

Information On the Program and its Activities

2004

**Vigo County
Judge Robert Howard Brown
Alcohol & Drug Program
34 Ohio St.
Terre Haute, IN 47807
812-466-3291
812-234-2448 (Fax)
bjburns@vigocounty.org
*compiled April 2005***

Introduction

The Vigo County Judge Robert Howard Brown Alcohol & Drug Program was first certified by the Indiana Department of Mental Health on August 4, 1978 to provide services to alcohol/other drug offenders referred by the Court System. It was founded by the late Robert Howard Brown and now operates under the auspices of Vigo Superior Court, Division 5, with the Hon. Barbara Brugnaux presiding. We endeavor to assist offenders in making a positive change in their lives and attempt to lessen the impact that those we supervise might have on the public at large were we not there to intervene. We operate the Alcohol & Drug Program, the Vigo County Drug Court and hold grants for jail treatment activities. Our office received over 1600 referrals from our sponsoring court, other local courts, diversion programs, Drug Court, and other sources for which we provided services. Of those, 67% were first time enrollees in our program, based over our nearly 26-year history. Of the cases enrolled in 2004, 67 were enrolled for a second or greater subsequent offense during the year. Within the last 5 years, 84% of those clients entering our program did so for the first time, and 82% of the cases closed in 2004 successfully completed the program. We currently maintain a database of 14,008 names and 20,480 cases. Obviously, not all offenders return. Our database indicates that about .9% of these offenders account for about 4% of all cases. There are over 10,000 names in the database that are tied to only one case, while there are 131 tied to 6 or more cases. One person has been enrolled 18 times, but primarily for Public Intoxication.

Services

Drug Testing – Our offices collected 4,826 urine samples in 2004. We primarily use a collection cup that is sent for laboratory analysis including confirmation of specimens testing positive. We also use an on-site cup in some instances for immediate analysis and we occasionally use a patch system that collects sweat, which in turn is analyzed, by a laboratory. Of tests collected, just over 21% were positive for illicit substances for our drug court population versus 41% for non-drug court participants. We always hope to provide broader testing of our population to develop a more complete picture of the extent of abuse in our captive population with an aim toward directing clients to appropriate treatment services where indicated, but generally lack sufficient funding for the purpose.

Breath testing – We collected just over 25,000 breath tests in 2004. This service is available 7 days a week, 365 days per year. There were 470 tests positive for alcohol, with the range being .01% to .33%. Our policy requires that clients test .00%. During the year, 76 tests were at or greater than the legal limit of .08%.

Medication monitoring – Due to costs involved, few clients currently participate in our medication monitoring program. We have some 8 clients who submit 5 days each week to supervised Antabuse © (disulfiram). Clients who fail to abstain while on breath testing may choose to participate in an Antabuse program to assist in abstinence.

Counselor appointments – Our staff had over 5970 appointments kept in 2004 with our clients, including assessments and follow up visits. This is about 200 more than last year, using the same sized staff.

Information On Program Activities

Education – We provided 1272 client hours of education through the City Court Diversion Programs, 6060 client hours of education through our Level I DWI education program (an increase of about 1500 hours over last year), 530 client hours of the Victim Impact Panel, and 3035 client hours of Prime for Life, a 20-hour therapeutic education course.

Our Program continues to house the Vigo County Drug Court, entering its 9th year of operation. We provide space, support staff, computer support, matching funds and direction for the program, working in close harmony with its Coordinator and the supervising Judge.

We continue to offer drug-screening services for the Vigo County Adult Probation Department and the entire local court system. We are no longer able to provide the service to the Department of Family and Children Services, but assisted them in finding an alternative service. We hold the grant and administer the Jail Linkage Program for both men and women that assists inmates with engaging treatment services, continue to assist with the Domestic Violence Program in the jail, continue to support the use of self-help groups in the jail, and provide assistance to those in the jail that may be in need of residential services. We continue to provide presentations to the community upon request and work closely with the Vigo County Local Coordinating Council and other County offices. We continue to work with the Vigo County Sheriff and other local agencies in an attempt to address the on-going problem of jail overcrowding.

