

Nevada State Opioid Response Grant

Project/Program Questions

1. Describe and explain changes, if any, made during this budget period affecting the following:

a) Goals and objectives as outlined in your current and approved Scope of Work:

The Las Vegas Justice Court Misdemeanor Treatment Court (MTC) is an expansion from the original Community Court (CC) program that began in 2017. The MTC program is promoting and creating healthy changes in the community. A program goal is assisting participants in overcoming their substance abuse problem by providing appropriate levels of treatment care while also addressing their habilitation needs so that participants cease having involvement in the criminal justice system. There is no discrimination because of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, physical or mental disability, religion or socioeconomic status in the selection of eligible participants. Once current grant funding expires, the program will not be able to continue present levels of treatment. Such care includes inpatient treatment, outpatient treatment with sober housing, wrap-around services, and supervision with electronic monitoring and observed random drug testing. Once defendants are identified, evaluated, accepted and give consent to enter the program, participants are assigned to State Certified Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment Agency (SAPTA) providers, referred to community partners for co-occurring mental health disorders, subjected to mandatory random drug testing, electronic monitoring, medical treatment, and reconnected to local community resources for wrap around services to assist in improving their individual situation(s) and offering an opportunity to break the cycle of re-offending. Reconnection of services is the main goal of this program. Community service is mandatory for participation in the program as it is important to give back to the community, which is why jail time as a sanction is only utilized as a last resort. Successful completion of the MTC program can lead to case dismissal or closure.

b) Projected timeline for project implementation:

Current and ongoing – the team identifies, evaluates and accepts defendants into the MTC program for substance abuse treatment and sober housing with wrap around services. Goals are to (1) have the participant released from custody within ninety-six (96) hours or less into an appropriate substance abuse treatment program; (2) provide continuing substance abuse treatment for no less than nine months, including any medically assisted therapies (MAT) needed to aid in stabilizing the participant; (3) assistance with obtaining safe and sober housing; (4) assistance with obtaining government-issued identification, providing bus passes to aid in necessary transportation and (5) connections to local job and community resources to establish self-sufficiency.

The ultimate goal is for the participant to become drug-free and a productive member of the community. Upon successful completion of the MTC program, the District Attorney will dismiss pending charges.

c) Strategies proposed in the initially approved and funded application:

Interception and identification at initial detention by law enforcement, prosecutorial diversion from criminal charges and pre-trial re-tracking/diversion into MTC instead of regular criminal court will be utilized for participants. All new referrals are assessed by a Specialty Courts Coordinator utilizing standardized screening tools including, but not limited to, Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS), Risk & Needs assessment RANT (Risk and Needs Triage) screening instrument; DAST-10, SASSI-3 or similar test; AUDIT-C (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test); MAST (Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test); ASAM Criteria (3rd edition); and DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) in assessing potential participants for admission into MTC's program as well as potential treatment needs. MTC accepts referrals of individuals with co-occurring mental health disorders and undergo mini mental health screenings. Individuals presenting with a substantial severe mental health disorder are referred to one of the local mental health treatment court programs. All assessments include an analysis of the level of substance tolerance, medical history, psychiatric history, family/ social history, and education/employment to score potential program participants' degree of substance abuse, mental health pathologies and appropriateness for MTC. During the evaluation, there is a determination whether the referral is homeless, whether the referral has insurance, if they are committing crimes to support their drug habit, the severity of their drug use, and if drug use is a driver. The currently used Biopsychosocial evaluation only gathers information covering the 12-month period preceding arrest.

2. Summarize key program accomplishments to date. Describe difficulties/problems encountered in achieving planned goals and objectives, outlined in your current scope of work including barriers to accomplishments and actions to overcome difficulties.

