



What is it and why should we want it?
*Minnesota's Drug Court
Peer Review Process*

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Background

Drug Courts in Minnesota

- 52 drug courts in over 50 counties
- More drug courts being planned
- Began as a “grass roots” effort by local judge and justice system partners
- Shifting to more systemic approach with focus on fidelity to the drug court model and sustainability

Minnesota Statewide Implementation Plan

- Expand Access to Drug Courts Throughout Minnesota
- Develop a Minnesota Drug Court Staffing Model
 - Develop effective staffing structure
 - Develop a funding model for Minnesota Drug Courts

Minnesota Statewide Implementation Plan

- Engage support of the Executive and Legislative Branches
- Maintain Fidelity to the Drug Court Model
- Evaluation and Cost –Benefit Analysis
- Create New and Expand Existing Partnerships

Minnesota Statewide Implementation Plan

Current Status of Plan

- The DCI continues to work on components of the Expansion Plan
 - Expanding Access
 - Maintain Fidelity
 - Evaluation/Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Peer Review is a tool for local courts to better manage resources and measure effectiveness



Peer Review

- **What is it?**
- **Why should we want it?**
- **How do you do it?**
- **Where did it come from?**
- **Whose idea was this, anyway?**



Peer Review

- **What is it?**

NPC's process evaluation modified for use by peers instead of evaluators

Drug court team members assess another program and provide feedback about that program's alignment with research based best practices and State standards.



Peer Review

- **What is it?**

The peers are trained in best practices and how to conduct the review, including a site visit

The peers compile the information into a simple report that includes suggestions and resource ideas.



Peer Review

- **Why should we want it?**

It's a three-way win





Peer Review

- **Why should we want it?**
 1. Evidence-based practice education for drug court peers will impact their own court's operations
 2. Less threatening fidelity assessment will assist the court being reviewed identify areas for improvement
 3. Allows a sharing of creative approaches across both courts



Peer Review

- **Why should we want it?**
 - ❑ Creates a learning community in Minnesota among problem solving court teams.
 - ❑ Peers help each other identify ideas for program improvements and share successes and challenges.



Peer Review

- **Why should we want it?**
 - ❑ Allows Minnesota's problem solving court community access to information and support at a low administrative cost
 - ❑ Builds relationships between programs.
 - ❑ Provide important information to the state about areas of needed technical assistance and training, and how to focus those resources most effectively.



Peer Review

- **How do you do it?**
 - ✓ **Drug court being reviewed takes online self-assessment**

NPC Drug Court Assessment: GA Peer Review

Exit this survey >>

NPC Drug Court Assessment



Hello – Welcome to NPC’s drug court assessment for Georgia’s drug court peer review. The purpose of this assessment is to help your drug court team and peer reviewers understand how your drug court is uniquely implementing the various practices that fall under the 10 Key Components of drug courts. The questions in this assessment will ask you for information about various procedures and practices of your drug court program and also about your participant population. It should take about one hour to complete.

Please answer every question. We would like you to fill out the assessment collaboratively with your team by going over the assessment as a group (e.g., in a team meeting) or in some way checking on answers with your team members.

In the process of filling out the assessment, you may log out and return to the link in your email at a later time to finish the assessment (as long as you use the same computer each time). Also, please be aware that on some pages you may need to scroll down in order to access all questions, and in order to click "Save and Continue" which moves you forward through the assessment.

All of the information obtained during this assessment is confidential. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jennifer Aborn at aborn@npcresearch.com or Shannon Carey at carey@npcresearch.com. Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this assessment.

Save & continue >>

NPC Drug Court Assessment: GA Peer Review [Exit this survey >>](#)

COURT CHARACTERISTICS



1. Please verify your program type.

- Adult Drug Court
- DUI/DWI Court
- Family Dependency Treatment Court
- Juvenile Drug Court
- Veterans Court
- Hybrid Court (specify your hybrid programs below)
- Other (specify your program(s) below)

Please specify hybrid programs or other program(s)

2. For the person filling out this assessment: please type your name, email address, and role in the drug court program. If you are not the coordinator, please provide the coordinator's email address as well.

