

INTERNAL WORKING DOCUMENT

Best Practice Standard VIII - Multidisciplinary Team

Objective:

A dedicated multidisciplinary team of professionals manages the day-to-day operations of the Drug Court, including reviewing participant progress during pre-court staff meetings and status hearings, contributing observations and recommendations within team members' respective areas of expertise, and delivering or overseeing the delivery of legal, treatment and supervision services.

N	Non-Compliant
P	Partially Compliant
C	Compliant

	Dec	Apr	Aug	NOTES
A Team Composition				
The Drug Court team is comprised of (but not limited to) a judge, a program coordinator, a prosecutor, a defense counsel representative, a treatment representative, a probation officer and a law enforcement officer				
B Pre-Court Staff Meetings				
All team members consistently attend pre-court staff meetings to review participant progress, determine appropriate actions to improve outcomes and prepare for status hearings (42 of 52 weeks per year)				
Pre-court staff meetings are presumptively closed to participants and the public unless the Court has a good reason for a participant to attend related to their case				
Pre-court staff meeting discussions are not transcribed or recorded				
Contested matters are addressed and resolved in open court during status hearings or related due process hearings				

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The Drug Court team discusses highly sensitive matters with a participant during pre-court staff meetings				
C Sharing Information				
Team members share information as necessary to appraise participants' progress in treatment and compliance with Drug Court conditions				
Team members contribute relevant insights, observations and recommendations based on their professional knowledge, training and experience				
Partner agencies execute MOUs specifying what information will be shared among team members				
Participants provide voluntary and informed consent permitting Drug Court team members to share specified participant information				
Defense attorneys make it clear to participants and other team members whether they will share communication from participants with the Drug Court team				
Consent documents specify what data elements may be shared with whom, and for what authorized period of time				
Consent documents indicate which professionals are authorized to receive the information, what steps must be taken to revoke consent and when the consent expires				
Treatment providers are permitted to share confidential treatment information with criminal justice professionals pursuant to a voluntary, informed consent				
D Team Communication and Decision Making				
The Drug Court is a nonadversarial program				
The Drug Court judge speaks directly to participants, rather than through legal counsel, and takes an active role in supervising cases				

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The Drug Court team members do not relinquish their professional roles or responsibilities				
The Drug Court prosecutors continue to advocate on behalf of public safety, victims interests and participant accountability				
The Drug Court defense attorney continues to advocate for participants' legal rights				
The Drug Court judge exercises independent discretion				
The Drug Court judge considers all sides of a controversy before rendering a decision				
The Drug Court judge does not delegate decisions to the Drug Court team or acquiesce to majority rule				
The Drug Court judge hears evidence from scientific experts if the subject matter of the controversy is beyond the common knowledge of a laypersons				
The Drug Court team members contribute relevant observation and insights and offer suitable recommendations based on their professional knowledge, experience, and training				
The Drug Court team members communicate effectively				
The Drug Court team members articulate and justify informed opinions				
E Status Hearing				
All Drug Court team members regularly attend status hearings (42 of 52 week per year)				
The Drug Court judge speaks personally with each participant				
Upon request from the Drug Court judge, the Drug Court team members report on their observations of the participants, fill in missing information, offer praise and encouragement to participants, challenge inaccurate statements by participants or make recommendations for suitable consequences to impose.				
F Team Training				

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Before a new Drug Court is started, the Drug Court team members attend a formal pre-implementation training				
The Drug Court team members attend annual continuing education workshops to gain up-to-date knowledge about best practices				
New Drug Court team members receive formal orientation training on the Drug Court model and best practices in Drug Court prior to active participation on the Drug Court team				

100%
99%-80%
79%-0%

- **Compliant**
- **Partially Compliant**
- **Non-Compliant**

Total Compliance:

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Dec Apr Aug