

***Drug Prosecution and Prevention Programs:  
A Descriptive Overview***  
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## ***Drug Prosecution and Prevention Programs: A Descriptive Overview***

### **Bibb, Dallas, Hale and Perry Counties, Alabama, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

This jurisdiction has instituted a number of programs to effectively deal with problematic drug issues within the community. For example, the office's drug task force targets those individuals selling or trafficking large amounts of drugs and/or guns. The diversion program has been a formidable force in the community, increasing the number of defendants sentenced to boot camp, instead of prison. In addition, the community corrections program works collaboratively with other agencies to provide treatment and probation for specific drug offenders while offering options other than to jail or prison. The community liaison works with newly released offenders in order to help these individuals find employment and/or counseling to help during the readjustment period. Currently, the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit is in the process of starting a family drug dependency court to assist families dealing with the effects of drugs. For non-violent offenders, this jurisdiction works diligently assisting offenders with addictions by providing treatment options, counseling, employment, and life skills development programs.

### **DeKalb County, Alabama, 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

The DeKalb County Drug Court was commissioned in April 1999 and is presided over by a retired Judge. The goal of the drug court is to serve as an alternative to incarceration for non-violent drug offenders. Additionally, there is a highly regarded Court Referral Office and a Community Corrections Program. Having graduated more than 200 individuals from the program, officials from the court report a very low recidivism rate compared to the national average.

The Chief Deputy District Attorney began a local community coalition of law enforcement, clergy, educators, elected officials, business owners, parents, and health care providers to develop and coordinate drug treatment and education programs for the community. Known as the Partnership for a Drug-Free DeKalb County, this initiative has spearheaded numerous programs in the county that target methamphetamine manufacturing, use, and distribution. Most recently, the Partnership has also secured grant funding to implement a school drug-testing program.

The District Attorney for this county led a coalition comprised of other district attorneys in educating the Alabama state legislature in the ravages of methamphetamine. The effort put forth by the coalition resulted in sweeping legislation that strengthened laws against the unlawful manufacturing of methamphetamine and placed stringent regulations on the sale of substances such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. As a result, this county reports a 50 percent drop in clandestine methamphetamine lab seizures. Finally, the district attorney's office is steadfast in its fight against drugs in the community and has assigned an attorney and investigator to the DeKalb County Drug and Major Crime Task Force to ensure drug offenses are aggressively investigated and prosecuted.

### **Covington County, Alabama, 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit**

In order to combat the growing methamphetamine crisis in this jurisdiction, the district attorney's office brought together various agencies in a combined effort to effectively deal with the crime problem. Described as a rural jurisdiction, this office brought together a diverse array of individuals in the community such as police officers, citizens, former addicts, church leaders, merchants, sanitation workers, electric company lineman, and others to assist in investigative efforts that often lead to evidence collection in methamphetamine cases. As verified by their high conviction rate, this office reports being very successful in prosecuting drug offenders in their community.

In addition, this office also focuses on assisting offenders recover from addictions. For example, currently, prosecutors and former addicts are working together to form a local faith-based rehabilitation program. This program targets non-violent drug offenders and evaluates each offender on a case-by-case basis. Upon conviction, defendants are sentenced to either probation or a

combination of incarceration and probation. During probation, offenders are admitted to a residential drug rehabilitation center, an initiative that is largely headed by faith-based organizations.

### **Madison County, Alabama, 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit**

This jurisdiction is involved in a multifaceted diversion program that includes treatment options, random drug testing for offenders, and individual and group counseling sessions, which includes offenders from the juvenile, family and adult drug courts. The drug task force includes representatives from all law enforcement agencies in the county. In addition, the office has a strong presence in the community and has implemented educational programs such as the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program and is also a vital member of the Partnership for a Drug-Free Community. Drug courts, community service, and mentoring programs are used as alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders. This office believes that individuals with drug addictions have wreaked havoc on families in their community. As a result, the office strives to help these individuals in order to save families thus strengthening the community and ultimately preventing crime.

### **Maricopa County, Arizona**

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) reports being one of the first prosecutors' offices in the nation to house drug diversion and drug prevention under one roof. The diversion program has helped individuals addicted to drugs receive treatment; as a result, the program has been highly successful since its creation in 1989. Drug Free Arizona MCAO's prevention program is well recognized in the community. In addition, Drugfreeze.com is Arizona's one-stop-shop for drug prevention information and has received upwards of 66,000 visitors in a week. The site provides information on various types of drugs, drug treatment, and targeted populations, such as parents, children, and college students. MCAO staff members often speak on a variety of drug-related topics throughout the community. In an effort to rid the community of "meth houses" and other troublesome properties, the Communities and Law Enforcement Attacking Neighborhood Crime (C.L.E.A.N.) program, employs a variety of tools and strategies to hold property owners responsible for unlawful activities committed on their property. Finally, the Fraud and Identity Theft Enforcement Bureau was established to combat the growing problem of identify theft, a crime that has recently been associated with methamphetamine use.

### **Madison and Washington Counties, Arkansas, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Innovative and ever present in the community, this office holds drug courts in junior high and high schools. This jurisdiction reports having a high completion rate coupled with a low recidivism rate. Some cases in drug court are televised, which ultimately adds to the office's presence in the community. In addition, to combat the drug problems in their community, this office is involved in an alternative to incarceration program, a law enforcement task force, and general prevention education programs.

### **Jackson and Larimer County, Colorado, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

This jurisdiction has an adult, juvenile, and a university campus drug court. The adult and juvenile drug court provides an alternative to incarceration. Striving to enhance their program, the administrators of the court continually modify the drug court program to deal with the changing needs of the community such as the growing number of methamphetamine addicts in the community. The campus drug court at Colorado State University is reportedly the first court in the country to specifically address the needs of college students that are also drug offenders. In an attempt to involve the community and get high school students involved, this jurisdiction sponsors an anti-drug program that is presented once a year, which includes a calendar/poster contest for students. The nuisance statute in this jurisdiction provides for the confiscation of an offender's property if involved in drug possession and trafficking.

