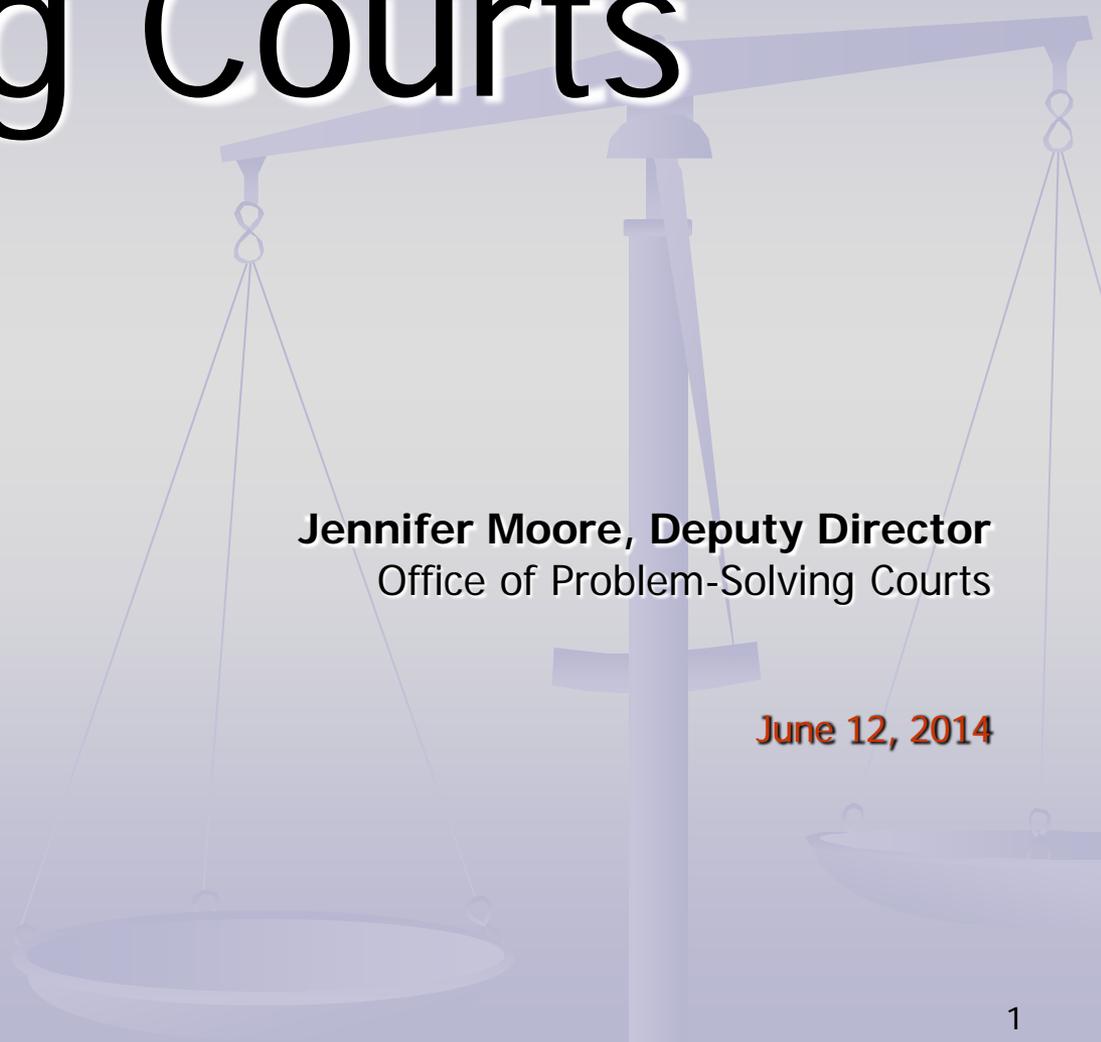


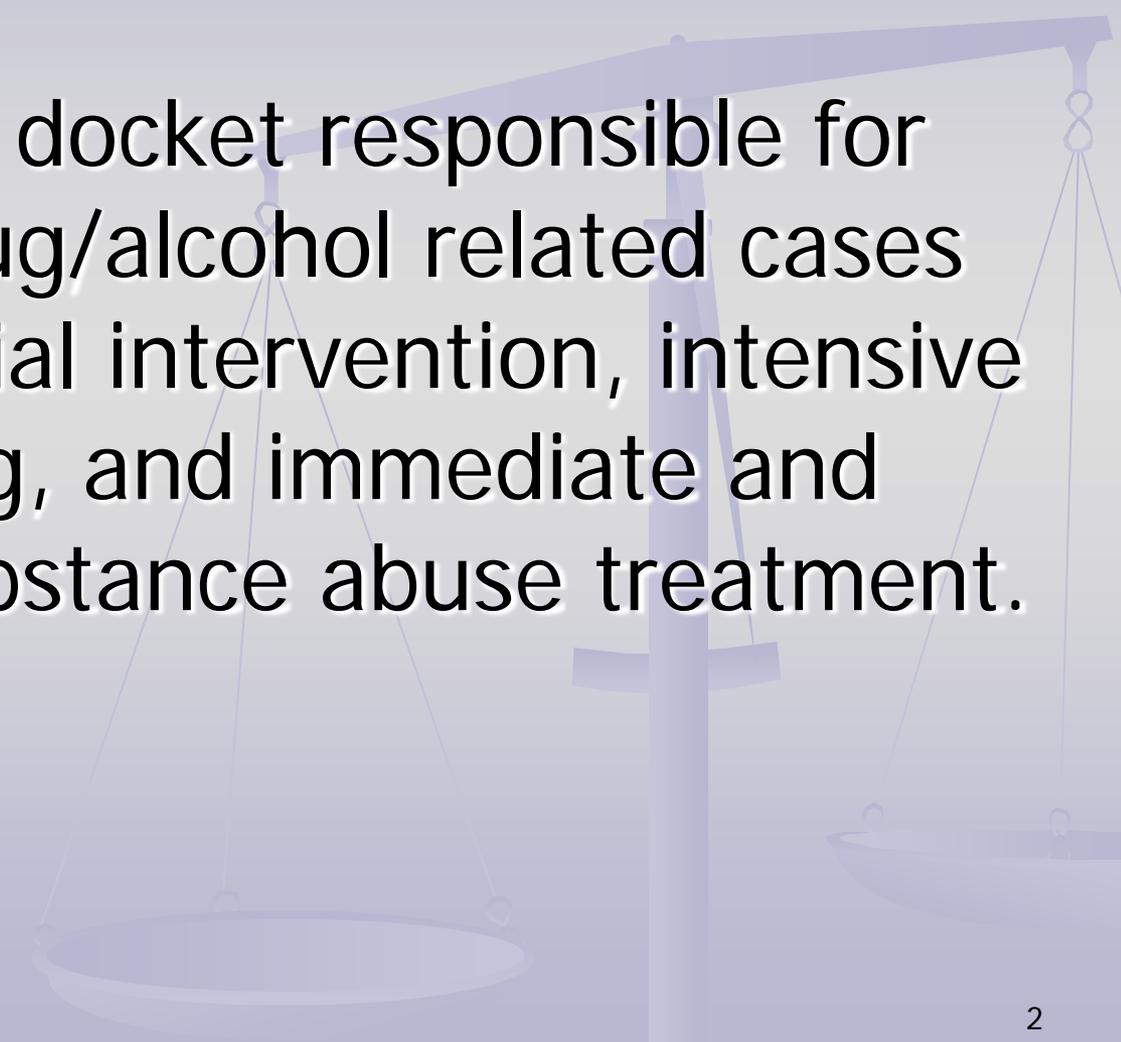
Drug Courts



Jennifer Moore, Deputy Director
Office of Problem-Solving Courts

June 12, 2014

Drug Court

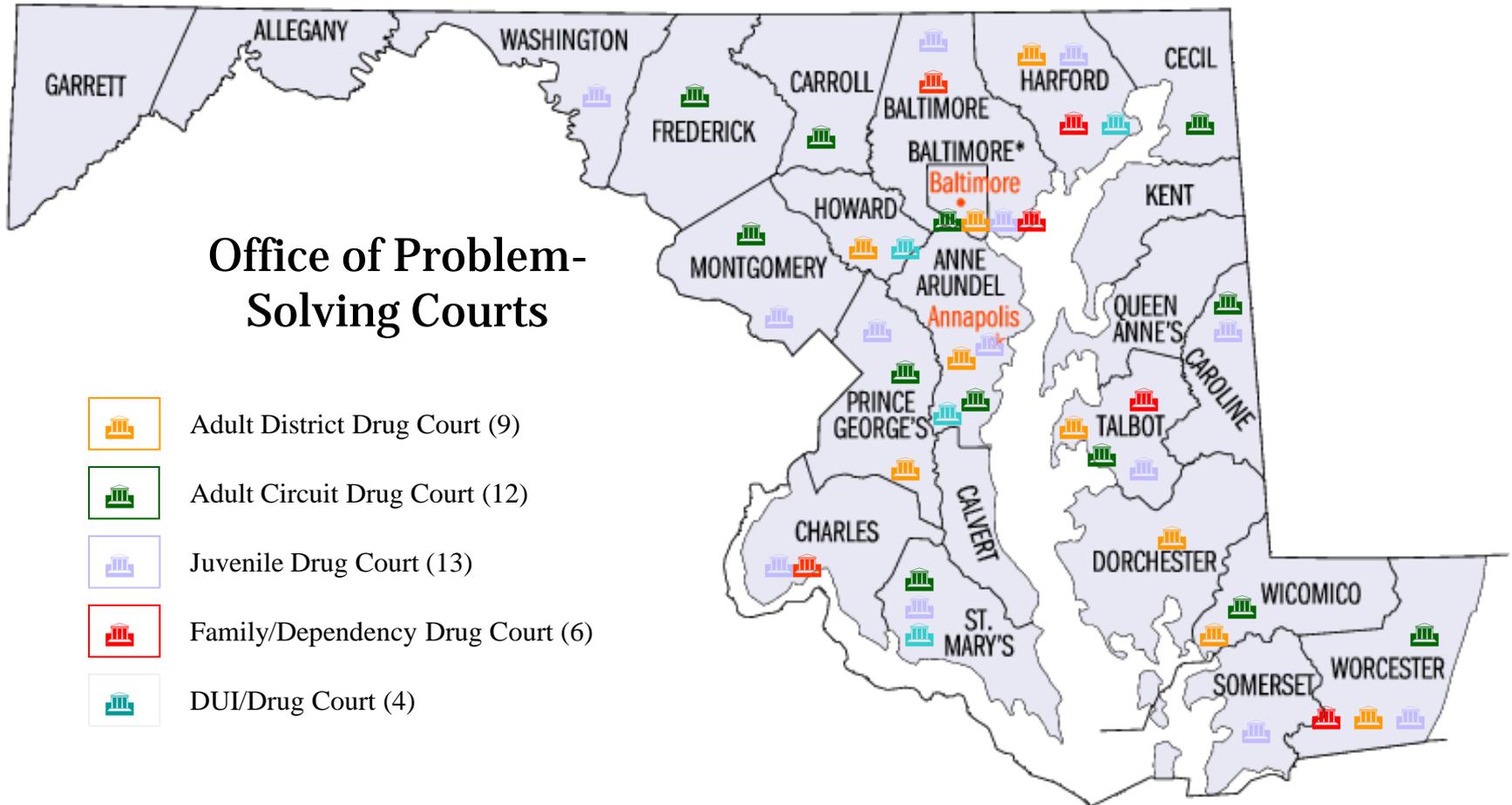


Specialized docket responsible for handling drug/alcohol related cases through judicial intervention, intensive monitoring, and immediate and consistent substance abuse treatment.

Drug Courts in the US



Operational Drug Courts in Maryland



How Do We Protect Our Communities?

Punishment

or

Rehabilitation

Jail As A Sentence?

- Over 2 million People in Prison
- Adult correctional authorities supervised about 6,977,700 offenders at year end 2011, a decrease of 1.4%.
- Today, the US is 5% of the World population and has 25% of world prisoners.



Jail As A Sentence?

- Jail As A Sentence?
- ***Within 6 months...***
 - 29.9% of prisoners released in 1998 in 15 states were rearrested
- ***Within 3 years...***
 - 67% are rearrested
 - 95% relapse to drug use

(BJA, 2002)



What If We Just Refer Them To Treatment?

■ ***Attrition***

- 50% to 67% fail to report for intake
- 40% to 80% drop out in 3 months
- 90% drop out in 12 months

What If We Just Refer Them To Treatment?