Staff

The program has a director, 3 counselors, 3 support staff persons, and houses the Drug Court, consisting of a coordinator, case manager, two technicians and a field officer. The director holds certification for addictions counseling on both the state and national levels, and holds a masters degree in counseling. Among other staff members are 1 masters degree, 1 bachelors degree, an LPN certificate and post secondary education. The support staff has a combined total of 42 years of experience with the program. Counselors handle an average of about 200 active cases at any point in time with another 100 or so having petitions filed against them for non-compliance.

Facilities

We are housed at the old Vigo County Jail, 34 Ohio Street. The structure exhibits a stone above the former entrance reading 1908. It was sold by the Vigo County Commissioners at auction and is now owned by a private individual. Since beginning to pay rent in September of 1994, we have paid \$93,050.00 in rents. The facility is poorly equipped for our mission. Some offices do not lend themselves to privacy and confidentiality, part of our certification requirements. The building is poorly insulated yielding high-energy costs. We also provide for janitorial supplies, a cleaning crew, and some other building expenses. We are currently working with the County Commissioners, Council and Department of Corrections toward a project that would provide new housing for our program along with Community Corrections, Work Release, Adult Probation and State Parole Offices. We eagerly await the development of this facility, slated for late 2005.

The building offers little to no parking for the some 200 persons that come through our door on our busiest weekdays. We daily have to direct drivers from our neighbor's lots and fight the client traffic just to get to and from our building. Worst of all, we are not handicapped accessible. Some clients must be turned away from our services, as they cannot gain access to the building. Figure 1 illustrates building expenses.

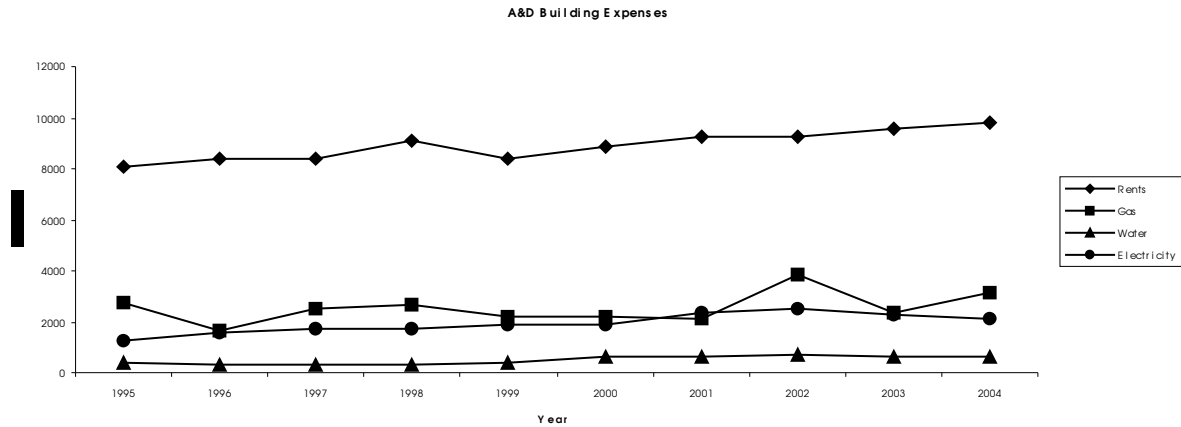


Figure 1

Program Expenses

The statute governing the creation and operation of court alcohol & drug programs includes a section relating that costs are to paid from city or county general funds and *may* be supplemented by a user fee (**IC 12-23-14-14**). Our program is supported by user fees alone. We are faced with possibly greater financial commitment to the Drug Court and the cost of relocation. With expansion of our services and our staff standing at seven for the alcohol & drug program, support of the Drug Court, and escalating health costs, we continue to experience increased expenses. Figure 2 illustrates the growth of program expenses since 1994.