### **Bent, Crowley and Otero Counties, Colorado, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Described as a small, rural jurisdiction with limited resources, this office has pushed the envelope to address the drug problem in their community. With only an investigator and one attorney, these dedicated professionals work closely with all local agencies, including corrections, to address the drug problem in their community. Only through determination and intensive collaboration with the local agencies is their drug treatment court even possible. Just recently, this small but formable office purchased a mobile methamphetamine investigation lab to respond to crime scenes in their community.

### **Mesa County, Colorado, 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District**

This jurisdiction has a joint drug task force focused on interdiction and enforcement, as well as, a methamphetamine task force targeting prevention and treatment. Please see <http://www.mesacounty.us/methtaskforce.aspx> for more details.

In 2006, the office anticipates the implementation of a "Meth Fast-Track" program to defer prosecution for those individuals willing to go to an in-patient treatment center as an alternative to incarceration. This program was developed from a series of focus-groups that included law enforcement personnel, families, offenders, prosecutors, and school administrators. The goal of these groups was to outline the most pertinent issues associated with methamphetamine addiction. Afterward, a strategic plan was developed for a treatment program that combined a pre-trial drug court. The Meth Fast-Track Program is based on the Matrix Treatment model and screens drug users immediately after arrest. These individuals sign a waiver and must agree to go into a county funded intensive in-patient treatment program. After the initial detox phase, offenders then begin the court process. Deferred judgments or agreements to probation with no jail time are offered based on successful completion of a 6 month residential (dormitory or work release style) treatment program. Offenders are given opportunities to work with the Work Force Center to obtain job training and the Housing Authority for placement in an environment where they are less likely to relapse. These individuals are also closely monitored and placed on probation supervision. Prior to probation supervision, individuals are assigned a caseworker to help coordinate services that offer participants the best chance of success once the in-patient program has been completed. Once offenders are released, they are required to enter a long-term (i.e., 9-12 months) intensive outpatient program which they pay for.

This is the only program of its kind in Colorado. In addition, Mesa County has established a Website to inform the public regarding methamphetamine addiction and treatment options. For more information, please see <http://www.methfree.mesacounty.us/>

### **Clay, Duvall and Nassau Counties, Florida, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

This jurisdiction has three courts, an adult court, a juvenile court, and a dependency court for civil matters. This particular office is a member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) and serves as a mentor site for the Department of Justice. As such, other criminal justice professionals looking to receive grant funding to implement a drug court are required to attend and observe this office's drug court in session. During their required court attendance, prosecutor, defense attorneys, judges, treatment professionals, and probation personnel are typically encouraged to ask questions about the court's operations and how others may implement a similar court in their community.

The adult drug court was implemented in 1994 after the district attorney presented the idea to judges in the district. To reinforce this jurisdiction's commitment to treatment rather than criminal sanctions, individuals brought to court are no longer referred to as "offenders" but as "clients." The court's treatment program is approximately 12 months and addresses both alcohol and drug addictions. Initially, the client meets with treatment personnel four days a week for four hours. If the client

adheres to all treatment rules and regulations, the client is gradually moved to fewer meetings. Court imposed sanctions for missing treatment meetings include weekend incarceration, additional treatment or court meetings, loss of phase placement in the program, or more community service. Charges are dropped if an individual successfully completes the program. If not successful, the client is moved to an in-patient secured facility that is run by the county sheriff. For each court there are bi-weekly meetings with the judge.

The juvenile court is for clients ranging in age from 12 to 18. The program includes a detox facility, residential treatment, and a sanctions program similar to adult court. The dependency court is a civil system, whereby relatives or neighbors can report parents who are involved with drugs. In these cases, the state removes the child from the household while the parent(s) follow a treatment plan, outlined by the court. Parents are given the same options as in the other courts, with the added incentive of seeing their children while in treatment. If a client is successful, they are granted custody but only after 12 months.

Currently, this jurisdiction reports having graduated approximately 1,000 adults and 500 adolescents. The most beneficial aspects of these courts are the low cost, lowered recidivism rate for program graduates, added incentive of having one's charges dismissed, and everyone working together to find the best solution for a particular client.

### **Conasauga Judicial Circuit, Georgia**

This jurisdiction's drug court focuses on methamphetamine and its effect on the community. The court targets non-violent, adult, methamphetamine addicts with no prior criminal history. Small but effective, officials working in this court report having a positive impact on the community.

### **Bibb, Crawford and Peach Counties, Georgia, Macon Judicial Circuit**

The Office of the District Attorney for the Macon Judicial Circuit implemented the Bibb County Drug Court Program in 1994. The court encompasses Bibb, Crawford and Peach counties in central Georgia. This is a pre-adjudication program that focuses primarily on offenses such as simple possession. Recommendations for entry into the program are left to the discretion of the district attorney's office. Prior to treatment, offenders are required to enter a plea of "nolo contendere," until graduation from the program. The treatment program lasts approximately one year and emphasizes accountability. This office strives to remain cutting edge with continued revisions to current practices in order to improve the court. In addition, the drug task force is highly active in the community and uses advanced electronic surveillance system to target high-level drug dealers.

### **Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, Georgia**

Different than most drug courts, this program targets high risk non-violent offenders. Multifaceted and innovative, intensive treatment services are provided to address substance abuse issues and destructive criminal behavior that often accompanies an addiction. This drug court is actively involved in partnerships with the United Way, State University, and faith-based treatment programs.