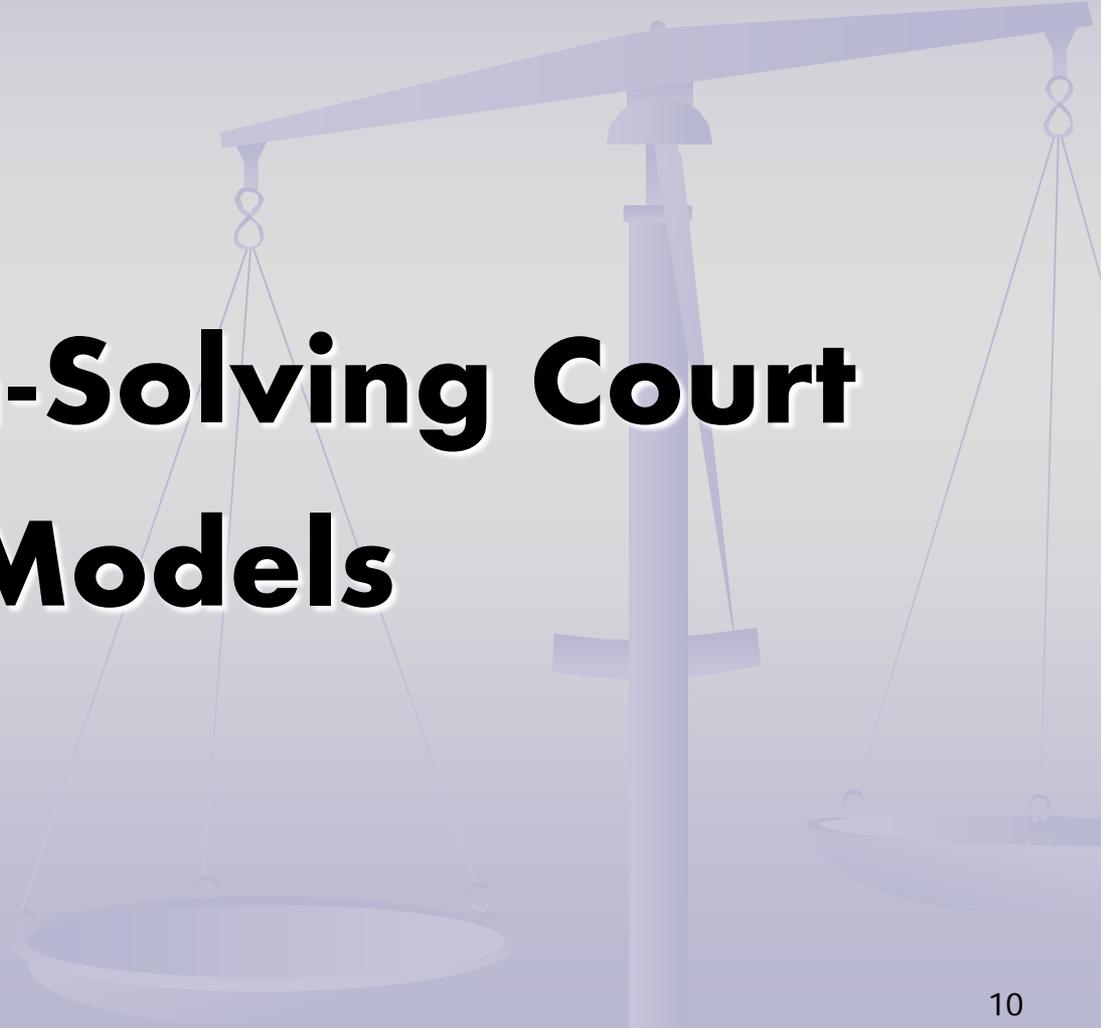
Does Treatment Work in Combating Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues?

Yes...But

Not If they are Not There!



What Can We Do?



