



**YORK COUNTY TREATMENT COURTS
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Judges

John S. Kennedy
Craig T. Trebilcock
Maria Musti Cook
Harry M. Ness
Todd R. Platts

Coordinators

Holly Wise
Cameron Romer
Tony Forella



**York County
Treatment Courts
2014 YEAR IN REVIEW**

York County Drug Treatment Court

The York County Drug Treatment Court was established in October of 1997 to address the high-risk recidivist non-violent drug offender. This Court has the capacity for 150 participants. By targeting this population, the Drug Treatment Court is able to stop the cycle of drug abuse and reduce jail days; therefore, prevent these offenders from re-entering the criminal justice system. This creates a cost savings within the York County Prison, Magisterial District Justices, Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, the Judiciary and the Adult Probation Department.

York County's Drug Treatment Court is well established within the community and has been recognized by the County Commissioners and the Criminal Justice Advisory Board as a cost effective way to address the needs of the drug addicted offenders in this County. In fact, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals through their training arm, the National Drug Court Institute, chose the program to be a National Mentor Court. York was recognized as one of ten courts across the United States to represent these agencies and provide training and technical assistance to jurisdictions looking to implement a Drug Court or for already established programs looking to implement Drug Court Best Practices. In April 2012, the York County Drug Treatment Court program received accreditation from the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court. The Drug Treatment Court will be due for re-accreditation in 2015.

As of December 31, 2014, the York County Drug Treatment Court program has processed 3,381 referrals, admitted 1,205 offenders and successfully graduated 470 clients. Most significantly, the program's recidivism rate is 25%, the retention rate is 65% and the graduation rate is 62%. Saving jail days and having a low recidivism rate is not the only goal of the Drug Court Program; improving social functioning is the primary mission of the Courts. 95% of those clients who graduate are employed, 100% of the clients who did not have visitation rights with their children at the time of admission received visitation rights at the time of program exit. 85% of the clients who graduate the Drug Court Program have their GED or high school diploma. In 2014, the Drug Court clients completed approximately 4,750 hours of community service.

In 2014, the York County Drug Treatment Court program graduated 35 clients. The 35 clients saved a total of 8,198 jail days. The average cost of jail is \$83 a day. This is a cost savings of \$680,434. The average cost to participate in the Drug Court program is \$11,033.13, which is a total cost of \$386,159.55 for 35 clients to participate in the program. Subtracting the cost to participate in the program from the money saved in jail days, the total cost savings to the County of York is \$294,274.45.

York County Mental Health Treatment Court

With the success of the Drug Treatment Court, York County established an adult Mental Health Treatment Court in May of 2005. This Court has the capacity for 35 participants. Individuals with mental illness are at increased risk for contact with law enforcement due to increased risks for homelessness, lack of service availability in the community and inability to access entitlements in a timely fashion. Peter Early, the author of the book *Crazy*, suggests prisons have become our new mental health hospitals. What has happened in York supports this claim. When services were in place, individuals with mental illness were less likely to be homeless and less likely to spend long periods of time incarcerated. National findings such as the "Bureau of Justice Statistics Special

Report, *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates,*" (September, 2006) also supports the argument, 64% of individuals incarcerated nationwide have a mental health problem.

The Mental Health Court works to actively engage services, stabilize housing and address needs in the community that has led the individual into the criminal justice system. Since its inception, 67 individuals have graduated from the Mental Health Court. The program has a 10% recidivism rate and a 79% retention rate. The York County Mental Health Court Program graduates 54% of the clients who enter into the program and 100% of those graduates report that the quality of their life has improved.

In April 2010, the York County Mental Health Court program participated in a national study by the National Center for State Courts. York County's Mental Health Court was one of four Courts selected in the Country to participate in the creation of performance measures for Mental Health Courts. The York County Mental Health Court program is listed in the national publication for the National Center for State Courts.