### **Hawaii City and the County of Honolulu, Hawaii**

With a reported 38 percent of all arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine, this office has taken a progressive hard stance in protecting the community. This office has unparalleled partnerships between the public and private sectors in an effort to educate the public about the dangers of methamphetamine use. To assist other jurisdictions with the problem of methamphetamine, this office has developed a comprehensive presentation outlining the office's response to the problem. This presentation has been disseminated across the country and has also been shared with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the National Counsel of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Conference of Western Attorneys General. Building collaborative relationships with other

agencies in the community is the primary component to their approach. These relationships help to educate the community in an attempt to take action against methamphetamine.

### **Kankakee County, Illinois**

The Kankakee County State's Attorney's Office was the second drug court program in the state of Illinois. This office's drug court has peaked both national and international curiosity as personnel from Lithuania and Latvia have visited to observe the workings of the program. In addition to the diversion program for non-violent drug offenders, the office is actively involved with a law enforcement drug task force and a nuisance abatement program. To increase collaboration between various state agencies, the probation drug court coordinator also heads the State Drug Court Association.

### **Winnebago County, Illinois**

At any given time, this jurisdiction's drug court handles approximately 200 adult drug users. Offenders are required to appear in court regularly, meet with drug court probation officers, and actively participate in treatment. As a leader in the community, this drug court is well regarded and often fields inquiries from other jurisdictions. The office reports having a very high success rate with those individuals completing the program. The office is also actively involved with a law enforcement drug task force and community-based prosecution initiatives.

### **Benton County, Indiana, 76th Judicial Circuit**

Starting in 2006, this jurisdiction will be sponsoring a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer to educate and inform school-age children. Currently the office is educating merchants on the ingredients to make methamphetamine in an effort to thwart the sale of these ingredients to individuals determined to manufacture methamphetamine. There is also a dedicated investigator assigned to drug interdiction efforts. This investigator has the same authority as other law enforcement officers in the state. In addition, this jurisdiction is also a member of a five county undercover drug task force.

### **Polk County, Iowa**

The Polk County Attorney's Office is among the leaders in innovation regarding their juvenile and adult drug court programs. This office has as an adult in-jail treatment program as an alternative to serving time in prison. Prosecutors are responsible for approving candidates for the in-jail treatment program and also monitor offender progression through the program. This office also serves as project leader for a team specifically designed to address issues pertaining to drug-endangered children. The drug endangered children program deals primarily with methamphetamine cases and works closely with a multi-jurisdictional drug task force. This office has also been highly active in legislative issues; in particular, regulating the sale of pseudoephedrine. The Polk County Attorney's office's drug policy combines cutting edge, aggressive prosecution efforts coupled with cooperation and innovation in the area of treatment. The office is also involved in training law enforcement, educators, and community groups.

### **Norton County, Kansas**

This jurisdiction has an excellent methamphetamine treatment program for users in a rural area, which is sponsored by Northwest Kansas Community Corrections.

### **Calloway County, Kentucky**

The Calloway County District Attorney's Office recently implemented a drug court specifically for juvenile offenders. Upon successful completion of the program, charges are dismissed and the incident is expunged from the participant's record. The goals of the program include promoting pro-

social coping mechanisms in order to abstain from drugs and/or alcohol and developing healthy life skills to be used once the juvenile graduates from the program. The participants are responsible for all fees and costs associated with their involvement in the program. Requirements of this program include random drug screening, employment and counseling sessions, which may also include family members. The participant is required to complete four phases of an individualized treatment plan, each phase lasting approximately two months. Non-compliance with any aspect of the program results in sanctions that range from an earlier curfew to juvenile detention. The program is new to Calloway County but the office reports having favorable results.

### **Letcher County, Kentucky, 47<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

This jurisdiction's heavy emphasis on prescription drugs is addressed through the use of diversion programs, drug courts, law enforcement task forces, community prosecution, faith-based prevention, general education initiatives, and partnerships among various community agencies.

### **Iberia, St. Martin's and St. Mary's Parishes, Louisiana, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

This jurisdiction has multiple proactive programs that address complex societal issues that the criminal justice system and community-based social service agencies cannot address in isolation. For example, the At-Risk Early Intervention Program is a preventative program that seeks to intervene with at-risk children that exhibit behavioral problems or are having academic difficulties. Through a school-based referral system, workers with social services are alerted to these children. Once a child is referred, the entire family is assigned a case manager who directs family members to needed services. Transportation to these services is provided for these individuals to ensure participation in the program. The Family Services Division of the District Attorney's office partners with the school system to address risk factors that may impact the child. This program is based on a collaborative effort with the school system, the family, various community agencies, and the criminal justice system to ensure that juveniles are receiving the services they need.

In addition, another program that has benefited children in the community is the Truancy Assessment Service Center or T.A.S.C.. This is a prevention program whereby children with multiple unexcused absences from school are referred to for assistance. The district attorney's office has received numerous letters from school principals around the community applauding the effectiveness and success of the T.A.S.C. program. As a result, the program has grown to include 50 schools and is expected to be implemented state-wide.

This jurisdiction also has a reentry program for drug offenders. Prosecutors help screen applicants for the program. Participants must complete a program while incarcerated and then are placed in a local drug court following their release. In addition, the district attorney's office is also involved in faith-based prevention programs, education programs, and nuisance abatement actions within the community.

### **Hancock County, Maine**

The Hancock County Prosecutor's Office developed the Hancock County Deferred Sentencing Program, which strives to replicate an adult drug court but without a judge or government funds to subsidize the program. A retired judge presides over the program and applicants are screened by a local treatment provider (check this.... If an applicant is accepted, a plea of guilty is entered in court. The case is continued for sentencing, whereby the applicant enters the program. If an applicant successfully graduates from the program, a period of probation is imposed. Failure to complete the program may result in a substantial period of incarceration. Relapses are considered a bail violation and can result in incarceration, which can range from a few days to a few months. Currently, there are 8 participants in the program. Although the program has only been in existence for one year, it is being considered as a possible alternative to a more expensive judicial adult drug court.

