



Best Practice Standards Unveiled at NADCP 2013!

- First group of standards released
- Remaining standards will be released in 2014

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Local Drug Court Practitioners Attend NADCP Conference

In July, local drug court personnel from across the state attended the annual NADCP National Drug Court Conference in Washington D.C.

Attendees were able to choose from a variety of topics relating to drug courts based on discipline or subject specific areas.

During the conference, the NADCP released its publication, *Adult Drug Courts Best Practice Standards, Volume 1*. The publication explains the purpose of best practice procedures. The document is the first in a two volume set. The second volume is due out in June of 2014. The issues of target population, disadvantaged groups, judicial roles and responsibilities, incentives, sanctions and therapeutic adjustments as well as substance abuse treatment are discussed in detail.



Arkansas drug court professionals in Washington DC

Arkansas drug court professionals from Ft. Smith, Russellville, Danville and Little Rock pose with Arkansas Senator Boozman while at his Washington D.C. office.

To download a copy of the NADCP Best Practices for Adult Drug Courts Volume I, visit <http://www.nadcp.org/Standards> and click on the link to the PDF document.

NADCP Supports the Justice Department Smart on Crime Initiative

In August of this year, the NADCP released a statement supporting the U.S. Justice Department Smart On Crime Initiative.

The initiative is aimed at reducing the U.S. prison population, including those facing federal drug charges. The Department of Justice has shown support for the federal expansion of drug courts. The Smart on Crime report calls for

federal law enforcement to encourage use of alternatives such as drug courts. The report states, "In appropriate instances involving non-violent offenses, prosecutors ought to consider alternatives to incarceration, such as drug courts, specialty courts, or other diversion programs. Accordingly, the Department will issue a 'best practices' memorandum to U.S. Attorney Offices encouraging more widespread adoption of

these diversion policies when appropriate."

For more information on this report and the Smart on Crime initiatives please visit: <http://www.justice.gov/>

Every 4 minutes someone in America is sent to treatment instead of prison through drug court.

Local Drug Courts in the News: Drug Courts Farm for Health

The Hope Drug Court was recently featured in a newspaper article for the *Hope Star* in August. Writer, Grace Leonhart, highlighted the program and its unique farming initiative.

At the Hope Drug Court, in Hempstead County, drug court participants are learning how to garden and grow their own crops. Teresa Pribiliski, a drug court counselor in Hope, oversees the program which helps her drug court clients to understand organic farming and

healthy eating. Some of the clients are working out their jail time on a farm near Hope and it is teaching them the value of work and the joy of raising what they eat. If a client is unemployed, they are urged to work in the garden to sell the produce at the area farmer's market. But selling the produce is only part of their goals. The clients want to take a train trip to Dallas, and the garden is raising funds to make that trip. Additionally, Pribiliski hopes that the gained nutritional knowledge will also

carry over to the client's family table. The large garden is actually a seven acre plot with five satellite gardens, a greenhouse and hoop house amid 118 total acres. The organic farm does not use any fertilizer or pesticides. The clients are able to sell the produce as well as take some home. The clients work on a specific schedule, twice per week.

Results of the farm project have been many. One of the clients lives on the farm to work it full time. ... continued Pg 3



SAVE THE DATE!

2014 ANNUAL STATEWIDE DRUG COURT CONFERENCE

APRIL 9-10 FAIRBRIDGE INN AND SUITES

JONESBORO

Local Drug Courts in the News: Juvenile Drug Court Judge Envisions Community Garden

In July, the Pope County Juvenile Court was highlighted in a local newspaper article. *The Courier*, and writer Howard West reported on the juvenile court program's community garden project.

Juvenile Drug Court judge Ken Coker envisioned a gardening program to help juvenile offenders see how real work with extraordinary mentors can be rewarding.

