

## New Mexico Drug Court Certification Process

- Standards and Program Certification
- Purpose and process
- Overview and highlights

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## The Need for Certification

- Fidelity to the model
- 6%-9% of programs cause more harm than good
  - Out of 3000 programs nationwide, that's 180-270 programs that are actually harming their participants
- Not a "gotcha" operation
  - Want to celebrate successes, while providing guidance to overcome shortfalls

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## Certification Criteria

- Mandatory – you must be doing this in order to qualify as a drug court program. Bottomline. Absolutely essential.

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## Certification Criteria

- Mandatory – you must be doing this in order to qualify as a drug court program
- Expected – you really really should be doing this in order to operate as an effective drug court program
- Best Practice – you should implement this if possible in order to improve your outcomes

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**Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed into the drug court program.**

**3-11** Drug courts should strive to have participants begin the program within 50 days of the arrest or incident that resulted in their being considered for entry into the drug court. For the family dependency court, assessments should be done within 10 business days of initial interview with the family dependency court contact. Comment [PB17] 303.c.4

**Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation and operations.**

**9-5** Drug court teams, to the extent possible, should attend comprehensive training yearly or every other year as provided by state or national drug court organizations, e.g., the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, National Drug Court Institute, New Mexico Association of Drug Court Professionals, etc. Comment [PB17] 303.010.7

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## Certification Criteria

- Mandatory – you must be doing this in order to qualify as a drug court program
- Expected – you really really should be doing this in order to operate as an effective drug court program
- Best Practice – you should implement this if possible in order to improve your outcomes
- State Mandate – you must be doing this in order to qualify as a NM program

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**Key component #1: Drug courts will integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.**

**1-1** All participating agencies shall cooperate with efforts to establish drug courts which meet the minimum standards of the judicial branch. *Comment (P#1) 303 c.1*

**1-6** For internal court operations, each court shall prepare a separate budget for family dependency courts, juvenile drug courts, adult drug courts, and any other drug courts that may exist. *Comment (P#6) 303 c.3*

**1-7** The drug court team shall include the following roles/agencies: judge, prosecuting and defense attorneys, **treatment provider**, court coordinator, case manager, probation/surveillance, and law enforcement. Depending on local program design, other appropriate key stakeholders should be added to the team (e.g., child welfare, housing providers, etc...). *Comment (P#7) 895 101A*

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### Certification Criteria (con't)

- Mandatory – Bottomline. 100% requirement.
- Expected – Really Really important, but not mandatory. 80% requirement.
- Best Practice – Aspirational. Highly recommended but not required.
- State Mandate– Procedure or documentation essential to be a NM drug court program. 100% requirement.

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### Certification Criteria (con't)

- M for Mandatory – 100%  
– State Mandate – 100%
- E for Expected – 80%
- BP for Best Practice – As many as possible

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## Certification Review Process

- AOC review of self-assessment responses along with selected program documents
  - 1 year completion goal
- 3-year term, with onsite scheduled as needed
- Corrective action plans for those falling short

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## Questions?

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