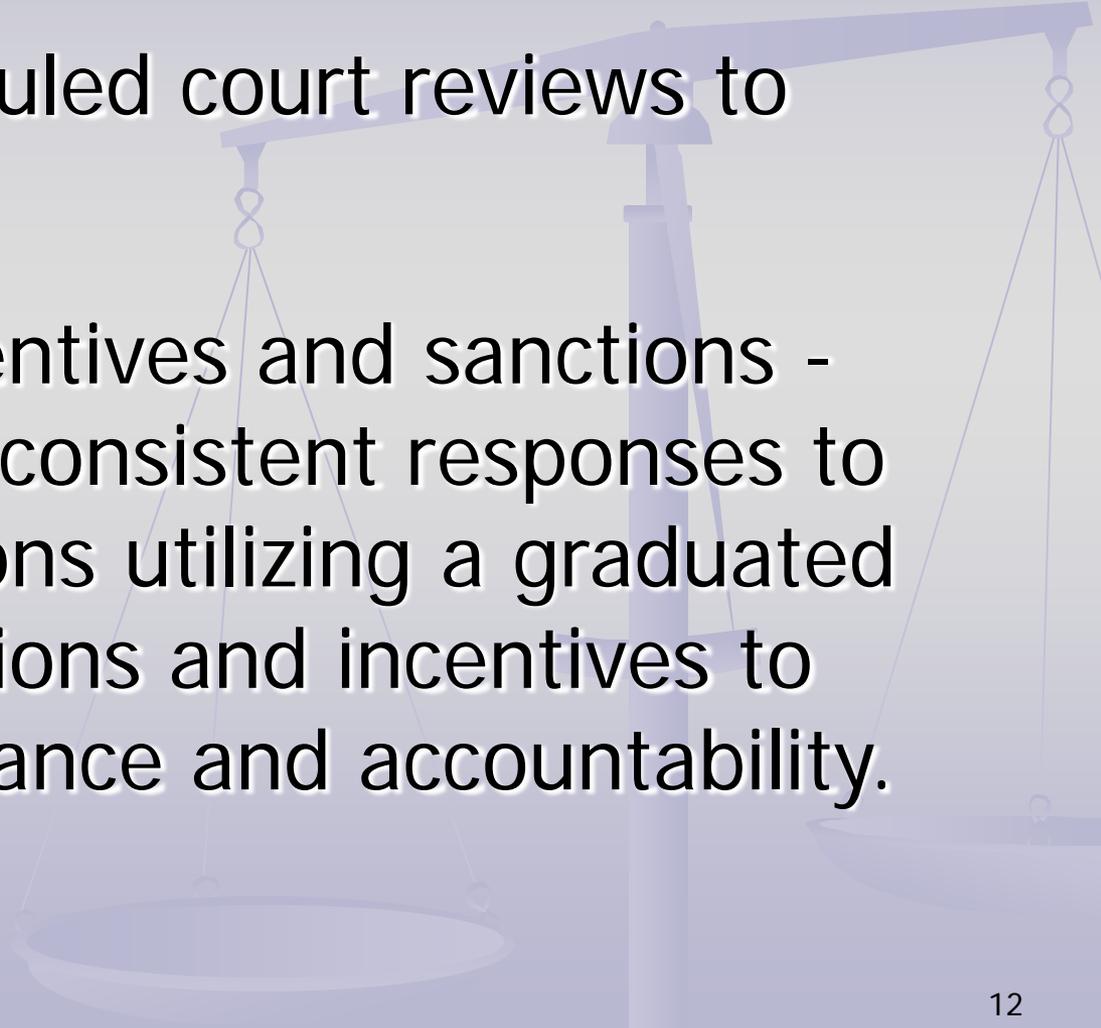
Problem-Solving Court Models

Adult Drug Court Programs



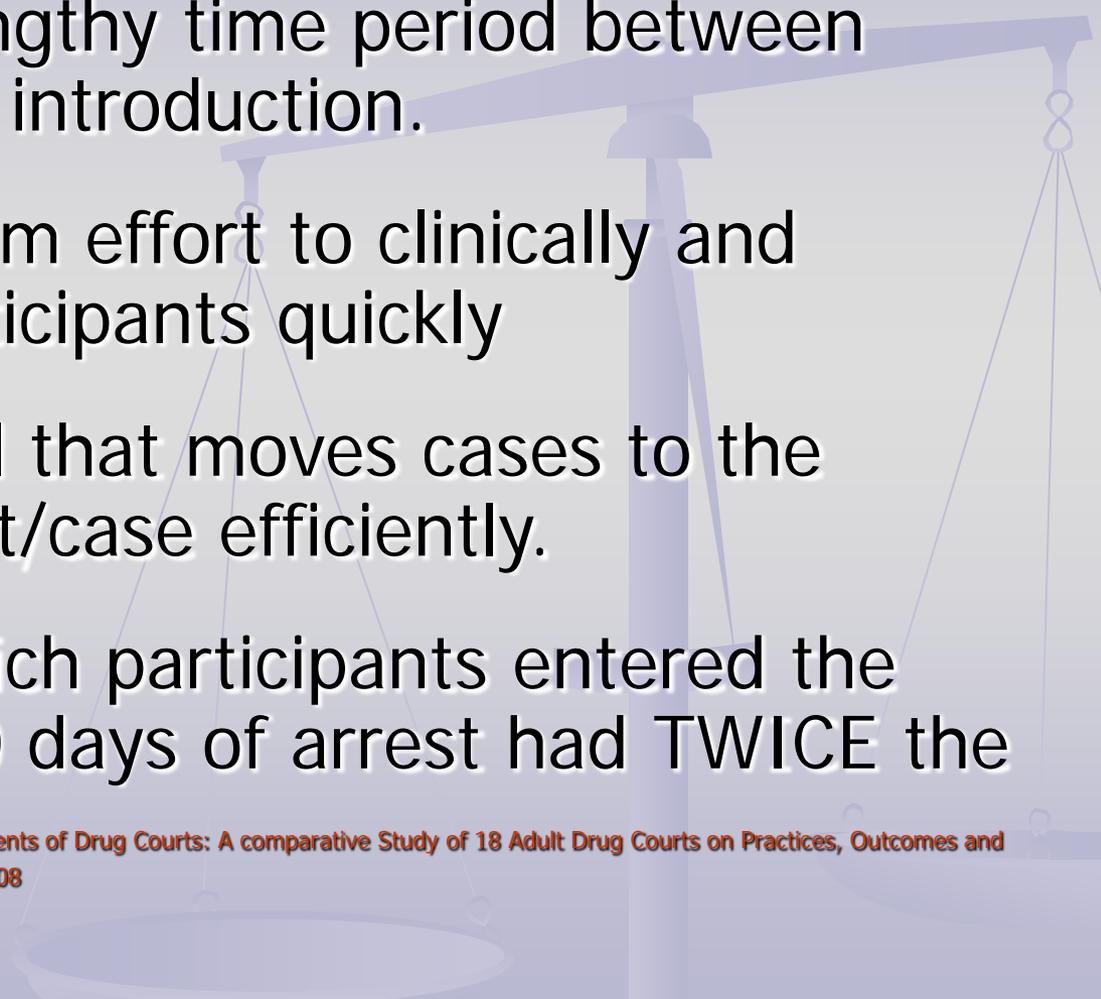
- Drug/Alcohol related offenses
- Charged and reside in same county
- “High-End” offenders
- Non-Violent, Mental Health, Education, Employment, and Housing
- Team
 - Judge, Coordinator, State’s Attorney’s Office, Office of the Public Defender, Treatment, Probation, and Law Enforcement.

Judicial Interaction



- Regularly scheduled court reviews to review progress
- Progressive incentives and sanctions - Immediate and consistent responses to program violations utilizing a graduated system of sanctions and incentives to promote compliance and accountability.

Early Identification



- Decreasing the lengthy time period between arrest and service introduction.
- Increasing the team effort to clinically and legally screen participants quickly
- Screening is a tool that moves cases to the appropriate docket/case efficiently.
- Drug courts in which participants entered the program within 20 days of arrest had TWICE the savings.

Exploring the Key Components of Drug Courts: A comparative Study of 18 Adult Drug Courts on Practices, Outcomes and Costs, Carey, Finigan, Pukstas, NPC Research, March 2008