Barriers:

The pandemic prevented at least 95% of community resource service providers from returning into the community and the Community Impact Center to offer their services. Due to COVID-19 closures the Community Impact Center which includes the Community Court and Misdemeanor Treatment Court were closed for the entire month of December 2020 for all in-person services. This closure did not allow us to reach any Misdemeanor Treatment Court program participants. Staff was onsite on a limited basis to attempting to connect community members with available services during the closure. During this time, we experienced communication and training issues with CASAT. We were not fully updated nor trained on the grant mandates (i.e. GPRA's and budgetary needs) until March 18th, 2021, thus leaving us in limbo for five out of the twelve months grant period. These issues led to a decrease in productivity and increase in workload to

backtrack for corrections and revisions to procedures while attempting to maintain compliance with GPRA tracking, weekly and monthly reporting.

Success:

To overcome the barriers, we stayed focused on reaching as many community members as possible who were in need of assistance. The MTC program team worked diligently to adhere to the Nevada social distancing guidelines, installation of signage for all to wear masks, providing masks to those in need upon entering the Community Impact Center (CIC), marking 6-foot distances clearly, installation of Plexiglas barriers between staff and the public, limiting the building to 25% occupancy, instituting disinfecting procedures, and providing hand sanitizer. CIC was able to provide community members with blankets and gloves via donations from community partners. The CIC team worked to rebuild the community rapport we had prior to COVID-19 restrictions. The MTC program was not able to conduct virtual court due to the transient, lower socioeconomic nature of our court population. As a result, MTC continued in-person biweekly court sessions during 2020 and adhered to strict safety protocols.

Beginning August 2021, Specialty Court Coordinators have been present for in-custody Bench Warrant return hearings to increase consistency in the program. This allows for outreach prior to individuals being released back into a possible toxic environment. Early interception allows the MTC team to promote the program while defendants are in-custody and has resulted in an increase in program participation. The team met with District Attorney's Office representatives to promote the MTC program and will be furnishing program flyers to aid their staff in offering the program to defendants. Clark County Detention Center (CCDC) representatives have agreed to put up Community Court/MTC Program posters and provide program flyers within the jail. CCDC has invited Specialty Court Coordinators to participate in their re-entry fairs to afford reaching defendants with open cases. The team will soon meet with State Attorney's Office representatives to discuss the program in hopes of wider Justice Court outreach.

3. Summarize key partnerships established to date:

Las Vegas Justice Court has contracted with numerous local vendors to provide substance abuse treatment services and assist participants with reclaiming government-issued identification. The court contracts with a local vendor for observed random drug testing and other vendors for electronic monitoring services.

4. Describe current staff and staff needs:

Presiding Judge:

Justice of the Peace Rebecca Kern is the Misdemeanor Treatment Court presiding judge. In November 2016, Judge Kern was elected to serve a six year term as a Justice of the Peace for Las

Vegas Justice Court Department 6. Judge Kern has presided over the Las Vegas Justice Court Community Court program since January 2020. Judge Kern is responsible for adhering to any applicable provisions of the Local Rules of Practice for the Justice Court of Las Vegas Township, as approved by the Supreme Court of Nevada.

Specialty Courts Coordinators:

Melissa Bowman joined the Community Court team approximately five months after its launch in January 2017. Ms. Bowman holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and is a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. Scott Carlson was a Specialty Courts Coordinator with Las Vegas Justice Court Drug Court and transferred to Community Court in February 2020. Mr. Carlson holds a Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling and is a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Ms. Bowman and Mr. Carlson have knowledge of court procedures and practices, community resources, counseling and therapeutic principles, program development and management. They set up individual files on program participants, compile statistical data, prepare and manage the court docket, assist with coordinating appropriate treatment and community service referrals for program participants, and help with the solicitation of community support through education and linkages in an effort to enhance services available to program participants. The coordinators also administer case planning every 60-90 days, gather exit data, and strive to expand community partnerships pursuant to key component #10 of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Regular case planning with review of participant data helps meet the needs of participants and identify treatment areas needing improvement or adjustment. Exit interviews with graduating and terminating participants to gather data assists in determining recidivism rates, graduate status at the time of completion, and program services that are lacking or work. Exit interviews with graduating participants affords them knowledge of aftercare programs and sober support networks provided at no cost to assist with diminished recidivism and increased public safety. Program data allows the team to improve public safety and gain future potential funding resources for sustainability.

