21st—DTC Cookout! | <u>ANOTHER DATE TO WATCH FOR:</u> DTC RALLY (DATE TBA) | |



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

MCLEOD ADDICTIVE DISEASE CENTER 19TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SERIES

“Drugs and Crime”

Speaker: Dr. Joe Kuhns, Ph.D.
March 18, 2011

“12-Step Facilitation: Maximizing Your Strategies to Minimize Their Resistance”

Speaker: Fred Holmquist
April 29, 2011

“Family Therapy for Substance Abuse: Traps and Tips”

Speaker: John T. Edwards, Ph.D.
May 20, 2011

MUST pre-register for ALL of these trainings at: www.mcleodcenter.com. All classes start at 8:30 AM at the McLeod Conference Center 515 Clanton Road, Charlotte

DTC TEAM TRAININGS

Prescription Drug Training

March 14, 2011
9:00-3:00 PM

TCA Training Room 4510

Bridges Out of Poverty

April 8, 2011
9:00-3:00 PM

TCA Training Room 4510

DTC Role Specific Training for Judges “Therapeutic Jurisprudence”

April 6-8, 2011
NCJC Raleigh

DTC Role Specific Training for ADAs

May 6, 2011
NCJC Raleigh

ANUVIA PREVENTION & RECOVERY CENTER SPRING COMMUNITY WELLNESS SERIES

“The Hidden Dangers of Alcoholic Energy Drinks”

Speaker: Ashley Walters Falls, MSN, PMHNP-BC & Ricardo Torres, AHS
March 17, 2011

“Understanding the Sex Offender”

Speaker: Ellen Koski-Ponton, Ph.D., LMFT & Tommy Lopez, MPA
March 24, 2011

“Ethics as a Process, Not a Problem”

Speaker: Cathy Killian, LPC, LCAS, MAC, CSI, CCH
March 31, 2011

For more information or to learn how you can become a presenter for Anuvia’s next Community Wellness Series, contact Angelica Castanda at Angelica.Castaneda@anuvia.org or call 704-927-8808.

Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center
100 Billingsley Road, Charlotte, NC 28211

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

Demetrius B.
Kevin M.
Veronica N.
James P.
Latasha W.

DWIC

Alicia A.
Alan D.
Alex H.
Larry L.
Sylvia T.

DISTRICT B

Jasmeel A.
Timothy C.
Shantia D.
Teresa E.
Nathan L.
Monica M.
Vezir M.
Robert R.
Devone W.

DWID

Carlos B.
Lawrence B.
Joanne D.
April F.
Barry H.
Herman J.
Warren J.
Steven L.
Dayna M.
Andrew O.
Meredith O.
Andrea R.
Robert R.
Albert R.
Ronan R.
Arlan S.
Karen T.
Reginald T.
Markus T.

SUPERIOR

Ronnie L.
Steven W.

MHC

Erica C.
Evan H.
Joel J.
Joseph M.
Charyl M.
April N.
Gwendolyn T.

YTC

Ranako L.

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 & 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
Uptown Men's Shelter
Emergency Winter Shelter
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 & Learning Center, Inc.
Women's Commission
NOVA
CMC-Behavioral Health Center
DSS, Youth & Family Services Division
Pili Fleming
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

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Fax: 704-686-0172

NEXT ISSUE:
SPRING 2011

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W
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R
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