To address the methamphetamine problem, legislation has been passed limiting access of products containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Products containing these ingredients are now kept behind the counter in local stores. Also, educational programs are in place in the community to educate citizens about substance abuse prevention and the dangers of drug use. In addition, this jurisdiction is involved with a drug task force and community-based prosecution efforts.

### **Norfolk County, Massachusetts**

Focusing on education and prevention, the Norfolk County Attorney's Office works in collaboration with a group of parents who have children addicted to drugs. These parents speak at open forums designed to inform others of the obstacles facing children and parents today. This approach helps parents to learn coping strategies from others in similar situations and has also created a support network to empower and motivate parents to find treatment for their children. For more information, please refer to <http://www.learn2cope.org/index.html>. This Website provides information explaining the treatment process, a listing of treatment providers, and a discussion forum where parents with children who are addicted can find support and advice from other parents. This office also has a drug court that serves as an alternative to incarceration for adults and juveniles. In addition, prosecutors have found that working with an offender's family members can be extremely helpful in the recovery process. Family members assist the prosecutor which has reportedly led to a greater success rate among recovering addicts.

### **Grand Traverse County, Michigan**

This jurisdiction has several new programs in place with the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Family Court and the 86<sup>th</sup> District Court. These programs attempt to address issues pertaining to drugs and the harmful effect drugs can have on a community. In addition, they have alternatives to incarceration, a law enforcement drug task force partnership, and education and prevention programs.

### **Huron County, Michigan**

This office provides an educational pamphlet to teens and parents that outlines crimes commonly committed by teens and the consequences associated with these crimes. The office has also produced a guide for alcohol retailers that summarizes the laws and penalties for selling alcohol to minors. In addition, there are court diversion programs that serve as an alternate to incarceration for non-violent drug offenders.

### **St. Louis County, Minnesota**

Since its implementation in April 2003, the St. Louis County Drug Court reports being very successful in addressing the needs of low-level, non-violent adult drug offenders. The program is a collaborative effort that involves a number of public and private agencies. Participation in the program is mandatory for any offender committing a non-violent felony involving a controlled substance. This office believes that rapid entry into the program is essential for successful completion. The drug court meets once a week and conducts "pre-court conferences" to determine which cases are eligible for the court's consideration. The process begins with an assessment of the defendant's eligibility for the program. The defendant is either immediately admitted to an in-patient facility or put on supervised release. Before exiting the program, defendants are required to attend a four-phase program. As defendants progress through the program, each phase provides less intense supervision. There are weekly meetings with the court to assess the defendant's progress along with random drug tests. Additional sanctions or rewards are given based upon the defendant's actions while in the program. To maintain the integrity of the program, a confidentiality agreement is entered to protect the defendant. In addition, the defendant is provided documentation that outlines their responsibilities, testing policy, and the rules and regulations of the drug court. Upon successful completion of the program, the defendant's charges can either be dismissed or reduced.

### **Lincoln, Pike, and Walthall Counties, Mississippi, 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Reportedly the first drug court in the state of Mississippi, defendants are required to complete a two to three year drug program. Moreover, this program involves weekly reporting to the courts. Successful completion of the program allows offenders to avoid felony convictions. In addition, assistant district attorneys also speak to local schools and churches regarding the harmful effects of drug and prosecution efforts of drug offenders. Regarding prosecution, a new policy allows for enhanced sentences for methamphetamine related cases committed in the presence of minors. The 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District is involved in an alternative to incarceration program, law enforcement drug task force, multi-agency partnership, community-based prosecution, faith-based treatment program, and a general prevention education program targeted at juveniles.

### **Mercer County, Missouri**

To effectively fight the increasing methamphetamine problem in their jurisdiction, the Mercer County District Attorney's Office has combined all available area resources to implement a drug court. This jurisdiction is also involved in a law enforcement drug task force, faith-based prevention program, and an education program to deter individuals from drug use.

### **Churchill County, Nevada**

The drug court program in this jurisdiction is based on collaboration among of five rural counties that have banded together to address a common problem. The regional aspect of this program is unique, in that it allows the various counties to combine their respective resources in order to increase the success rate for all. This feature ensures that counties without sufficient resources have access to programs necessary for a successful drug court. It also allows for some mobility of the drug court participants. Given the location of the treatment programs, it is possible for a participant charged in one county to attend a treatment program in a larger county, but still attend court. The program is a joint effort between a judge, prosecutors, and public defenders from their respective counties.

The rural regional drug court recently enacted a reentry program for offenders. Additionally, through its close work with the Department of Parole and Probation for Parolees, the program is able to refer those individuals reentering the community to the Salvation Army treatment center, upon release. Finally, this county has increased the emphasis on issues surrounding methamphetamine use and has increased local enforcement's awareness of these issues, through the use of a drug task force and partnerships among other various agencies. Within the community, there are prevention education programs as well as nuisance abatement measures that can be taken to effectively deal with troublesome properties.

### **Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

According to the Hillsborough County Prosecutor's Office, this program is based on accurately assessing an offender's drug problem followed by focused service delivery. The program is structured in a way that provides offenders with the best opportunities to succeed and to experience recognition for their personal success. In order for offenders to experience this success, participants are immersed in the program. Unfortunately, for some offenders, this is the first time they are rewarded for a positive achievement. This program targets young drug users with little to no previous criminal history or first-time offenders of any age.

