




# THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN TREATMENT COURTS

Justin Athman

Pete Carlson

Brandon Haley



# Goals for this session:

- Understand why law enforcement participation is a key component to the success of your treatment court
- Learn from the panelists how they became members of their local treatment court teams and why
- Learn how to best use law enforcement resources in your treatment court
- How to get buy-in from local law enforcement agencies

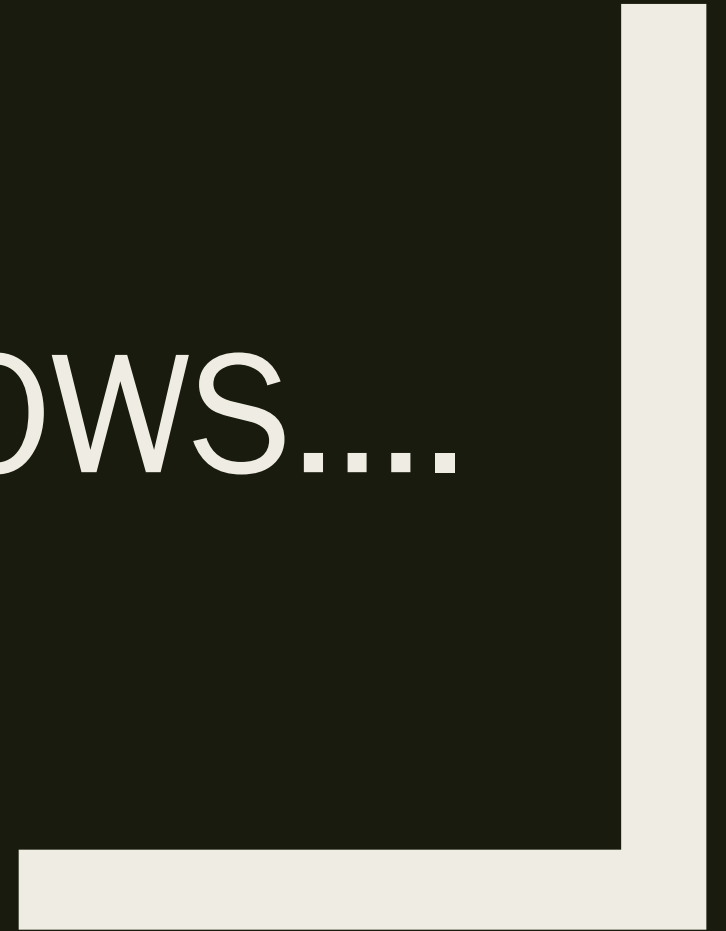
# Introduction of Panelists

- Tell us a bit about your law enforcement career?
- How did you become involved with your treatment court?
- How long have you been with your treatment court team?
- What did you know about treatment court before you started?
  - *Did you receive any training?*
- Did your agency buy-in to the treatment court?
- What is the structure of your treatment court?
- What was your role?
  - *Home visits? Work checks? Identify eligible participants?*
- What did you like about the program?
- How did you

# Typical Role of Law Enforcement in a Treatment Court

- Identify potential participants at arrest
- Provide inter-agency transports
- Follow up on bench warrants from the court
- Assist with background investigations of potential participants
- Monitor compliance with court obligations and sanctions
- Act as a liaison between the program and the law enforcement agency and officers that may come in contact with participants
- Assist with home visits and drug testing
- Inform the team of trends and other activities being seen on the street – new drugs, resurgence of “old”

THE RESEARCH SHOWS....



# When offenders are JUST Put in PRISON...

## Criminal Recidivism in 3 years

- 68% arrested for new crimes
- 47% convicted of new crimes
- 25% incarcerated for new crimes
- 50% re incarcerated for violations



