NM Certification and Peer Review Processes

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Overview

• New Mexico is developing an infrastructure for assessing fidelity of problem-solving court programs to the drug court model
   Certification process
   Peer review/learning community

Overview

• Certification:
   Programs must demonstrate that they are following the drug court model, through use of mandatory and expected standards (e.g., a core set of specific practices, and a proportion of other practices).
   Documents submitted by programs and reviewed by state staff.
Overview

• Peer Review/Learning Community:
  ❘ Team members (e.g., judge and coordinator) from one program visit another program to review the program practices and provide feedback.
  ❘ Both the visiting team members and the team being reviewed learn about and support each other in implementing best practices.

Purpose of Peer Review

• Create a statewide learning community
• Peers identify areas for program improvements and share successes and challenges
• Low administrative cost, less threatening fidelity assessment
• Builds relationships between programs
• Informs state of areas of needed technical assistance and training

How does it work?

• Program being reviewed provides information and documents to peers
• NPC provides information from program’s online assessment to peers
• 2 peers conduct 2-day site visit
  – Team and participant interviews
  – Observations of staffing and hearing
  – Completion of checklist (left with court)
  – Report (submitted to Statewide Coordinator)
Who are the peers?

- Volunteers who are interested in learning more about best practices/standards
- Judge and coordinator pairs, not necessarily from the same court; other team member roles for programs that need support from those peers
- Willing and able to travel

Setting up the process

- NPC working with AOC and DCAC subcommittee to establish a process and materials
- AOC will nominate/recruit volunteers to be peers
- NPC will train peers in how to conduct the review
- NPC, AOC, peers will conduct pilot and revise process as needed

Which programs will be reviewed?

- Starting with adult courts (including DWI and Veterans’ courts)
- Plan to participate in a juvenile drug court pilot
- Reviews can be requested for programs that do not meet certification criteria
How will the reviews be used?

• Program being reviewed will discuss findings and recommendations, create action plan
• Peers often get ideas for implementing in their own programs
• AOC will provide information and support to programs based on results of review
• AOC will compile training and technical assistance needs based on summary of reviews

Questions or Comments?

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