Treatment

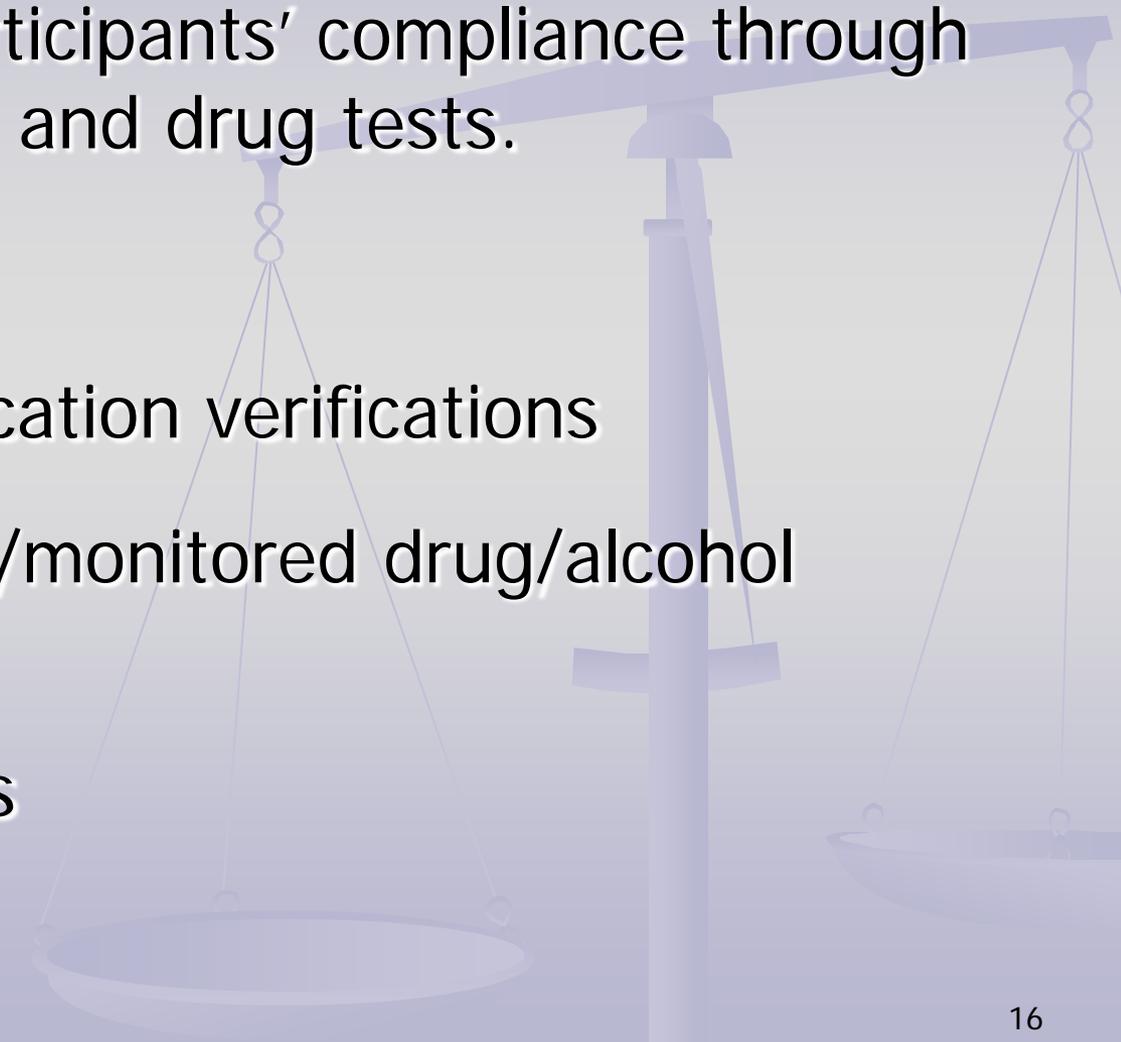
- “Contrary to earlier fears among clinicians, judicial pressure does not threaten treatment effectiveness and it probably improves outcomes.”
- Coerced patients tended to stay in treatment longer.
- Treatment outcomes improve dramatically beyond the 90-Day threshold.
- “Participants who stay in treatment longer and who complete the program regime are more likely to have better outcomes than clients who drop-out of services”

Treatment

- Drug courts that used a single coordination treatment agency had 10 times greater savings.
- Drug courts that included a phase focusing on Relapse Prevention had over 3 time greater savings.
- Drug courts that required greater than 90 days of abstinence had larger cost savings.

Exploring the Key Components of Drug Courts: A comparative Study of 18 Adult Drug Courts on Practices, Outcomes and Costs, Carey, Finigan, Pukstas, NPC Research, March 2008

Supervision and Monitoring



- Verification of participants' compliance through frequent contacts and drug tests.
- Home checks
- Employment/Education verifications
- Frequent/random/monitored drug/alcohol screens
- Special Conditions

Integration

- Does it matter if “team members” attend court sessions?
 - Tx Provider—9 Times Greater
 - Public Defender—8 Times Greater
 - Prosecutor—2 Times Greater
 - Law Enforcement—Greater
 - All Team Members—2 Times Greater

Exploring the Key Components of Drug Courts: A comparative Study of 18 Adult Drug Courts on Practices, Outcomes and Costs, Carey, Finigan, Pukstas, NPC
Research, March 2008

Non Adversarial

- Best interests of participant
- Completing due process
- Changes the scope and depth of the legal relationship with regard to sentencing and sanctions