## Relapse to Substance Abuse in 3 years

- 95%

# When Offenders are JUST sent to Treatment...

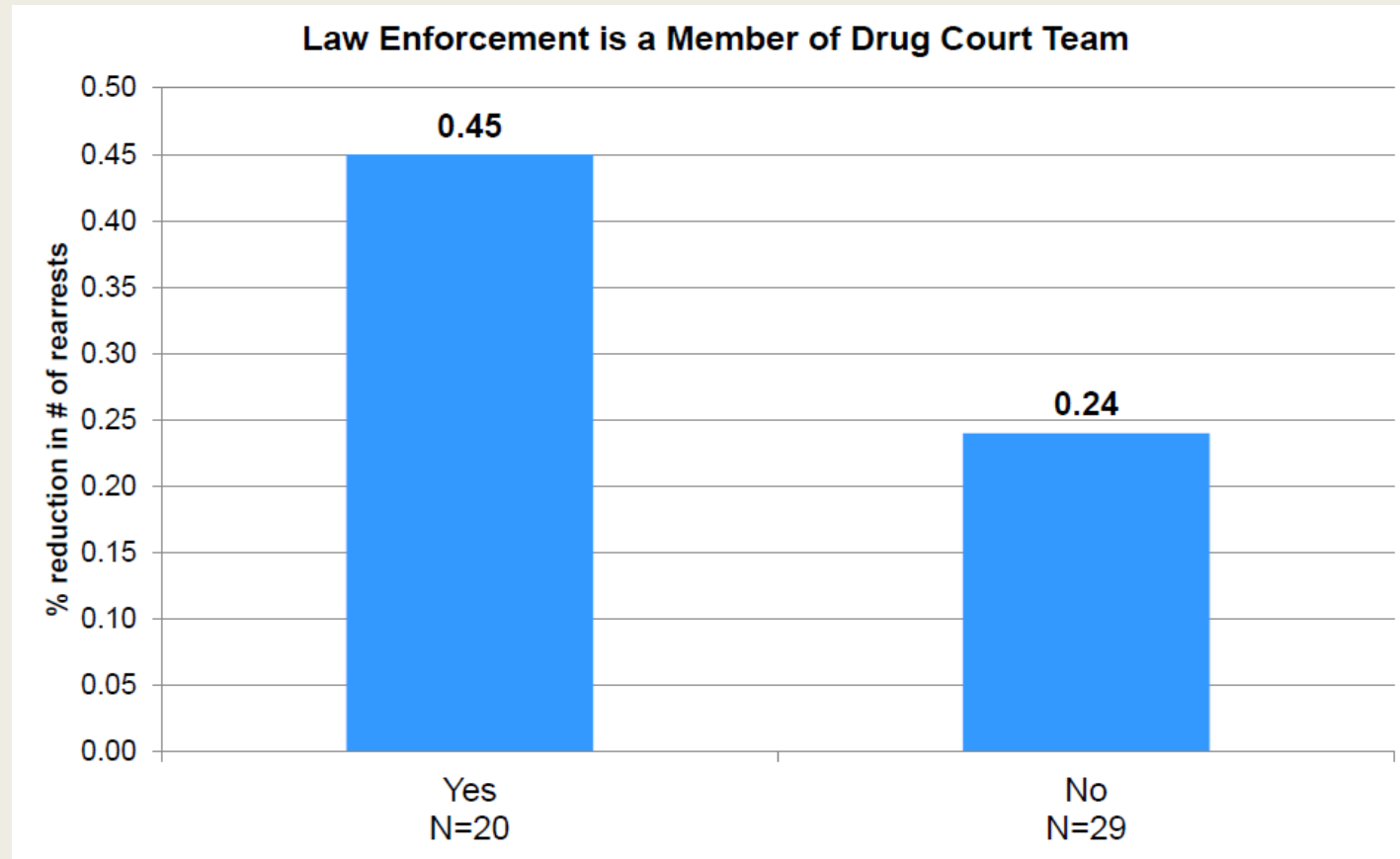
## Attrition

- 50% to 67% don't show for intake
- 40% to 80% drop out in 3 months
- 90% drop out in 12 months

