

Building Sustainable Mental Health Courts (MHCs): Performance Based Program Standards - Panel Discussion

Workshop at 2015 National Association of Court Manager's Conference

Tuesday, July 14, 2015, 10:15 AM – 11:30 PM

Panelists: Dr. Nicole Waters, Kent Batty and Marcus Reinkensmeyer

Panel Discussion

This workshop is designed to familiarize meeting participants with performance based program standards for mental health courts and strategies to sustain such problem solving courts. Initially, the panel moderator, Marcus, will ask each panelist to further introduce themselves, noting their backgrounds and experience with specialty courts.

The panelists will present on the following subject matter, referencing powerpoint slides and supporting documents (1 hour total, with approximately 20 minutes for each presenter):

- Program goals and purposes of mental health court (MHC) standards – Marcus
- Arizona legislation requiring governing standards and program evaluation - Marcus
- Leveraging National Model MHC Standards - Nicole
 - Lessons learned from problem solving courts
 - Research perspective
 - Model standards and early test sites
- MHC standards for Arizona courts and probation – Kent Batty
- Areas for further research and development? – Nicole
- Implementation strategies, referencing below questions – Kent

For the remaining 15 minutes of the session, panelists will be asked the following series of questions, with opportunity for quick exchanges with the other panelists:

- What kinds of problems have you encountered in the development and operation of your mental court or other specialty courts?
- For courts planning to develop or expand mental health court program, what is the best way to leverage the new mental health court standards?
- Most courts do not have the computer systems or data necessary to fully evaluate the efficacy of their mental health courts. What practical solutions can you offer in this area?
- Referencing the standards, can you recommend strategies in working with the various stakeholder groups involved in an effective mental health court program?
- Reflecting back on your specialty court projects, what other advice would you offer other to judges, administrators and probation chiefs seeking to develop sustainable mental health court programs?

Time permitting, the moderator will ask for questions and comments from the session participants.

References available on-line:

- https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=68
- <http://learning.csgjusticecenter.org/>
- <http://www.nadcp.org>
- http://learning.csgjusticecenter.org/?page_id=1546
- http://www.americanbar.org/publications/judges_journal/2015/spring/driven_by_financial_reasons_or_passion.html
- www.ncsc.org/mhcpm