### **Ocean County, New Jersey**

To combat the drug-trafficking problems in the community, the Ocean County Narcotics Strike Force was implemented to focus on street-level and mid-level drug dealers. Various investigative techniques such as, electronic surveillance, undercover buys, and the use of confidential informants

have all been used to address this problem. Along with working closely with the task force, the prosecutor's office has also worked with the media to help garner public support for the program.

Project GOOD was initiated in 1987 in an effort to increase education and prevention initiatives and to gain more public attention regarding drug use. Law enforcement officials and community leaders committed to sharing anti-drug education and prevention messages throughout the community currently staff the program. Initially, the project focused on presentations at schools but eventually moved toward educating the entire community about the drug problem in their area. To educate students, the project team uses a robot named "Officer Good Guy," and has also sponsored various contests, and has produced an educational video. Moreover, the project team has also tried to educate high school students on the harmful effects of anabolic steroid use.

The project team tailors presentations to the specific audience, as they often showcase 50 to 100 lectures per year for all age groups in educational settings and medical and law enforcement fields. The project has also initiated a narcotics tip-line to report drug activity in the community. In addition, the team has collaborated with local businesses to assist in sponsoring anti-drug advertisements and has placed large billboards on major roads throughout the community to display the county's strict message regarding drug use. Assets forfeited as a result of criminal investigations, fund many of the initiatives sponsored by the program. As an innovative and effective model, Project GOOD has been studied by other law enforcement agencies in an effort to replicate the project in other jurisdictions.

### **Somerset County, New Jersey**

In an effort to reduce drug use among children and adolescents in the county, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office has assisted in increasing the drug prevention, education and awareness programs throughout the jurisdiction. To educate and heighten awareness throughout the community, this office works together with a county-wide drug enforcement task force, Drug Abuse and Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program, Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program, School Resource Officers, Project S.T.A.N.D. or the Somerset Teaming up Against Narcotics and Drugs. As an incentive for participation in the D.A.R.E. program, there is a "Day at the Patriots Ballpark" as well as an anti-drug calendar/poster contest.

### **Warren County, New Jersey**

Through the Pre-D.A.R.E. and D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse and Resistance Education) programs, children are educated about the various decisions they will need to make regarding drug use, and the consequences of those decisions. These programs are also offered to parents, teachers, and community organizations to better educate individuals on the current drug trends and to assist with the identification of substance abuse within their own community. These presentations are tailored for a specific audience in order to effectively deliver the anti-drug message. A large amount of community-based resources allow the office to address a variety of social issues related to drug use. As an alternative to incarceration, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office uses drug courts to handle non-violent drug offenders. The office is also involved in a law enforcement drug task force, partnerships with other agencies, and community-based public safety initiatives to address drug problems in the community. For example, the office works with Community Prevention Resources, a non-profit organization specializing in providing education and prevention resources to Warren County. For more information about this organization, please see <http://communitypreventionresources.org/>.

### **Kings County, New York**

Implemented in 1990 to respond to the dramatic increase in non-violent offenders committing crime to support a drug addiction, the Drug Treatment Alternative-to-Prison Program (DTAP), diverts offenders to residential treatment programs. According to the office, this program has been successful in offender retention, employment, and completion and has also been cost-effective for the community. In addition, the Community and Law Enforcement Resources Together (ComALERT) program is

designed to help formerly incarcerated individuals make a successful transition into the community by providing drug treatment and mental health counseling, GED programs, transitional housing, and employment opportunities. After an initial assessment, the individual is assigned a social worker that monitors the individual's progress through the transitional period.

New York state also uses the Bawdy House Law to evict tenants who use their premises for illegal trade and/or business. In addition, the office also created the People's Law School where discussion groups are formed between the public and prosecutors to help educate the community about a variety of criminal justice issues.

Moreover, the Legal Lives program was established to help educate Brooklyn's elementary school children on the law and its role in their lives. The program assists children in developing critical thinking and decision-making skills in order to prevent delinquent behavior. The Legal Lives program has been highlighted by the National District Attorneys Association as a model program and has been replicated in other jurisdictions. For more information, please see <http://www.brooklynda.org/Default.htm> .

### **Monroe County, New York**

Partnering with the United States Attorney and the New York Division of Parole, the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office has implemented Operation Ceasefire and Operation IMPACT, both designed to target gangs and the most dangerous offenders in the community. Operation Ceasefire works through informal "call-ins" made by law enforcement officials to report gang members on parole/probation. When a gang member is involved in a homicide, the gang is then notified that law enforcement will begin heavy surveillance of each member of the gang and that each member will be charged with even minor violations of the law. For detailed information on Operation IMPACT, please refer to <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/impact/> .

### **Onondaga County, New York**

Project P.R.O.U.D. (Prosecutors Response to Offenders Using Drugs) targets felony drug offenders who do not have a history of violence and have not sold drugs to minors. The offender enters an outpatient or inpatient treatment program and is monitored for a period of 12-18 months. The program offers inpatient treatment for offenders struggling with substance abuse issues. Program participants can receive residential therapy and educational and vocational training. Offenders are required to submit to random drug testing periodically while they progress through the program. Each participant has a treatment regimen specifically designed to address his or her individual needs. This program is designed for non-violent offenders to receive help for their addictions instead of a long prison term.

### **Orange County, New York**

The Operation Ceasefire program targets and identifies drug dealers in the community. Once there is enough evidence for an indictment, the drug dealer is offered an option to participate in a program or be arrested. If the individual successfully completes the program, charges are dropped. In order to maximize the effectiveness of the program, 15 counties throughout the region work in collaboration. This jurisdiction also has an alternative to incarceration program with a felony drug court and three misdemeanor drug courts.