## Outcomes

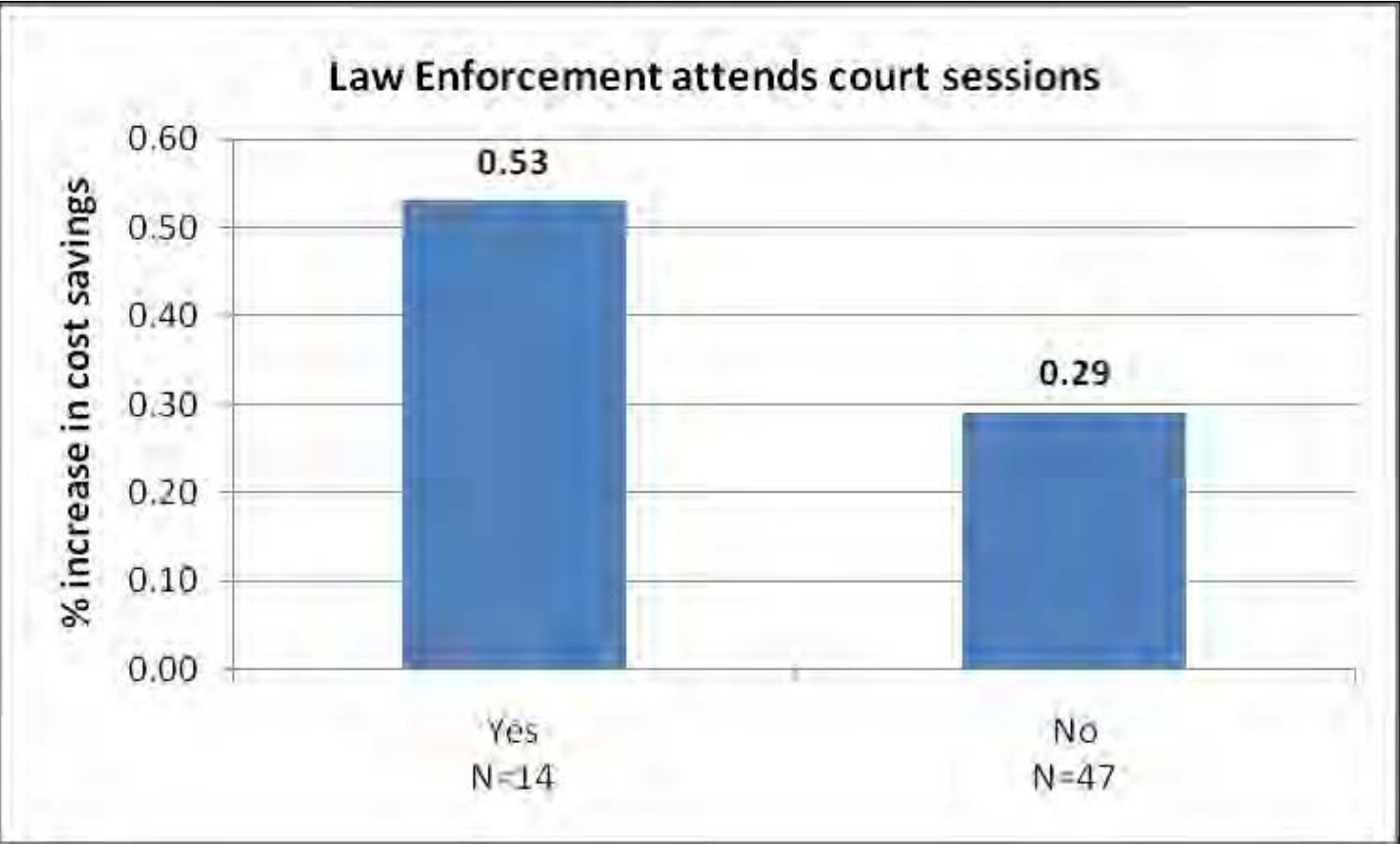
- 40% to 60% of clients abstinent at 1 year

Treatment courts where Law Enforcement is a member of the team had an 88% greater reduction in recidivism





Treatment courts where law enforcement attends court sessions had a 64% higher cost savings.



# Treatment Court is Not the Easy Way Out

- Participants are identified soon after arrest or probation violation
- Treatment courts have clearly identified eligibility criteria including:
  - *Felony crime*
  - *Adult over the age of 18*
  - *Substance use disorder*
- Treatment courts also have automatic disqualification factors as well including registered sex offenders, those charged with violent crimes and others
- Treatment court serves those determined to be of high risk to reoffend and in high need of services

# Treatment Court is Not the Easy Way Out

- Program requirements in place to hold participants accountable through their stay in treatment court. Such as.....
  - *Complete all requirements of substance use and mental health treatment*
  - *Submit to frequent and random drug and alcohol testing*
  - *Have limitations on travel*
  - *Curfews*
  - *Come to court at least twice/monthly*
  - *Server ties with associates who use drugs/possess alcohol*
  - *Pay restitution, probation fees, and treatment court fees*

