

## Drug Court 101

- Peter Bochert
- Statewide Drug Court Coordinator
- Administrative Ofc of the Courts

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## Drug Court Definition

*A drug court is a specially designed court calendar or docket, the purposes of which are to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse and to increase the participants' likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicial oversight, treatment, supervision, mandatory periodic drug testing, and use of appropriate sanctions, incentives, and other community-based rehabilitation services.*

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## What Are Drug Courts?

- In essence, drug courts are judicially monitored, intensive treatment programs.
- Their aim is to reduce recidivism and substance abuse of substance abusing offenders.
- They do so through mandatory periodic drug testing in combination with an ongoing treatment program.
- The drug court judge gives incentives and rewards for progress in the program, as appropriate, and imposes sanctions, from curfew to actual incarceration, as needed.

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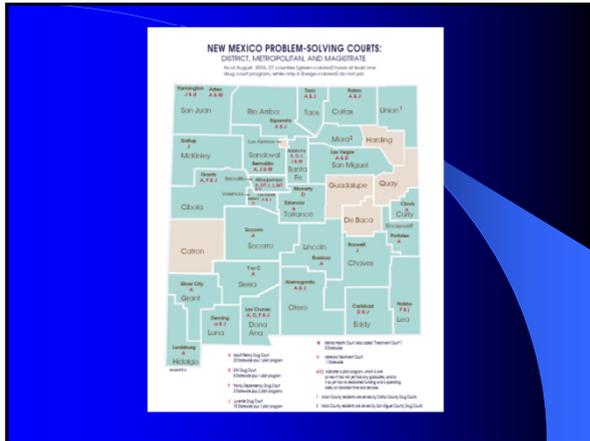
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## The Raw Numbers

- Nationally, 1 in 100 U.S. citizens are behind bars (over 2.3 million total)
  - U.S. incarcerates more per capita than 26 of largest European nations combined
  - In NM, it's about 1 in 150 (over 13,000)
- 300K – 400K incarcerated with mental illnesses, 500K more in community corrections
  - More than 80% of them do not receive care

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## The Revolving Door

- 80% of offenders abuse drugs or alcohol, and
- Nearly 50% of jail and prison inmates are clinically addicted.
- Approximately 95% return to drug abuse after release from prison, and
- 60 to 80% of drug abusers commit a new crime after release from prison.

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### Focus on the Cause not the Crime

- Target population are those at High Risk of reoffending, and with a High Need for a significant treatment intervention
- Leading to a
  - Treatment Program
  - within a Behavior Modification System
  - Administered by a Court of Law

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### Treatment

- Addiction is a brain disease, a corruption of the brain's reward system
  - Cheeseburgers and sex vs coke and meth
- Three indicators:
  - Cravings
  - Withdrawal
  - Triggered binge response
- 9-12 months of continuous treatment, and abstinence, to effect change
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, MRT

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### Behavior Modification

- 60-80% of offenders simply referred to treatment will drop out
- Must go to treatment and must change drug-dependent behavior
  - Drug test to verify abstinence
  - Monitor all court ordered activities
    - Reward positive behavior
    - Sanction or therapeutic response for non-compliance
      - Proximal and Distal behavior

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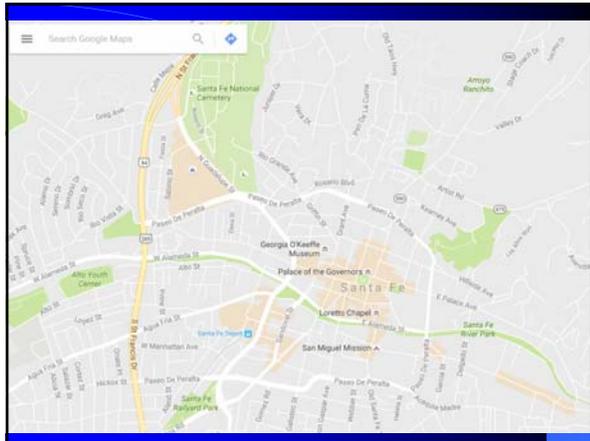
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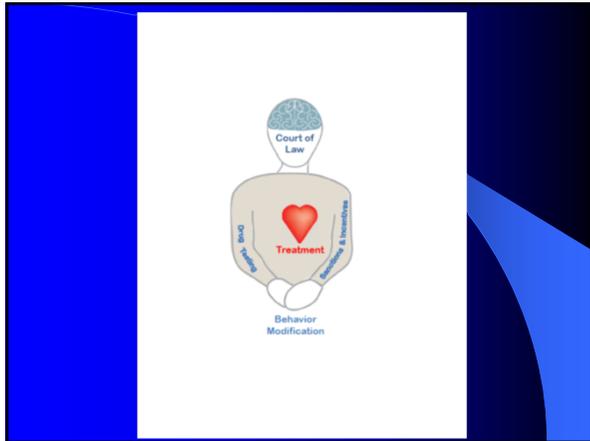
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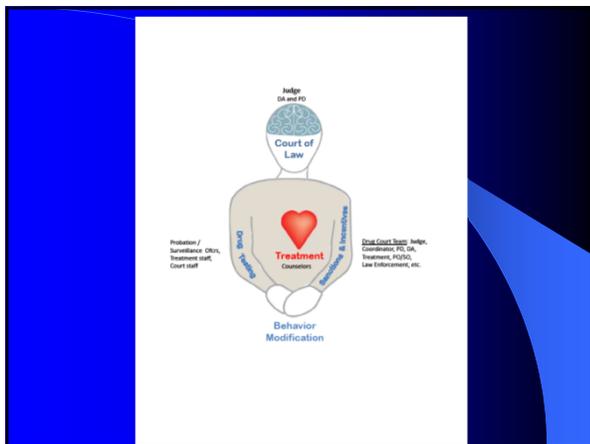
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### How Do They Work?



- Turn normally adversarial nature of court system into a collaborative effort
- Focus on sobriety and accountability of drug court participant through teamwork

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### Drug Court Team



- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Defense Attorney
- Treatment Provider
- Probation/Surveillance Officer
- Program Coordinator

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### Drug Court "Staffing"



- Team meets with judge prior to hearing
- Informs judge of participants' activities, attitude, sobriety, compliance
- Advises judge on sanctions, rewards, advancement, or status quo

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## Drug Court Hearing

- Judge hears from each participant, one-on-one, in front of team, peers, and family
- For non-compliance, judge hands down sanction
- For progress, judge gives praise / reward



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## Questions?

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