Office of Appointed Counsel:

Clark County Office of Appointed Counsel assigns defense counsel on a rotating basis who provides legal advice regarding program participants' due process rights and other related matters. The assigned attorney meets with the team for staffing, attends court appearances, handles termination hearings and is also available to review program participants' progress, as needed.

The Clark County District Attorney's Office:

The Office of the District Attorney reviews and recommends some, but not all, potential program participants for eligibility, participates in team staffing, reviews participant's progress, addresses community safety concerns, and handles termination hearings. The Office of the District Attorney continues to work with the other criminal justice partners in developing a system to better identify potential participants.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD):

LVMPD continues to help develop methods to provide social service enrollment and facilitating Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) implementation prior to project participant release from custody.

6. What are the key goals anticipated with the new funding request? What new initiatives, services or changes are you requesting within the new scope of work?

The Las Vegas Justice Court Misdemeanor Treatment Court Program (MTC) has insufficient local funding to provide substance abuse treatment for participants lacking insurance coverage. For MTC eligible participants with insurance, the court provides substance abuse treatment with wrap around services. MTC operates under the 10 Key Components (KC) of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and NADCP Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards (BP). Participation in MTC is voluntary and requires a minimum of nine months to complete. MTC's target population only admits adults presenting with low to medium prognostic risks and low to medium criminogenic needs. MTC operates in accordance with the KC #3 by providing a process to identify eligible participants as early and promptly as possible.

MTC is committed to focusing greater effort on reaching out to indigent incarcerated offenders to provide stable, drug-free housing while undergoing substance abuse treatment to facilitate their habilitation, rehabilitation, and self-sufficiency and reduce the likelihood of them re-offending. The enhancement of public safety is also achieved by reducing the number of misdemeanor offenders with serious substance abuse disorders who are engaged in criminal activities. Throughout the pandemic, the program identified eleven participants agreeing to join the program to receive treatment for their SUD/Co-occurring disorders. The goal with this SOR II Year 2 continuation application is to assist at least 16 participants beat the disease of addiction.

7. Provide an update on progress made towards the sustainability of your program?

Program enhancement efforts have continued to be maintained after grant funding assistance ends by coordinating with resources such as the state, local entities and non-profits to obtain state and federal funding for the Community Court. The court, jail and sober living houses will continue to assist participants in signing up for Medicaid coverage through the Affordable Care Act and other social services to allow for future program sustainability.

8. What actions will be taken towards making progress on sustaining your program?

*****Note: For continuing programs, those that are utilizing SOR funding to support Residential, Transitional Housing, and/or IOP services should include the move to a Fee for Service reimbursement model to assist with transition to alternative reimbursement mechanisms.*****

The team works with non-profit Foundation for Recovery who supports our participants with Peer to Peer support services, Overdose Trainings & Naltrexone Tool Kits, and now provides Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT). We also work with several Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) who medically treat at-risk populations, regardless of insurance coverage. In addition, we work with local social service agencies on the rental voucher program. MTC will

strive to maintain program efforts by coordinating with resources such as the state, local entities and non-profits to obtain state and federal funding for MTC.

9. Report and Data Compliance:

- **Is your program current on approved Monthly Progress Reports?**
The program is current on approved Monthly Progress Reports.
- **Is your program current with submission of GPRA Master Data Logs through July 2021?**
The program is current with submission of GPRA Master Data Logs through July 2021.
- **Is your program current with submissions of Requests for Reimbursement through July 2021?**
The program is current with submissions of Requests for Reimbursement through July 2022.