3. Please provide us with the official name and address of your Drug Court program:

DRUG COURT NAME:

Address:

Address 2:

4. When was your drug court program implemented?

Month (mm)

Year (yyyy)

5. Please give us your estimate of the average amount of months it takes for drug court participants to complete the program:

Months

6. Are your drug court participants (check all that apply):

	Yes	No
Pre-plea?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Post-plea/pre-conviction?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Post-conviction (e.g., referred from probation)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify other category:

10. What charges are eligible for program entry?

	Yes	No
Misdemeanors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Felonies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug Possession	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug Trafficking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Driving under the influence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Property offenses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prostitution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Status offenses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify other charges eligible for program entry:

34. Which of the following services are provided to drug court participants?

	Not offered to participants	Offered to participants but not required	Required for some participants	Required for all participants
Detox	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outpatient individual treatment sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outpatient group treatment sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gender-specific treatment sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residential treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health counseling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychiatric services (e.g., testing, medication management, treatment)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Language-specific or cultural-specific programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acupuncture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-help meetings (e.g., AA or NA)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

38. Please check off everyone that you consider to be a drug court team member:

- District Attorney/Prosecuting Attorney
- Public Defender/Defense Attorney
- Treatment provider(s)/counselor(s)
- Case Managers
- Judge
- Probation/Parole
- Drug Court Coordinator
- Law Enforcement
- Court Clerk
- Bailiff/Court Security
- Community Partners
- Other (please specify below)

Please specify other people you consider to be a drug court team member:

39. Does your drug court have regular meetings where participant progress is discussed (e.g., staffing or pre-court meetings)?

122. Counting all participants since the first day of your drug court to the present please answer the following questions. (Note: the first box should add up to the sum of the following four boxes.)

- How many participants have entered the program since it was implemented?
- How many participants are currently active?
- How many total participants have completed the program (graduated)?
- How many total participants have been terminated/been revoked/been unsuccessful?
- How many participants have not completed the program due to relocation, medical issues, or death?

123. Do you have a window or a "back out period" when participants can try the program but decide not to participate?

- Yes
- No

124. What gender are your current participants? Please estimate the percentage of men and women in your program:

- % Male
- % Female

125. What race/ethnicity are your current participants? Please give us your best estimate of the percentage of participants for each of the race/ethnicities listed below:



Peer Review

- **How do you do it?**
 - ✓ **Drug court being reviewed takes online self-assessment**
 - ✓ **Report on best practices results**

MN Sample Drug Court: Best Practices Responses by Key Component

Program Background:

- Program began operation in 2008.
- Methamphetamine (60%) is the most common drug of choice among participants.
- The program has had 250 graduates and 178 terminations since inception.
- Currently, there are 50 active participants (as of 3/2015), with a reported capacity of 55 participants.

“Yes” indicates that program reports performing this practice.

“No” indicates that program reports not performing this practice.

“Missing” indicates that program did not respond to this question on the survey.

Key Component #1: Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing	Performing this practice?
<i>1.1</i> Law enforcement (e.g., police, sheriff) is a member of the drug court team	Yes
<i>1.2</i> Judge, both attorneys, treatment, program coordinator, and probation attend staffings	Yes
<i>1.3</i> The defense attorney attends drug court team meetings (staffings)	Yes
<i>1.4</i> A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)	Yes
<i>1.5</i> Coordinator attends drug court team meetings (staffings)	No
<i>1.6</i> Law enforcement attends drug court team meetings (staffings)	Yes





Peer Review

- **How do you do it?**
 - ✓ **Drug court being reviewed takes online self-assessment**
 - ✓ **Report on best practices results**
 - ✓ **A site visit by peers**
 - ✓ **Individual team member interviews**
 - ✓ **Observe staffing**
 - ✓ **Observe court hearings**
 - ✓ **Conduct a participant focus group**
 - ✓ **Peer Review Debrief and Report**



Peer Review

- **What is it?**
- **Why should we want it?**
- **How do you do it?**
- **Where did it come from?**



Peer Review

- **Where did it come from?**

Best Practices Study

**National Research and Standards
(NADCP)**

Colorado Standards



Study on Best Practices

- *Translating the 10KC into practical application – specific drug court practices*
- Looked at 101 drug courts around the nation (detailed process studies/10 KC)
- 69 included recidivism and cost evaluations
- In total, this study included 32,719 individuals (16,317 drug court participants and 16,402 comparison group members).



