THE PROBLEM

- High recidivism rate among addicted offenders
- Judges sentence drug offenders to probation or incarceration, only to quickly see them back again on a revocation of probation or a new charge
Why is This a Problem for the Community?

• Offenders remain addicted
• Crime rates increase
• Ultimately resulting in higher costs due to re-arrest costs, increased jail time, additional probation supervision, more prison time, further foster care costs and greater reliance on public assistance
The Traditional Response

- Send offender for lengthy prison sentence
- Sentence offender to longer jail sanction
- Place offender back on probation
Why The Traditional Response Is Inadequate

• More than 60% of those arrested test positive for alcohol or drugs

• Without intensive supervision by a judge, approximately 25% of offenders never arrive for a single treatment session

• More than 1/2 of inmates will return to prison within 3 years of their release
  • Even if they do not return to prison, 95% will return to drug use
High Costs

Jail/Prison

• It costs $104/day to house an inmate at the Wright County Jail
• In 2015 the average daily population was 166 inmates
• $17,264 per day
• $6,301,360.00 in 2015

Probation

• $1,256 per year for an offender on traditional felony probation.
• Felony Probation can be 5-40 years
• $6,280-$50,240 per offender
What Can Help Solve The Problem?

A radical shift in thinking and a dedicated and coordinated effort between justice partners to change lives, prevent crime, and reduce costs.
WCADDC

- Change lives
- Prevent crime
- Reduce costs

- A team of criminal justice partners committed to addressing the problems that persist in traditional probation or treatment alone working together to break the cycle of recidivism among drug addicted offenders in the court system.
How WCADC Will Help

• Provide intensive supervision
• Coordinate comprehensive treatment
• Facilitate collaborative chemical health and ancillary services through community providers
• Allow access to mental health services
• Increase judicial intervention and accountability
DRUG COURTS

• There are currently 2,966 drug courts in the U.S.
• There will be 2,967 beginning October 1, 2016, when Wright County opens its first drug court
• 150,000 people are served by drug courts each year
• 1.4 million drug court graduates so far
Drug Courts Can Change Lives

- Unless substance addicted offenders are regularly supervised by a judge and held accountable, 70% drop out of treatment prematurely.
- Drug Courts are six times more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to achieve long term sobriety.
- Parents in drug court are twice as likely to go to treatment and complete it.
- Family re-unification rates are 50% higher for Drug Court participants.
Drug Courts Can Prevent Crime

- Drug Court significantly reduce crime as much as 45% more than other sentencing options.
- Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest free at least two years after leaving the program vs. 30% of prisoners.
Drugs Courts Can Reduce Costs

- Nationwide, for every $1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as $3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone or a total of $32.3 billion annually.
- Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from $3,000 to $13,000 per offender:
  - These cost savings reflect reduced prison costs
  - Reduced healthcare costs
  - Reduced costs associated with the revolving door of arrests and trials
  - Reduced victimization costs such as lost work days and medical expenses
  - Reduced foster care costs because children of Drug Court participants spend significantly less time in out-of-home placements
The Need For More Drug Courts

• The U.S. Department of Justice recently identified 1.2 million people in the criminal justice system who would be eligible for drug court but do not have access due to their location.
Why Does Wright County Need A Drug Court?

• There were 347 drug arrests in Wright County in 2013
  • 174 resulted in a criminal complaint being filed
  • 67 of these offenders were sentenced for felony controlled substance crimes
  • 11 went to prison

• There were 316 arrests for drug offenses in Wright County in 2014
  • 173 resulted in a criminal complaint being filed
  • 91 of these offenders were sentenced for felony controlled substance crimes
  • 26 went to prison

• The remaining 121 individuals were sentenced to a combination of jail time and probation. Probation services and jail time are a financial burden on the County
Why Does Wright County Need a Drug Court?

• The average cost of probation for a felony controlled substance offender is $4.00 per day.

• 121 offenders were placed on felony probation in Wright County between 2013-2014 with a cost of $1,695,936.

• Over 1/2 the Child in Need of Protection or Services cases filed in Wright County in 2013 and 2014 involved at least one parent having issues with controlled substances.
CPR

• WCADC program will cost approximately $3,000 per participant
• WCADC program will limit its use of jail as a sanction
• WCADC program will help offenders gain education and employment
• WCADC will give offenders the tools to maintain long term sobriety
• Ultimately, WCADC will alleviate the financial burden on the County by reducing jail costs, probations costs, healthcare, and foster care costs
WCADC MISSION

The WCADC provides support, rehabilitation, resources, and the opportunity to change life circumstances by becoming chemically free through comprehensive assessment and treatment, intensive supervision, random drug and breath testing, increased court appearances, and immediate sanctions and incentives.
WCADC

• WCADC program is voluntary
• Lasts a minimum of 14 months and a maximum of 24 months
• The program fee is $600 per participant.
• Successful completion results in a non-prison disposition, no jail, shorter probation or reduction to a misdemeanor.
Who Is Eligible For WCADC?