### **Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 26<sup>th</sup> Prosecutorial District**

This jurisdiction has a drug treatment court, DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) Task Force, D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse and Resistance Education), and Saving Grace, a street level drug initiative diversion program. Saving Grace is an innovative, four-phase program that targets street level drug markets. Phase one begins with an initial assessment of a particular geographic area to determine the composition of the area and to identify drug dealers in the area. Dealers are typically

separated into two groups; those with extensive criminal histories and those without. The second phase consists of undercover investigations to gather evidence against the dealers. Phase three begins after enough evidence has been collected. At this point, cases involving dealers with extensive criminal histories are sent directly to the grand jury. Those with little or no criminal history are invited with their parents to participate in a meeting referred to as a “call-in.” At the “call-in” meeting, representatives from local law enforcement, the United States Attorney’s Office, the Mecklenburg County District Attorney’s Office, and other community leaders confront these individuals with the evidence of their actions. The dealers are given a choice to stop dealing or be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. If they agree to stop, prosecution will be deferred for one year, barring any further involvement in criminal activity. These individuals are also given the option to receive assistance in obtaining jobs or educational training. The final phase involves continuous monitoring by local law enforcement and the community to ensure the former dealer does not revert to old behaviors. Saving Grace is a unique project that allows low-level drug dealers the opportunity to leave the criminal lifestyle without becoming convicted felons. It is anticipated that this project will be well received by parents and community members, as opposed to traditional enforcement projects that often separate family members and the community.

The Mecklenburg County Supervision, Treatment, Education, and Prevention (S.T.E.P.) drug treatment court program is designed to stop alcohol and drug abuse. To achieve this, the court holds chemically dependent non-violent repeat offenders accountable for their behavior. Embracing a more rehabilitative model, this program is based on a holistic approach to substance abuse while ensuring the safety of the citizens of Mecklenburg County.

The STEP Program consists of two components, the criminal justice component and a treatment component. The criminal justice component is used to monitor participants in terms of compliance with attendance and fee requirements. The substance abuse treatment component contains three progressive stages. Although the criminal justice component takes treatment progress into consideration when advancing a participant to the next phase, the treatment component functions independently.

The treatment program can last anywhere between 12 to 24 months. For each stage, there are requirements such as bi-weekly court sessions, weekly treatment meetings, case management meetings, Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and mandatory drug testing. The treatment team decides when a participant is ready to advance to a higher stage in the program. This decision is based primarily on compliance with all requirements.

The team works collaboratively to maintain supervision of the participants, however, treatment providers and case coordinators have more direct involvement with participants. The team also works closely with other community-based agencies to assist participants in their recovery efforts by helping with employment and educational needs. For more information, please contact the office at (704)358-6216.

### **Champaign County, Ohio**

The Champaign County Prosecutor’s Office has partnered with Champaign Residential Services, Inc. to assist parents who have children struggling with drug and alcohol problems. Based on a recommendation of the prosecutor’s office, first-time, non-violent offenders are diverted into the program. Treatment options include substance abuse and anger management counseling, community service projects, and employment training. Restitution, when applicable, is also a component of the program. Upon referral, the diversion coordinator and law enforcement officer meet with the family in an effort to enroll the juvenile offender in the program. With successful completion of the program, the juvenile avoids a criminal record. A judge enforces program regulations and decides the consequences imposed when the juvenile refuses to participate. According to this office, public support for this program has been strong as a result of the program’s low recidivism rate.

### **Defiance County, Ohio**

This jurisdiction currently has individuals participating in treatment and education programs throughout the community. It also has a community-based correctional facility and a multi-jurisdictional task force. The multi-jurisdictional task force has been extremely successful in recent years, targeting serious drug traffickers thus limiting large amounts of drugs from entering Ohio from nearby states.

### **Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Greer, Harmon, and Roger Mills Counties, Oklahoma, 2nd Judicial District**

The Washita and Custer County Drug Court was implemented in January 2005. The program is designed as a post-plea program that targets addicted adult offenders headed for prison. Treatment, community service, collaboration with defense attorneys, and intense supervision all play an integral part in making this program a success. As testimony to its success, this program has been observed by other criminal justice professionals in an attempt to replicate the program in other jurisdictions.

### **Jackson County, Oregon**

The Jackson County Narcotics Enforcement Team (JACNET) and the Oregon High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) have collaborated to create a successful drug task force. Jackson County has two drug courts, the adult drug court and the community/family court. The family court is reportedly one of the first in the nation to deal with the effect of drugs (mainly methamphetamine) on kids and families. This office has also hosted a methamphetamine summit to educate community members. In addition, Jackson County has developed a drug endangered children protocol which outlines effective methods for responding to crime scenes in which drugs are involved. As an alternative to incarceration, the state of Oregon also has a conditional discharge for some non-violent drug offenders.

### **Erie County, Pennsylvania**

This jurisdiction's drug court involves both juvenile and adult treatment options. For certain offenders, there is also an adult mental health program that collaborates with the drug courts. The district attorney actively participates in the supervision of all programs, some of which have been modeled statewide. This jurisdiction is also involved in multi-disciplinary partnerships, community-based public safety programs, and general education programs.

### **Mifflin County, Pennsylvania**

The prosecutor led reentry program headed by the Mifflin County District Attorneys' Office has established a buprenorphine therapy program to treat individuals addicted to opiates. Due to their success, this program is now a national model for rural buprenorphine programs and has been highlighted in several publications. This program is based on the combined efforts of a local hospital, family health care practice, and a substance abuse treatment center. This program has been used by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment as a model to train other treatment providers.

A physician and treatment coordinator conduct the initial patient assessment prior to treatment. Once patients are admitted into the program, a physician administers treatment while a treatment coordinator ensures that patients receive other forms of care and services. Throughout the treatment, patients are evaluated to determine if they are receiving an adequate amount of the medication and to ensure they are not using illegal substances. Patient success is also dependant on a highly developed support network. The treatment consists of two pills at a cost of \$6.00 daily, which amounts to \$300.00 a month. This program provides hope for other jurisdictions with opiate addiction problems.

**Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**

To target adolescents in the community, the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office implemented a Drug Abuse and Resistance Education or D.A.R.E. program. Assistant district attorneys and detectives speak to schools and community groups on the dangers of drug use. In addition, this office also uses code enforcement to evict and close down known problematic properties.

**Chesterfield, Darlington and Dillion Counties, South Carolina, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

Pre-trial intervention is an important component in this jurisdiction's adult drug court. For juveniles, there is a faith-based summer camp and mentoring program along with an arbitration process. In addition, there is also a prosecutor led alternative to incarceration for non-violent drug offenders.

**Bradley, McMinn, Monroe and Polk Counties, Tennessee, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

The 10th Judicial District Adult Drug Court was established in June 2004. The mission of this drug court is to promote safer communities by assisting drug addicted offenders in becoming drug-free. Through this drug court, offenders are empowered to become productive and responsible members of the community. Offenders are offered expedited court processing, intensive drug treatment, weekly meetings to assess progress, educational and vocational services, reduced time incarcerated, and accountability-based sanctions. The district attorney's office has adopted a stern approach to methamphetamine offenders in the community. Felony offenders are required to seek treatment or serve time.

Created by the district attorney, the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force (DTF) has been in existence for 15 years. The District Attorney General serves as the chairman of the DTF Board of Directors, which is made up of criminal justice professionals in four county districts. The DTF targets drug crimes and provides assistance to other law enforcement agencies in drug matters, such as training, equipment, and instructional guidance on how to dismantle clandestine laboratories. In addition, the district attorney's office is an active member in the South/East Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force.

Prosecutors throughout the state have all come together to support the "Meth is Death" educational program. This program is designed as an education and prevention program for schools, civic groups, and other community organizations to raise awareness of the methamphetamine problem in Tennessee. The program covers topics such as, what methamphetamine is, how it affects individuals, and how to recognize a methamphetamine lab. In addition, the governor and the state's district attorneys have also started a "Meth Destroys" Website, which provides information, contacts, and many other resources to combat a methamphetamine addiction. Also available are "Meth Destroys" and "Meth: Fast Facts and Information" pamphlets for individuals seeking information regarding this topic. For more information, please refer to <http://www.methfreetn.org/>.

**Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties, Tennessee 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

To address the methamphetamine problem, the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Tennessee helped form a multi-disciplined task force that includes state, county, and city law enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration staff, and staff from the United States Attorney's Office. This jurisdiction received federal grant money to support their work and now serves as a model for joint cooperation for other jurisdictions facing similar problems. They also distribute a "Farmers Meth Almanac" which includes information on how to spot clandestine laboratories and also provides information regarding the South/East Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force. Their Website (<http://www.rid-meth.org/default.asp>) provides information about the task force's objectives and activities,

methamphetamine lab seizures, community education opportunities, a form to report a methamphetamine lab, and links to other sites that deal with methamphetamine issues.

### **Cannon and Rutherford Counties, Tennessee, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Heavily involved with the intervention efforts of drug offenders in the community, prosecutors in this jurisdiction's drug courts serve as part of the case/offender screening process. This program serves offenders 12-25 years of age. There is also a general education and awareness program that focuses specifically on methamphetamine issues. In conjunction with the Governor's office, the education initiative is part of a statewide effort to address the growing methamphetamine problem.

### **Davidson County, Tennessee, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Successful in its approach, this office currently participates in several drug courts, which serve different types of offenders. For example, juvenile and misdemeanor offenders have the option of participating in a traditional drug court where they are monitored and meet frequently with the judge to assess performance in the program. The more serious felony offenders can participate in an in-patient, drug treatment program that is stringently monitored by a judge. Thought to be the only one of its type in the country, this program provides for lengthy in-patient and aftercare treatment administered by trained professionals in the field. The diversion program targets young, first time offenders charged with possession of any controlled substance. For the juvenile offender, this program provides general drug education and prevention. This program was developed in conjunction with and provided services by the city health department.

The prosecutor's office works closely with neighborhood organizations to identify local problematic properties that may help to foster drug activity. As a result of this effort, several motels, nightclubs and massage parlors have been closed. In addition, pursuant to Tennessee law, the office has also assisted the police department in a drug dealer eviction program.

Working in conjunction with the community, this office has also been instrumental in their effort to have local stores move certain over-the-counter drugs behind the counter to avoid selling these products to potential methamphetamine manufacturers. Remaining vigilant, this office has also developed an integrated education program that includes a Website along with public service announcements. Finally, the office plans on developing and implementing a trial in-patient drug treatment program for offenders.

The law enforcement drug task force primarily focuses on identifying and dismantling major drug distribution rings within Davidson County. The task force relies primarily on long-term investigations, analysis of financial records, and the use of surveillance and wiretaps in its pursuits. Throughout the state, penalties associated with methamphetamine use have been increased in conjunction with initiatives that emphasize education and treatment for drug offenders.

### **Dallas County, Texas**

In an effort to increase prosecution of drug sales and trafficking, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office implemented the Organized Crime Division (OCD), which is made up of nine prosecutors, four investigators, and a legal assistant. The OCD handles all prosecution matters in Dallas County Drug Courts which consist of two full-time courts dedicated to drug offenses and drug-related violent offenses. The division works closely with multiple state law enforcement agencies, task forces, and federal agencies to combat the flow of narcotics through the northern Texas region along the Interstate-35 corridor. In an effort to address the rise in drug-related homicides in the Dallas area, the division works closely with the Dallas police homicide unit as well.