In 2014, the York County Mental Health Court program graduated 17 clients. Those 17 clients saved a total of 7,699 days in jail. The cost savings to the county in jail days saved is \$639,017. The average cost for the 17 clients to participate in the Mental Health Court was \$187,563.21. Subtract the cost to participate from the cost saved in jail days; the total cost savings is \$451,453.79. The Mental Health Court program has a 9% recidivism rate and 0% recidivism rate for those participants who graduated after 2012. Research shows that once individuals with mental illness penetrate into the criminal justice system, it is often the beginning of a revolving door in and out of jail. The low recidivism rate assures most of these clients will not return to the criminal justice system; therefore, saving the county additional dollars.

York County DUI Court

York County is currently fourth in the Commonwealth for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offenses and has been consistently third or fourth across the Commonwealth since 2005. Those counties reporting higher rates (Philadelphia, Allegheny, Montgomery, and Delaware) are densely populated urban areas. York County has a very diverse population of urban, suburban and rural areas. Considering the size and population of this county, the instances of DUI offenses are considered very high. The ratio of DUI offenses per population totals in York County is similar to the offense ratios in Philadelphia County.

York County's DUI Court was formally established in May 2010 with a capacity of 150 participants. The program requires clients to wear a 24 hour alcohol monitoring device and they are subject to continuous, random drug screening. About 97% of the DUI court clients enter the program from the Target 25 program. The Target 25 program requires all individuals who have two (2) or more DUI's in 10 years to be on supervised bail, wear a 24 hour alcohol monitoring device and begin treatment prior to sentencing. It was created in 2012 to address a growing problem of repeat DUI offenders in York County. In 2014, the Target 25 program received that Governors Highway Safety Association award for notable achievements in the field of highway safety.

In 2015, the DUI Court will incorporate a new risk and needs tool called the RANT. It was developed by Dr. Marlow from the University of Pennsylvania. This tool will help officers identify a client's needs and develop a treatment program that is specific for the individual client as opposed to a one size fits all approach. The DUI Court will start the accreditation process from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in November 2014.

In 2014, the York County DUI Court graduated 85 clients. The 85 clients saved a total of 14,610 days in the York County Prison, which saved a total of \$1,212,630. The cost for the 85 clients to participate in the DUI court program was \$937,816.05. Subtract the cost to participate from the money saved in jail days; the total cost savings to the county from the DUI court program is \$274,813.95. Since the start of the DUI Court program, 150 clients have graduated the program. Only 9 clients have received new criminal charges after graduation. Six (6) of the nine (9) new criminal offenses were new DUI charges. The recidivism rate for DUI court is 6% and the retention rate is 93%. The DUI Court Program Graduates 85% of those clients who enter into the program. 94% of the graduates are employed, 95% have their GED or high school diploma. In 2014, the DUI Court clients completed over 5,000 community service hours.

Veterans Court

In February 2012, the York County Treatment Courts started a hybrid Veterans Treatment Court. Using staff already in place from our existing treatment courts, Judge Craig T. Trebilcock presided over this new treatment court program. The program currently has a total of 25 clients with another 3 pending admission. 20 clients are in track I and 5 are in track II.

In 2014, the Veterans Court Program graduated 14 clients. The 14 clients saved a total of 2,302 jail days, saving the county \$191,066. The cost for the 14 clients to participate in Veterans Court was \$ 154,463.82. Subtracting the cost to participate from the jail days saved total, the Veterans Court Program saved a total of \$ 36,602.18.

Since its inception the Veterans Court Program has graduated 23 clients. Two (2) out of the 23 have received new criminal charges after graduation. The recidivism rate is 9%. The Veterans Court Program has a retention rate of 93%.

Juvenile Treatment Courts

Fast Track

The York County Juvenile Fast Track Drug Court Program was established in 2003. It is a four-phase, family preservation program, which provides intensive counseling services and supervision for youth that are in need of substance abuse treatment along with their families. Juvenile Fast Track Drug Court is to be utilized in cases where the juvenile is in need of intensive, community-based treatment and supervision. Aforementioned are Informal cases and Consent Decree cases. The Fast Track program has 11 clients actively on supervision.

In 2014 the Fast Track program graduated 7 participants. Since its inception in 2003, the program has graduated 67% of all participants who have entered the program.