- Non Violent, Gross Misdemeanor or Felony
- At least 18 years old
- Wright County resident
- Identified as High Risk to reoffend and addicted to controlled substances
WCADC Program Includes

- Chemical dependency treatment
- Mental health interventions
- Random alcohol and drug testing
- Regular court appearances
- Case management meetings
- Community support groups
- Assistance in obtaining employment, pursuing education, or community service
- Participation in pro-social activities
5 Program Phases

Each phase lasts 60-90 days and requires
- Weekly, biweekly, or monthly court appearances
- Weekly, biweekly, or monthly office visits to probation
- Weekly, biweekly, or monthly home visits
- 2 random drug tests per week
- Random unannounced home visits by the sheriff’s department or probation
- Participation in treatment
- Participation in support groups
- Education, work, or pro social activities
Phase II-Challenge/Clinical Stabilization

**Objective:** Continued abstinence, establishment of recovery and development of educational and/or vocational goals. Minimum length is 90 days.

**Expectations:**
- Twice monthly court hearings
- Weekly visits with WCADC probation agent
- Random drug testing (twice weekly minimum)
- Minimum twice monthly home visits by Probation Agent or Law Enforcement
- Curfew of 10 p.m.
- Meet with Wright County financial assistance worker to determine eligibility for financial benefits
- Compliance with driver’s license reinstatement plan
- Participate in educational, vocational, or rehabilitative programs as directed by WCADC team
Example of Advancement Requirements:

- Minimum 30 consecutive days sober immediately prior to advancement, abstaining from all mood-altering chemicals
- Completion of Phase Move Application
- Satisfactory treatment progress or completion
- Satisfactory compliance with all program requirements
- No unexcused absences from scheduled WCADC activities for 14 days.
- Attendance in a structured activity as directed and approved by WCADC Team
- Complete Chapter 1 of Drug Court Workbook.
- Approval of WCADC Team
• Upon Graduation a WCADC participant will have appeared in front of a judge a minimum of 25 times, had 35 office visits with a PO, had home visits from a PO or law enforcement, completed 16 weeks of treatment and completed 156 drug tests.
Random Twice Weekly Drug Tests

● Throughout the phases, the WCADC will require random, frequent, and observed drug tests
  ▪ At least 2 time per week
● On average a WCADC participant will take 156 drug tests before graduating
Incentives and Sanctions

• Throughout the program the WCADC team will employ a wide range of intermediate magnitude rewards and sanctions that can be adjusted upward or downward in response to participant behavior.
Incentives

• Throughout the program participants may be given incentives to reinforce positive behaviors.
• An incentive is acknowledgement by the WCADC team that the participant has reached a milestone, accomplished a specific goal, or otherwise exhibited positive behavior or change.
Incentives will range from positive recognition in court to more tangible rewards such as:

- Gift certificates
- Phone cards
- Groceries
- Clothing
- Transportation tokens
- Candy
- Pop
- Less restrictive curfew
- Money off fees
- Less frequent court appearances
- Payment for GED testing
SANCTIONS

• Any violations of the drug court program, rules, or policies that jeopardize public safety or threaten the welfare of staff members or other participants will result in immediate imposition of sanctions and may be grounds for immediate termination.

• Less serious infractions, such as continued drug use, will typically be sanctioned on a graduated or escalating basis, where the magnitude of the sanction increases with successive infractions, such as:

  • In Court apology
  • Daily check in
  • Increased testing, court hearings or PO meeting
  • Fines
  • Daily written schedule
  • Immediate detention

  • Separate seating in Court
  • Verbal reprimand
  • Essay on a topic related to the violation
  • Community Service
  • More restricted curfew
GRADUATION

• Upon graduation from the program the participant will receive;
  • a graduation ceremony;
  • a graduation certificate; and
  • the opportunity to tell their story in court with friends and family present

• Important community members, such as Wright County Commissioners, may be invited to attend and speak at the graduation ceremony.
Upon successful completion of the WCADC program the participant will receive:

- Misdemeanor sentence
- Shorter Probation
- No jail time, or
- No prison time
Changing Lives
Preventing Crime
Reducing Costs

• WCADC will work to break the cycle of addiction, reduce re-incarcerations and instead produce tax-paying, productive citizens with the goal of saving lives, saving money, and reducing crime in the community.
WCADC
Changing Lives
Preventing Crime
Reducing Costs