

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Vigo County Drug Court is to offer a timely sentencing alternative for non-violent, substance abusing or dependent offenders to reduce substance use and criminal recidivism within the community. The program utilizes a multi-disciplinarian team approach to provide resources to participants to increase their opportunity for recovery and productivity while seeking to enhance community safety.

Drug and alcohol abuse continue to have a major impact on Vigo County resulting in arrests, prosecution and the need for intense judicial monitoring to deal effectively with those afflicted by drug abuse and addiction. The Vigo County Drug Court provides that monitoring by interrupting the cycle of repeat offenders and providing participants with the opportunity to reclaim their lives as productive citizens instead of being a drain on an overwhelmed criminal justice system.

The Vigo County Drug Court has been in operation since September 30, 1996. The program operates under the auspices of Vigo Superior Court, Division 5, Hon. Barbara Brugnaux, Judge, as an adjunct part of the Vigo County Court Alcohol & Drug Program (A&D hereinafter), which provides oversight, supervision, accounting and payroll activities. Drug Court provides intense judicial monitoring to offenders who demonstrate a problem with alcohol and/or drugs to reduce substance use and criminal recidivism. Participants are required to engage in treatment and the recovering community to increase the opportunity for recovery while seeking to enhance safety of the community as a whole.

The program employs a full-time coordinator/case manager, case manager, drug screen technician, part-time field officer, and a part-time clerical assistant. Participants are referred into treatment and required to participate in frequent drug screening, meetings with case managers, court appearances, self-help programming, and other ancillary services as appropriate. Treatment providers involved with the program include Hamilton Center, Inc., which provides a full continuum of mental health services and referrals to Richmond State Hospital, and Recovery Associates, which has a full continuum of addiction treatment.

The program's target population and eligibility criterion are as follows:

Target population:

1. Male and Female Adults - age 18 and older and;
2. Defendants charged with possession of a controlled substance or offenses where drug abuse

- or addiction is determined to be a factor or; defendants charged with OVWI as a felony offense who risk HTV status if convicted or; defendants charged with OVWI, felony while on probation for first offense and;
3. Charge(s) is (are) not more than three months old.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Defendants must have a diagnostic impression of dependence or abuse.
2. Defendants may have prior convictions.
3. Defendants must not be a violent offender or dealer.
4. Defendants must have successfully completed pre-Drug Court.

Within the program, three separate tracks exist based upon type of offense:

1. OVWI offenses: a three year program where participants serve 180 days home detention and 18 months of ignition interlock;
2. C Felony offenses: a two year, four phase track, and;
3. D Felony offenses: 18-month, three phase track.

Outcomes

1. 278 graduates as of 8/30/06 with 16% re-arrests for an alcohol or drug offense.
2. Retention rate – 54% (278 graduates, 99 participants) /698 total enrolled since 1996.
3. In 2005, Drug Court Participants produced 92% negative drug screens. Most common positives are marijuana and meth.
4. 74% full-time and 10% part-time employment.
5. Nine drug free babies born to participants.

Most common charges admitted into Drug Court:

Methamphetamine	35%
OVWI	25%
Marijuana	22%

Sources of Funding

The program is supported in part by Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and made possible by U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Vigo County Local Coordinating Council Drug Free Community Fund; Vigo County Court Alcohol and Drug Program; Terre Haute City Police and; Vigo County Drug Court User Fee Fund.