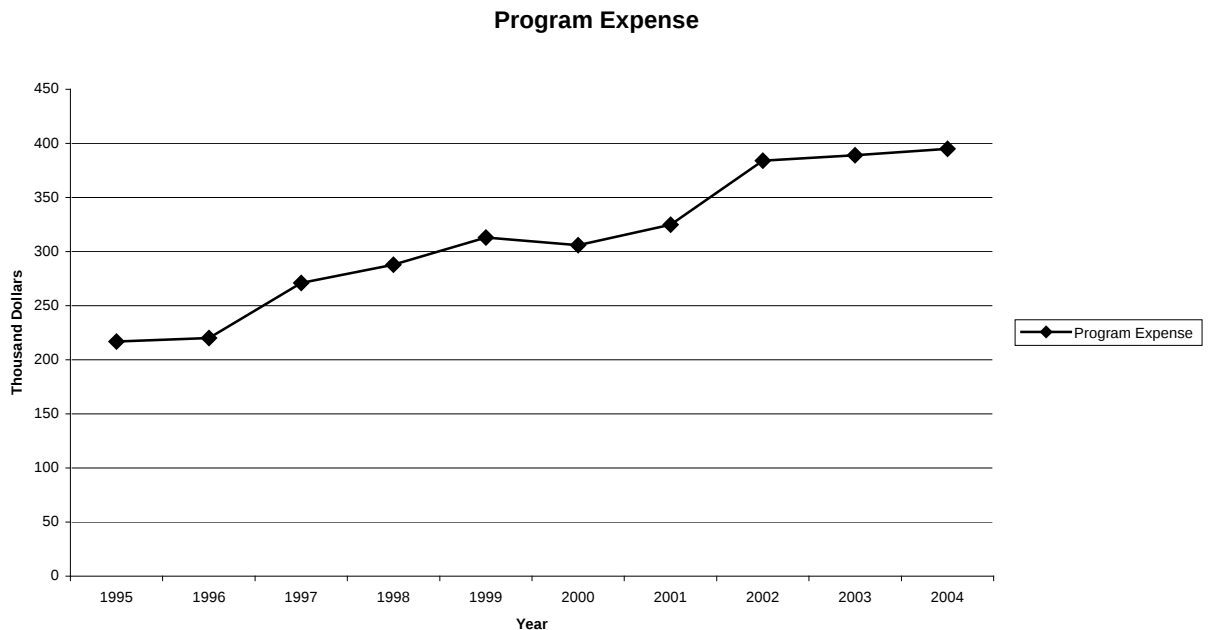


Figure 2

Income/Expense

We have worked very hard to increase receipts for our program and yet allow participants a reasonable time to pay the fees. Participants must pay court costs, program fees, urinalysis test fees and often community correction fees, ignition interlock fees and sometimes attorney or public defender fees. They may also be expected to pay probation users fees, restitution, and treatment costs. All of this is expected when many participants have lost their license and job. These are appropriate and just consequences of the actions they took in causing the arrest, but fees often seem to be an insurmountable obstacle to participants. We work diligently to collect the monies we can, and sue for those fees we are unsuccessful in collecting ourselves. We collect sufficient monies from our civil collection efforts to almost provide for one staff position. We wrote over 7,650 receipts in our program for payments of all kinds in 2004. Figure 3 illustrates our income and expense figures for 2004.