The OCD is also one of the founding partners of the Dallas County Drug Endangered Children Alliance. This partnership is comprised of local law enforcement, childcare workers, medical and social service professionals, and other concerned citizens. This partnership is predominately interested in addressing the dangers associated with methamphetamine and children. In particular, the Alliance

seeks to remove children exposed to chemicals in methamphetamine labs and/or living in drug-endangered environment where drugs are used and to prosecute those individuals responsible for these children. Also, the Diversion and Expedited Rehabilitation and Treatment (DIVERT) program, targets non-violent drug offenders in collaboration with the Dallas County District Courts in an effort to educate, treat, and prevent recidivism. To maximize the effectiveness of its programs, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office has taken a multi-disciplined approach to the problem by balancing prosecution, rehabilitation, and education efforts.

### **Davis County, Utah**

This jurisdiction has a three-tiered prosecution program in the adult system; drug pleas in abeyance, drug probation, and drug court program. With the drug plea in abeyance system, first time offenders are enrolled in a treatment program. If first time offenders successfully complete the program, their charges are dismissed. The drug probation program is an option for offenders not eligible for the first time offender program. These offenders must enter a guilty plea before they are admitted into a treatment program. Upon successful completion of treatment, the offender's conviction is reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor. Finally, for the most serious drug offenders are typically sentenced to the drug court program. Important components in this program include intensive drug testing and frequent appearances before a judge. Upon successful completion of this program, an offender's charges may be reduced or dismissed completely. Every offender is subjected to an intensive needs assessment which determines which program they are eligible for as well as their treatment, testing, and court appearances. Davis County also has a juvenile court system. To effectively deal with the drug problem in their community, this jurisdiction created options for offenders so that every offender is treated on an individual basis.

### **King George County, Virginia**

The jurisdiction's regional drug court has been in place for six years and continues to improve on the success of the program. Offenders enter the program based on the prosecutor's recommendation and referral. Upon entering a guilty plea, offenders are admitted to the program. An offender's charges may be dismissed once s/he successfully completes the program. After admittance into the program, the offender is evaluated to determine the extent of the drug problem. The program is designed to last anywhere between 12 to 18 months. Most participants complete the program in 18 months. This is a highly intensity program with drug tests three times a week, mandatory attendance at Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and group or individual counseling sessions. The offender is also required to report to court for treatment progress updates. If an offender fails to comply with program requirements, sanctions are immediately imposed and may range from verbal warnings to incarceration. Conversely, progress toward completion is also reinforced and can be rewarded. This office contends that the program is a vast improvement from the more traditional forms of probation and this is proven by a low recidivism rate. There are three separate courts that deal specifically with adults, juveniles and Driving Under the Influence or DUI offenders.

### **Scott County, Virginia**

This jurisdiction has a detention and diversion program that offers alternatives to incarceration through its in-house drug treatment program. As a condition of the program, offenders must obtain steady employment. A portion of their earnings are then used to pay fines and court costs incurred as a result of their offenses. In addition, a portion of that money is also used to fund a drug task force.

### **Thurston County, Washington**

The Thurston County drug court is based on the collaborative efforts of the presiding judge, prosecutors, defense attorneys, jail and probation personnel, workers with child protective services, and local drug treatment providers. Each offender is assessed individually and is required to attend

meetings twice a week that focus on a specific therapeutic modality for group and individual therapeutic sessions and treatment. This program is highly innovative as all criminal justice professionals and social service providers work together to assist the offender. By assisting the offender, the community ultimately benefits by a reduction in new crime and recidivism, jail or prison populations, court dockets, and overall prosecution and defense hours. This jurisdiction is also actively involved in multiple community coalitions and outreach programs to provide education, prevention, and treatment resources.

Additionally, Thurston County Narcotics Task Force is reportedly the first county task force to house a child protective services worker onsite to care for drug endangered children who were present during a search warrant. Staffed by detectives from all the major law enforcement agencies in the county and officers from the Washington State Patrol, the task force is used to target mid to high-level drug traffickers, dealers, and manufacturers. The Thurston County Prosecutor's Office provides legal advice pertaining to prosecution and seizure of all property arising from drug offenses. Methamphetamine labs are prosecuted most aggressively, including seizure and forfeiture of property.

### **Yakima County, Washington**

The Yakima County Methamphetamine Action Team is a collaboration of criminal justice and medical agencies, child protective services, and concerned community groups. These agencies work together to address the immediate dangers children face when exposed to methamphetamine and other drugs. The team has organized the Drug Endangered Children handbook (D.E.C.) to educate the public on the impact of methamphetamine on businesses, families, children, and the environment. The handbook was also created to help organize all groups involved in this collaborative effort to address the elimination of manufacturing, distribution, and use of methamphetamine.

The D.E.C. handbook outlines the three fundamental elements of the program: (1) collaboration between law enforcement, Child Protective Services (C.P.S.), medical facilities and prosecutors; (2) on-scene response by C.P.S. or other agency; and (3) collection of evidence within four hours of assuming custody. The law enforcement response focuses on investigation and securing evidence of endangerment while establishing a safe environment for children at the scene. The C.P.S. response includes procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and to help law enforcement gather any evidence that can be used for further prosecution. In order to file charges in a timely manner, prosecutors are trained to evaluate the facts of the case quickly and whenever possible, to seek sentencing enhancements. Medical services are involved at the scene to ensure the safety of all personnel involved in the investigation follow procedures. For more information on this program, please visit their website at, [www.pan.co.yakima.wa.us/pa](http://www.pan.co.yakima.wa.us/pa).

### **Brooke County, West Virginia**

This jurisdiction has instituted a drug court, a mental health court, and a day report center for treatment of drug/alcohol offenders in the criminal justice system. As an alternative to incarceration, the day report center is often combined with house arrest and electronic monitoring. The drug court and mental health court are used as diversionary methods as opposed to incarceration. Unit recently, these programs were the first of their kind in West Virginia.