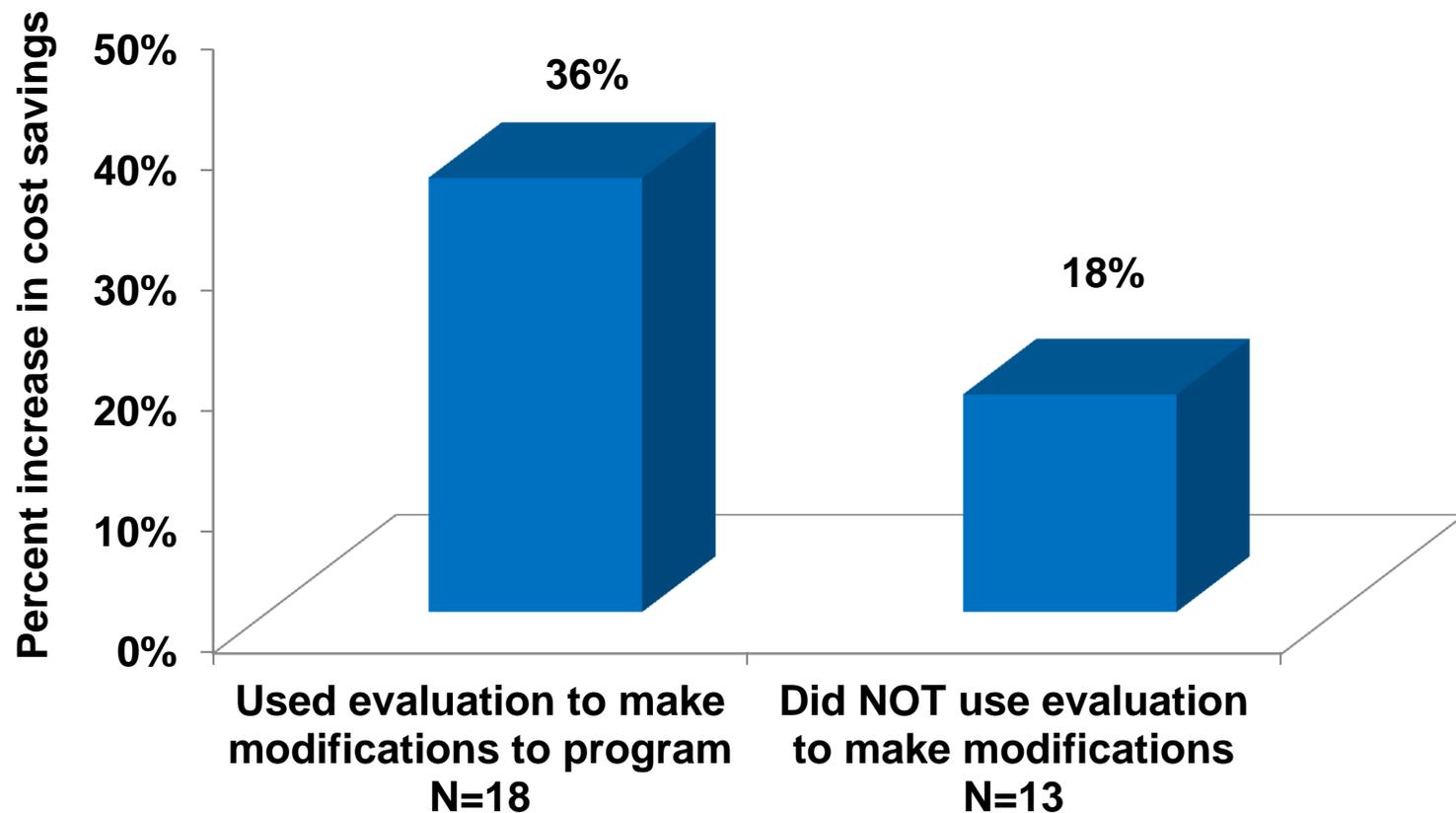
Study on Best Practices

- *What are the best drug courts doing?*

Found over 50 practices that were related to significantly lower recidivism or lower costs or both