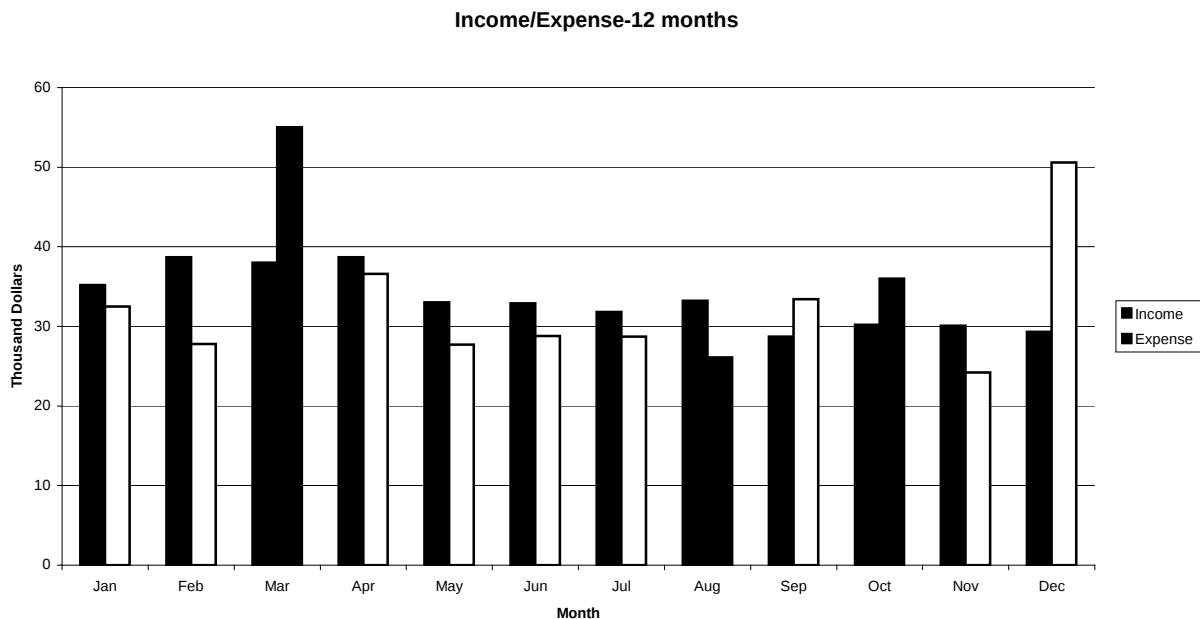


Figure 3

As shown, we exist on a narrow margin. At the end of 200, we had an operating balance of about \$258,600.00 cash on hand, which accounts for nearly eight months of operation at the current level, and does not include Drug Court Funding. We provide a wide variety of necessary services to the community and have done so for 26 years. We hope to continue providing for the safety of our community and for the benefit of our clientele. Our greatest challenge remains relocation to a feasible, viable, safe and appropriate facility with the assistance of the County Commissioners and County Council, and expansion of staff to meet a growing demand for services.

Ceritification

The program was visited by the Indiana Judicial Center in November of 2004 for a mid-term review. The program was found to be working toward implementing many of the suggestions made by the IJC during its certification visit in 2002. We remain a fully certified program and

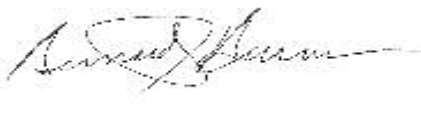
Information On Program Activities

are working toward incorporating appropriate language and form changes as recommended by the IJC.

Additional Activities

The program director served on committees at the Indiana Judicial Center working to develop procedures, testing and policy directed toward professionalizing the field of court alcohol and drug program employees, and toward rewriting rules, procedures and policies related to certification of such programs. He continues as a member of Indiana and National Certification Associations (ICAADA & NAADAC), and the Indiana Coalition of Court Alcohol and Drug Services (ICCADS). He will serve on the Court Alcohol and Drug Program Advisory Committee (CADPAC) in 2005. The director also serves as treasurer of the Local Coordinating Council for a Drug Free Community (LCC), and serves on the LCC Treatment and Law Enforcement Committees as well. He too serves as the Treasurer of the Terre Haute Breakfast Optimists service club. The drug court coordinator serves on the board of directors of the Indiana Association of Drug Court Professionals (IADCP), serves as the Vice President of IADCP, and on the Indiana Judicial Center Drug Court Sub-committee. We are very committed to working with others to assist the community and the state in effectively addressing substance abuse issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bernard J. Burns", is written over a horizontal line. A vertical line extends downwards from the right end of the signature line.

Bernard J. Burns
MS, CADAC II, MAC
Director