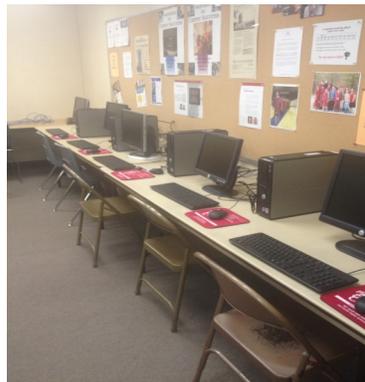
The "Garden of Hope" was established in January of 2012 to help at-risk youth involved in the juvenile system. Judge Coker and others gathered resources from youth activists who believed in the project. "We are excited about having this for the kids," Coker said. "This is a team effort. Gardening is a healthy hobby, and it gets kids away from the TV and computer screens."

The Pope County Master Gardeners and 4-H members volunteer as mentors to the youth. The kids are taught about soil preparation, plant thinning, spacing and weed control. They are also taught the importance of beneficial insects and pests that harm plants. The project includes several planted and growing beds with a variety of vegetables. Continued on Pg 3

Local Drug Court News: Sebastian County Drug Court

September 2013- Ft. Smith

The Sebastian County Drug Court recently purchased several new computers. The computers will be used by drug court participants who are working in the GED program towards their high school equivalent diploma.



DRUG COURTS WORK!

Local Drug Courts in the News: Hope Continued

Three clients are working towards certifying the farm as USDA certified organic. "The clients have been re-engaging with their community via a unique project," says Pribiliski, "No matter what does or does not happen, we achieved our goal of providing access to fresh reasonably priced produce to not only our clients and their families but also to the community,"



"We achieved our goal of providing access to fresh produce to.. clients and their families ... to the community."

To read the full article visit: www.hopestar.com/article/20130827/NEWS/130829739?template=printart



Local Drug Court News: Pope County Continued

Master Gardner Frank Russenberger says, "The kids have really taken to the program. We have tomatoes, green beans, squash and zucchini plants and purple hull peas."

"Some of the kids have potted some of the plants and took them home to start their own gardens. This was their own initiative, we did not require it", said Russenberger.

According to juvenile probation officer Jaime Davis, they later

plan to take the participants and their vegetables to the local farmers market. Mentors will use the vegetables harvested to also show the kids how to cook healthy meals.

Those interested in the program or how to help with it can go to www.facebook.com/pages/Garden-of-Hope/396060517171710 and find out more about the program.

To read the full article visit: www.couriernews.com



NEW mini-grant funding will soon be announced! Stay tuned!

Best Practice Highlight on Target Population

As published in NADCP's *Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards*, Volume 1-

Target Population is a key best practice standard. Target population addresses multiple areas: 1) objective eligibility and exclusion criteria, 2) has a high-risk and high-need focus, 3) incorporates validated eligibility assessments, 4) assesses criminal history disqualifications as well as clinical disqualifications.

There are several important points to take away from this standard. The first being that eligibility and exclusion criteria should be objective, written and not rely on personal impression.

Additionally, high-risk/high-need clients do well in drug courts and if your court does not focus on this group, developing multiple tracks is necessary. Validated tools must be used in assessment and screening.

Another important point is that prior criminal history including those for drug dealing or violence should not *automatically* exclude a participant. Candidates with co-occurring disorders or medical conditions also should not be *automatically* excluded from drug court participation.

To obtain additional information on Best Practice Standards including an informative outline, contact



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LINE

A quarterly publication by the Division of Drug Courts at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Contributions, comments, and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to *The Line*, A.O.C., Justice Building, 625 Marshall street, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel. (501) 682-9400.

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We're On The Web!
<https://courts.arkansas.gov/>



The Administrative Offices of the Court (AOC) supports the information technology, training, juvenile support services, drug court services, language and advocate services of the Arkansas court system. The courts served include the District Court to the Arkansas Supreme Court and its boards and committees.

Webinars and Resources

American University Drug Court
Practitioner Webinars at:

<http://www1.spa.american.edu/justice/videos.php>

“Translating Drug Court Research into
Practice” at:

<http://research2practice.org/>

NDCI’s “Tune In Tuesdays” Webinar series:

[http://www.ndci.org/training/online-trainings-webinars/
webinars](http://www.ndci.org/training/online-trainings-webinars/webinars)

And other useful links.....

<http://www.courtinnovation.org/topic/drug-court>

www.drugfree.org

