



Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Board Meeting

Item 4

10:15 am Miranda Rosa (10 min)

Staff Contact:



Changing the World One Life at a Time

As of May 11th Le Sueur County Drug Court has six participants who have a combined 194 days of sobriety. There are four pending referrals for admission as well.

Participants have been admitted on a variety of charges, including:

- First Degree DWI
- 5th Degree Controlled Substance
- 2nd Degree Controlled Substance
- Fleeing an Officer
- Theft
- Check Forgery

Drug Court sessions are held every Monday at 4 p.m. and are open to the public.

Mission Statement:

Le Sueur County District Court, in the First Judicial District of Minnesota, provides a Post-Plea, Pre-Sentence, Drug Court Program to reduce chemical abuse and criminal behavior of non-violent adult offenders. Le Sueur County Drug Court's mission is to break the cycle of crime and addiction by providing chemically-addicted offenders with a multidisciplinary strategic response of treatment, support and legal accountability, thereby enhancing the quality of life of the community. The LSCDC provides strength-based interventions promoting healthy lifestyles, accountability for actions and positive family relationships through a collaborative effort between the Adult Justice System and the community. This collaboration results in educated and productive adults, healthy families and stronger, safer communities.

Le Sueur County Drug Court recognizes that:

- Addicts are most vulnerable to successful intervention when they are in the crisis of initial arrest and incarceration, *so intervention must be immediate.*
- Preventing gaps in communication and ensuring offender accountability are of critical importance, *so court supervision must be coordinated and comprehensive.*
- Addiction to drugs is a long-standing, debilitating condition, *so treatment must-be long-term and comprehensive.*
- Addiction seldom exists in isolation from other serious problems, which undermine rehabilitation, *so intervention must include other available services and resources such as mental health services, educational/vocational assessments and job placement.*
- Relapse and intermittent progress are part of the recovery process, *so sanctions and incentives must be integral to the drug court's intervention strategy.*

The goals of the drug court are to:

- Reduce participant involvement in the criminal justice system;
- Reduce costs associated with criminal justice system involvement;
- Reduce overcrowding of jails and prisons;
- Introduce participants to an ongoing process of recovery designed to achieve total abstinence from alcohol, abuse of prescription medication and illicit/illegal drugs;
- Hold offenders accountable, promote self-sufficiency and empower addicts to become productive and responsible members of the community; and,
- To promote effective interaction and use of resources among the courts, justice system personnel and community agencies.

Le Sueur County Convictions

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Felony Drug Convictions	14	14	9	27	25
Felony DWI Convictions	3	7	4	0	1
Other Non-Violent Felonies	61	97*	74	94	73
% Men Convicted of non-violent crimes	77%	88%	68%	80%	90%
% Women Convicted of non-violent crimes	23%	12%	32%	20%	10%

*Note there were 11 convictions of perjury this year – atypical for the county

From 2010 and 2011 to 2013 there was a 93% increase in felony drug convictions

DRUG COURTS WORK!

THE VERDICT IS IN...

In 25 years since the first Drug Court was founded, there has been more research published on the effects of Drug Courts than on virtually all other criminal justice programs combined.

The scientific community has put Drug Courts under a microscope and concluded that Drug Courts work. Better than jail or prison. Better than probation and treatment alone. Drug Courts significantly reduce drug use and crime and are more cost-effective than any other proven criminal justice strategy.

+ Drug Courts Reduce Crime

- FACT: Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program.
- FACT: Rigorous studies examining long-term outcomes of individual Drug Courts have found that reductions in crime last at least 3 years and can endure for over 14 years.
- FACT: The most rigorous and conservative scientific “meta-analyses” have all concluded that Drug Courts significantly reduce crime as much as 45 percent more than other sentencing options.

+ Drug Courts Save Money

- FACT: Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone.
- FACT: When considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$27 for every \$1 invested.
- FACT: Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per client. These cost savings reflect reduced prison costs, reduced revolving-door arrests and trials, and reduced victimization.
- FACT: In 2007, for every Federal dollar invested in Drug Court, \$9.00 was leveraged in state funding.

+ Drug Courts Ensure Compliance

- FACT: Unless substance abusing/addicted offenders are regularly supervised by a judge and held accountable, 70% drop out of treatment prematurely.
- FACT: Drug Courts provide more comprehensive and closer supervision than other community-based supervision programs.
- FACT: Drug Courts are six times more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to get better.

+ Drug Courts Combat meth addiction

- FACT: For methamphetamine-addicted people, Drug Courts increase treatment program graduation rates by nearly 80%.
- FACT: When compared to eight other programs, Drug Courts quadrupled the length of abstinence from methamphetamine.
- FACT: Drug Courts reduce methamphetamine use by more than 50% compared to outpatient treatment alone.

+ Drug Courts Restore Families

- FACT: Parents in Family Drug Court are twice as likely to go to treatment and complete it.
- FACT: Children of Family Drug Court participants spend significantly less time in out-of-home placements such as foster care.
- FACT: Family re-unification rates are 50% higher for Family Drug Court participants.

Nationwide 75% of Drug Court graduates never see another pair of handcuffs!

Resolution/Proclamation

In Support of

“National Drug Court Month”

WHEREAS, Over the past twenty-five years Drug Courts have served over 1.4 million individuals; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts are now recognized as the most successful criminal justice intervention in our nation’s history; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts save up to \$27 for every \$1 invested and produce up to \$13,000 for every individual they serve; and

WHEREAS, 75% of Drug Court graduates will never see another pair of handcuffs; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other justice strategy; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, There are now 2,966 Drug Courts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts are the cornerstone of criminal justice reform sweeping the nation; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts demonstrate that when one person rises out of drugs and crime, we ALL RISE; and

WHEREAS, The time has come to put a Drug Court within reach of every eligible person in need.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners declares that “Drug Court Month” be established during the Month of May, 2015.