# Treatment Court is Not the Easy Way Out

## ■ Participant Contract

- *As part of the treatment court entry process, participants review and sign a contract for participation in the treatment court.*
- *The participant contract outlines the behaviors and actions to which participants are held accountable.*
- *Details expectations regarding honesty, keeping appointments, change of address, changes in work schedule, use of prescribed medication, and expectations regarding treatment court communications*

**DWI COURT**  
**BEHAVIORAL CONTRACT**

I \_\_\_\_\_, having been a participant in the Crow Wing County DWI Court since \_\_\_\_\_, recognize that my behaviors and actions have not been supportive towards my recovery. I understand and agree to abide by the following requirements:

- 1) I will be honest with myself and honest with all members of the DWI court team at all times.
- 2) I will share issues that come up with Preston and/or other team members to gain assistance in obtaining appropriate solutions.
- 3) I will stay out of using environments and away from actively using people.
- 4) I will respond immediately to all communications from Probation, Law enforcement and the team including texts, phone calls, spot checks, requests for spot checks, home visits, appointments, etc.
- 5) I will keep all scheduled appointments with Preston or any other team member and attend all scheduled court hearings as directed. Prior approval is needed from DWI court team to reschedule if unable to attend.
- 6) I will report my whereabouts as directed by Preston or the DWI court team to the whereabouts line and provide Preston with a copy of my work schedule as it becomes available. I will notify Preston of any changes in my work schedule as soon as the change occurs.
- 7) I will report all changes of address and/or telephone numbers regardless of how temporary they are and understand that any address change is subject to DWI court approval.
- 8) I will connect with mental health resources upon being discharged from the jail. I will schedule individual therapy and attend therapy to learn how to deal with Major Depression Disorder and Anxiety Disorder and to gain skills to deal with Borderline Personality Disorder symptoms more appropriately.
- 9) I will follow all recommendations of mental health professionals including taking medication if prescribed.
- 10) If I am prescribed any medication, I will take it in accordance as prescribed including not abusing the medication and not skipping or stopping doses without doctor approval. I recognize any abuse of medication will be considered a use violation.
- 11) I will serve 3 days in the Crow Wing County Jail.
- 12) I will serve 5 at the Crow Wing County Dump, through the Sentence to Serve Program.

*I further understand that I must comply with all of the terms and conditions I previously agreed to when I initially signed the DWI court contract on \_\_\_\_\_.*

*I am aware that I need to follow all of the above rules and conditions in order to remain in the Crow Wing County DWI Court. Should I not follow through, I realize I may be terminated from the program and returned to district court for further disposition.*

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample DWI  
Court Contract**

# How Treatment Court Works

- Treatment courts are 4 or 5 phases
- Participants attend court hearings at least twice weekly in first phase and no less than monthly throughout the remainder of their participation
- Treatment court teams conduct pre-court staffings to discuss participants and determine if incentives or sanctions are appropriate
- Participants are required to check in routinely with probation and treatment

# Treatment Court Teams React to Participant Behavior

- Incentive – The award of one or more positive consequences that is the direct result of, and a reward for, the participant’s positive behavior
- Sanction – The imposition of one or more negative consequences in response to undesirable behavior(s). Sanctions must be predictable, consistent, and immediate.

# Sample Incentives & Sanctions

Sanctions May Include:	Incentives May Include:
Verbal or written warning	Praise, compliments from the Judge
Verbal or written apology to judge and/or group	Court: All-star list, early call
Essays for court	Fishbowl drawings
Journaling	Bus passes
Reading list	Movie passes
Peer review	Restaurant/retail/grocery gift card
Round table with team	Applause/special recognition
Self imposed sanctions	Lunch with Judge
Penalty box	Birthday cards
Restricted travel	Medical/dental assistance
House arrest	Medallions
Increased supervision/court reporting	Pro-social events
Increased community support groups	Candy/other treats
Increase time in phase or track	Reduction in sentence
Demotion to earlier program phase	Reduction in treatment court fee
Emergency room visit	Decreased frequency of court appearances
STS	Lift curfew
Short term jail sentence	Leave court early



# Benefits to Having Law Enforcement on the Team

- Accountability of participant is greatly increased compared to traditional probation
- Promotes open lines of communication between law enforcement agencies, the court and other agencies that serve on the team
- Promotes greater understanding of the criminal justice system
- Provides law enforcement with additional tools
- Increases personal satisfaction of law enforcement officers in the field as they experience positive outcomes with the participants

DISCUSSION



THANK YOU!