Triage

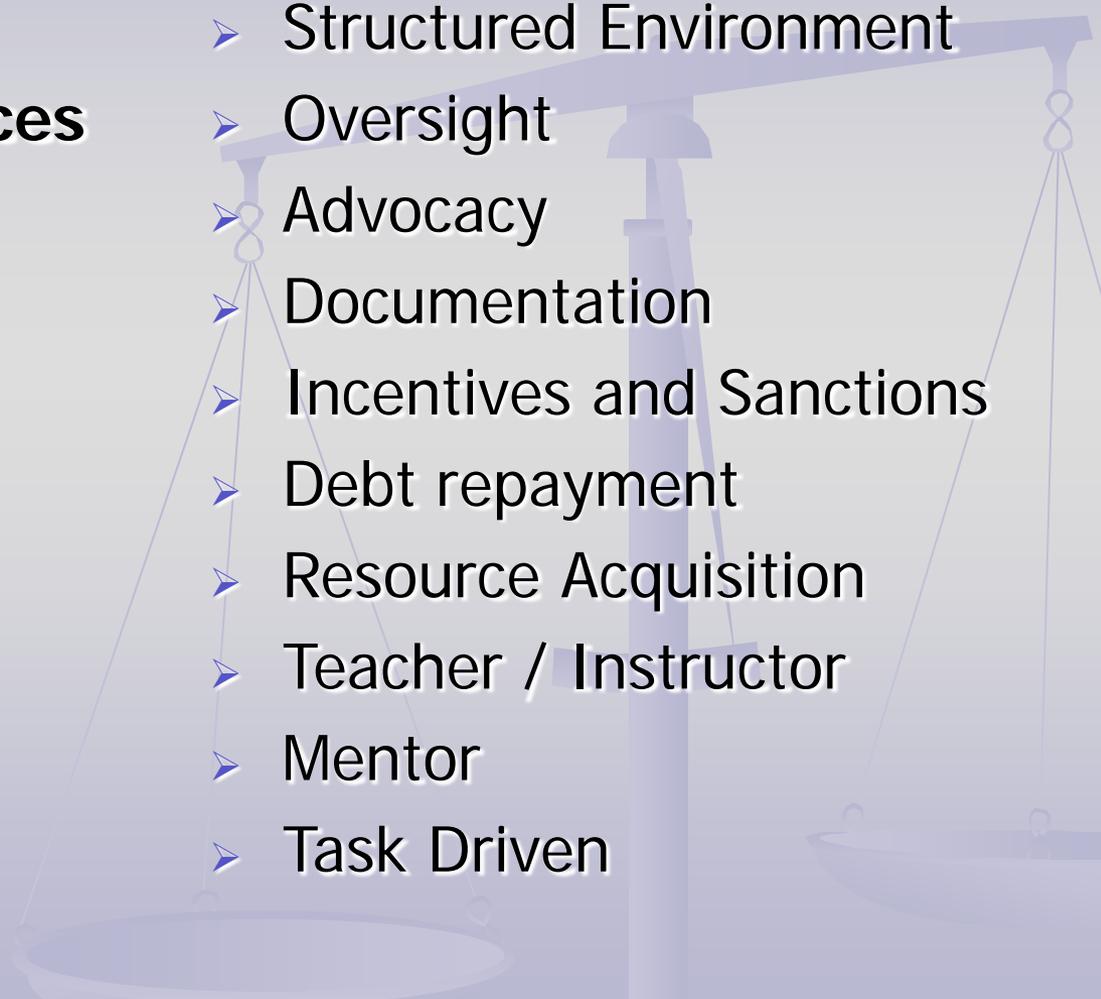
➤ **Medical & Mental Health Oversight**

- Mental Health Oversight
- Medication Research & Q/A
- Physician Supervision and Collaboration
- Medication Policies on Reporting and Accepting Medications
- Over the Counter (OTC) Medications

➤ **Probation & Local Law Enforcement**

- Home Visits
- Employment Checks
- Community Service
- Restitution & Child Support
- Advocacy
- Curfew Checks
- Search Activity for Failure to Appear (FTA)

Triage



- **Case Management**

 - Ancillary Services**

 - Housing
 - Vocational
 - Educational
 - Financial
 - Legal
 - Health & Safety
 - Life skills

- Structured Environment
- Oversight
- Advocacy
- Documentation
- Incentives and Sanctions
- Debt repayment
- Resource Acquisition
- Teacher / Instructor
- Mentor
- Task Driven

Sample Schedule

Reporting Requirements

- Judge
- Public Defender
- State's Attorney
- Probation Officer
- Case Manager
- Treatment Provider
- Mental Health Provider
- Community Resources
- Support Group Meetings

Time Commitment

- Judge – 1 to 2 times per month, 3-5 minute hearings plus the docket (Court as a Classroom)
- Regular contact to prepare for hearings
- Research – MVA records, Criminal Record Checks
- Sessions - 1 to 4 meetings per month + Task Completion
- Sessions – 1 to 4 meetings per month + Tasks Completion
- Level of Care – 1 to 3 sessions per week per client (group or individual)
- As directed - Com. Res & Support Grps

For More Information

Office of Problem-Solving Courts

www.mdcourts.gov/opsc

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