JUMP

The York County JUMP (Juvenile Probation United with Mental Health Program) program was established in 1999. JUMP Court is an interagency team consisting of a Juvenile Court Judge, a representative of the District Attorney's Office, a representative of the Public Defender's Office, a Juvenile Probation Officer, an Intensive Mental Health Case Manager, a Youth Mentor, and a Family Therapist. JUMP Court is a graduated phase-based program focusing on building trust, gaining responsibility, competency development, achieving accountability, and providing community protection. The program serves juveniles with an Axis I Diagnosis who have been adjudicated delinquent. The length of service to each family will be approximately 34 weeks. All juveniles will participate in individual, group, and family counseling, organized community service projects, recreational activities, and frequent Court reviews.

In 2014, JUMP graduated 6 participants. Since 2011, the program has graduated a total of 26 participants and has a graduation rate of about 50%.

Drug Court

The York County Juvenile Drug Court Program was established in 2001. The juvenile drug court focuses on juvenile delinquency matters that involve substance-using juveniles. This program is a special docket within the juvenile court system where selected cases of juveniles are referred for handling by the drug court team (including the Presiding Juvenile Drug Court Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, Drug and Alcohol Counselor and the Juvenile Probation Drug Court Coordinators), when this behavior is exacerbated by substance use. The juvenile drug court program will maintain close oversight of each case through frequent (often weekly, depending on the phase the individual is in) review hearings with all parties involved including the parents. This program works with the drug court "team" concept of treatment. The drug team along with schools and service providers determine how to best address the substance abuse issue and the related problems of the juvenile, along with his/her family, that have brought the juvenile into contact with the juvenile justice system.

In 2014, Juvenile Drug Court Program graduated 13 participants. Since its inception in 2001, the program has graduated 56% of the participants who entered the program.

Treatment Court's Accomplishments

In 2013, the York County Treatment Courts introduced Buster, our Court House Facility Dog. Buster is the first facility dog in the Country to assist treatment court participants. There are 35 counties in the United States that have a canine program, primarily for victim witness interviews. York is the only Veteran Treatment Court in the Country to have a facility dog program that directly benefits York County Veterans. York is also the first Probation Department on the East Coast to incorporate a Courthouse Facility Dog Program. The success of Buster has influenced Lancaster County Probation to obtain a Court House Facility Dog, named Hamlet. Dauphin County is also interested in obtaining a Facility Dog as well. Buster and his staff have been to numerous locations for speaking engagements including Erie, PA for the Erie County Drug and Alcohol Conference, the Pennsylvania Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference in State College, PA and in July 2015, the Annual Judicial Conference in Hershey, PA.

The York County Adult Treatment Courts have adopted the Courage to Change program as part of its curriculum for participants in 2013. This program uses an evidence based, cognitive behavioral therapy manual to guide participants in making life decisions that will produce positive outcomes. To date, the program has served 110 clients. 81% of those clients have successfully completed the program.

In 2015, the Adult Treatment Court staff will be trained on motivational interviewing. Motivational interviewing focuses on exploring and resolving ambivalence and centers on motivational process within the individual that facilitate change. Motivational interviewing supports change in a manner congruent with the person's own values and concerns. The Juvenile Treatment Court staff is trained and has been incorporating motivational interviewing into their daily practices. In 2014, the Juvenile Treatment Court's implemented the use of the Carey Guides, a cognitive behavioral course facilitated by the probation officers on the Juvenile Probation team.

York County Adult Treatment Courts
2014 Fiscal Report

	No. of Graduates	No. of Jail Days Saved	Cost Saved in Jail Days⁽¹⁾	Average Cost to Participate in Treatment Court⁽²⁾	Total Cost Savings⁽³⁾
Drug Court	35	8,198	\$680,434	\$386,159.55	\$294,274.45
Mental Health Court	17	7,699	\$639,017	\$187,563.21	\$451,453.79
DUI Court	85	14,610	\$1,212,630	\$937,816.05	\$274,813.95
Vets Court	14	2,302	\$191,066	\$154,463.82	\$36,602.18
Total	151	32,809	\$2,663,147	\$1,666,002.63	\$1,057,144.37

⁽¹⁾ Average jail cost per day: \$83.

⁽²⁾ Average Treatment Court cost per participant: \$11,033.13

⁽³⁾ Total cost savings utilizing Treatment Courts vs. traditional sanctions.