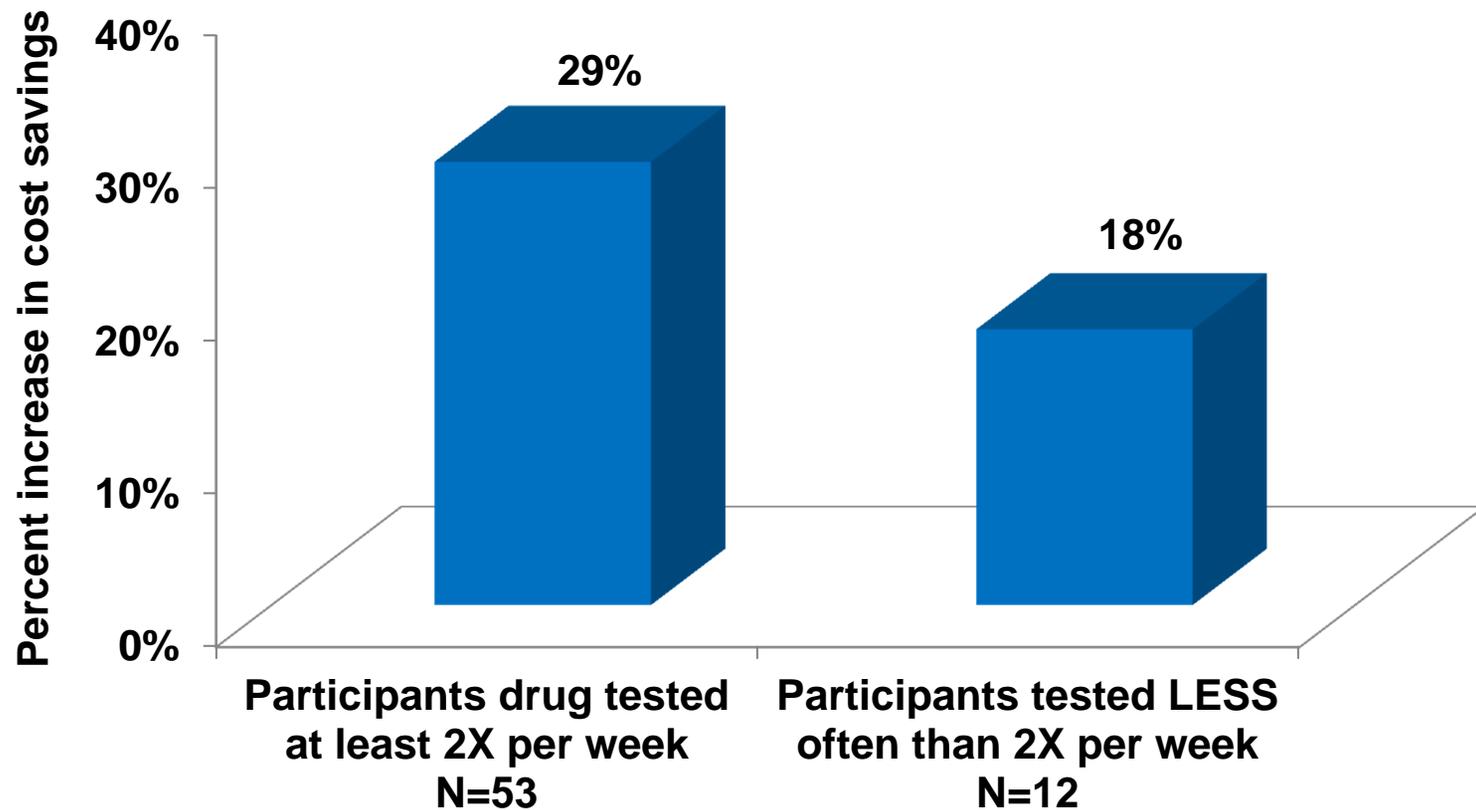
Drug Courts Where The Results Of Program Evaluations Led to Modifications In Drug Court Operations had a 100% Increase in Cost Savings



Note 1: Difference is significant at $p < .05$



Drug Courts Where Drug Tests are Collected at Least Two Times per Week In the First Phase had a 61% Higher Cost Savings



Note 1: Difference is significant at $p < .15$ (Trend)



Peer Review

- **Whose idea was this, anyway?**

**Norma Jaeger, Idaho
Statewide Drug Court
Coordinator**

Lessons Learned from Idaho

- Two reviewers are better than one (but cost more)
- Two days are better than one (but cost more)
- Written reports are a challenge to get back after the visit
- Be prepared with resources to support improvement efforts

Lessons from Oregon Experience

- State of OR had a debrief with the peers and the courts that were reviewed at the end of the first year
- About 40 peers participated in the debrief

Lessons from Oregon Experience

Quotes

"I learned more about problem solving courts from going on one peer review than I did after three years in this position."

(Statewide coordinator)

Lessons from Oregon Experience

Quotes

"I learned a lot by observing. I now have a more explicit visual recognition of the network of courts within our state. We don't have to reinvent the wheel. There is a connection and an existence of a statewide network."

Lessons from Oregon Experience

Quotes

"I liked the innovation and creativity I saw on my visits, especially about things like accessing community resources - treatment, jobs, different communities doing different things - gave me ideas for going out into my community. "

Lessons from Oregon Experience

Quotes

"I appreciated collegial nature of the undertaking. We are specialized type of operation. Being able to see that other courts are accomplishing what we are trying to accomplish, but we have that shared mission."

Lessons from Oregon Experience

Quotes

"It was the fresh eyes on our program - giving us feedback was validating and eye-opening. The partnering approach made the anxiety go down."

Lessons from Oregon Experience

Quotes

"There are so many things we want to improve on, the report and talking with the peer reviewers helped us focus on what is most important now and set goals to address in the future rather than trying to address everything now."

Lessons from Oregon Experience

Quotes

"We had fun! I loved the camaraderie. We are all in this for one goal. It's inspirational."

Lessons from Oregon Experience

Quotes

"The hardest part was getting it scheduled. Everyone has different schedules."

Minnesota Statewide Implementation Plan

Peer Review

Timeline for Implementation (2015-2017)

- We are working with NPC to develop timeline for implementation
- Conduct pilot project:
 - Train 2 teams
 - Attend site visits
 - Debrief
 - Conduct train the trainer training session
- Ongoing technical assistance and training

Contact Information

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