

LEGAL AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS SUBCOMMITTEE  
**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force**

Working List of Areas Identified for Possible Improvements to Drug Court Program

Updated September 12, 2017

**1. Adopt validated criteria for determining program participants:**

*NADCP, Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, Vol. 1 (2015)* ("Standardized assessment tools are significantly more reliable and valid than professional judgment for predicting success in correctional supervision and matching offenders to appropriate treatment and supervision services (citation omitted). Drug Courts that employ standardized assessment tools to determine candidates' eligibility for the program have significantly better outcomes than Drug Courts that do not use standardized tools (citation omitted)." (p. 7, Commentary, C. Validated Eligibility Assessments)).

**2. Support County funding for nationally-recognized training for entire DC team:**

Drug Court team is working with Health Department to utilize existing funds.

**3. Support County funding for additional staff (minimum .5 FTE) to better utilize expertise and time of DC administrator:**

Task Force approved recommendation to County Council at its meeting August 28, 2017.

**4. Support County funding for incremental, positive recognition incentives for drug court participants:**

Drug Court team is working with Health Department to utilize existing funds.

**5. Identify and implement practices to qualify drug court program for federal funding:**

*U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program, FY 2017 Competitive Grant Announcement*, at <https://www.bja.gov/funding/DrugCourts17.pdf> . ("BJA is accepting applications for FY 2017 grants to . . . enhance existing drug court programs using evidence-based principles and practices. BJA also supports courts that integrate the

National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) adult drug court standards into existing drug court services." (p. 4)). ("Program objectives include assisting courts that utilize evidence-based practices and principles, which are incorporated into the NADCP drug court standards . . . ." (p. 6)).

**6. Negotiate with NSBHO for certification of drug court program to perform treatment evaluations:**

New treatment providers are establishing services in approximately October and will expand capacity for evaluation of out-of-custody drug court applicants. Health Department is working on improving timeliness of evaluations both before and after this expansion of capacity.

**7. Negotiate with NSBHO for Medicaid contract with drug court program as treatment provider:**

Not practical or affordable. Currently not being explored further.

**8. Promote community-wide efforts to increase and improve treatment-supportive housing:**

Drug court leadership has begun informal exploratory discussions about possible third-party acquisition/development of supported housing for drug court participants. Interested parties include Opportunity Council, Pioneer Human Services, and a private funder.