



The Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals
Strategic Plan 2009-2012
June 2009

Vision:

FADCP ensures Florida's drug courts continued status as the most efficacious model addressing substance abuse in the justice system.

Mission:

The Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals (FADCP) seeks to reduce substance abuse, crime and recidivism in Florida by promoting and advocating the establishment and funding of drug courts and providing for collection and dissemination of information, technical assistance, and mutual support to association members. A "drug court" is a process by which substance abusers entering the court system are placed into treatment and proactively monitored by the judge and a team of justice-system and treatment professionals; it employs effective drug-testing and graduated sanctions and incentives.

Drug courts provide a more efficient system with interchangeable parts that provides direct cost benefit for the state by reducing substance abusing offenders in the justice system through an optimized treatment entity that is proven to be more cost effective than incarceration.

The model for treatment-based drug courts was founded on the principle that the delivery of treatment services needed to be coupled with the justice system and guided by the essential component of strong judicial leadership forging partnerships to bring treatment services and the justice system together.

Operating Tenets:

The FADCP is organized to:

- (a) Reduce substance abuse, crime, and recidivism;
- (b) Promote and advocate for the establishment and funding of effective drug courts in the United States;
- (c) Provide technical assistance and mutual aid to association members;
- (d) Stimulate development of other judicially supervised treatment programs, in cases where appropriate;

- (e) Collect, provide, and disseminate information related to the purposes of the organization;
- (f) Perform such other related activities necessary to accomplish the stated goals and objectives;
- (g) Provide a communication network among drug court professionals throughout the State of Florida;
- (h) Serve as a liaison to the Congress of State Drug Court Associations and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals;
- (i) Represent Florida drug court professionals in the creation and implementation of state drug court policy;
- (j) Provide a forum for sharing ideas and concerns impacting drug courts; and
- (k) Report and make recommendations to the Supreme Court of Florida.

Recognized Principles:

FADCP acknowledges that drug courts reflect the following nationally recognized principles, tailored to the needs of individual jurisdictions.

- (a) Integrating alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing;
- (b) Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel to promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights;
- (c) Identifying eligible participants early and promptly placing them in the drug court program;
- (d) Providing access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitative services;
- (e) Monitoring abstinence by frequent alcohol and other drug testing;
- (f) Offering a coordinated strategy to govern drug court response to participants' compliance;
- (g) Fostering ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant;

- (h) Ensuring that monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness;
- (i) Promoting continuing interdisciplinary education to achieve effective drug court planning implementation, and operations; and
- (j) Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court effectiveness.

Three-Year Strategic Plan (2009-2012):

FADCP establishes a three-year strategic plan that addresses its central tenets to promote, advocate and advance drug courts. Goals are established at the state, local (individual drug court), and association (FADCP) levels as follows:

I. State Level

- A. Goal 1 - Statewide Evaluation: By October 2010, the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) should initiate a statewide data collection and evaluation research project to determine the cost effectiveness and recidivism rates for drug courts in Florida.
- B. Goal 2 - Training: FADCP and OSCA should continue to develop training programs targeting drug court team members (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement officers, treatment professionals, and corrections officers) and other justice system personnel to keep them abreast of developments in the related fields of substance abuse, mental health, and the criminal justice system as they relate to drug courts.
 - 1. Objective 1. Offer one training conference and two distance learning sessions annually as funding permits.
 - 2. Objective 2. Training will include Adult, Juvenile and Family Dependency Drug Court training topics.
- C. Goal 3 - Uniform Data Collection and Evaluation: Each circuit shall report sufficient client-level and programmatic data to the OSCA annually for purposes of program evaluation. Client-level data include primary offenses that resulted in the drug court referral or sentence, treatment compliance, completion status and reasons for failure to complete, offenses committed during treatment and the sanctions imposed, frequency of court appearances, and units of service. Programmatic data include

referral and screening procedures, eligibility criteria, type and duration of treatment offered, and residential treatment resources. OSCA will continue to encourage drug courts to conduct periodic process, outcome and impact evaluations. Additional staff and resources for data collection must be addressed.

In addition, the critical data elements and performance indicators that the Supreme Court's Task Force on Treatment-based Drug Courts identified should be captured. Please see the OSCA Drug Court website for specific requirements at the following: http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/family/drug_court/critical-data-performance.shtml.

- D. Goal 4: Legislative: FADCP supports and promotes legislation that will enhance drug courts. The following are central to the vision of drug courts in Florida.
1. Objective 1. By July 2010 pass legislation creating Reentry Drug Courts as part of the drug court system.
 2. Objective 2. By July 2009 pass legislation that provides a dedicated funding stream for drug court operations.
 3. Objective 3. Advocate for a dedicated, sustained, and continuous funding stream for drug court operations through legislation and funding solutions.
 4. Objective 4. By July 2009: pass legislation to allow downward departures for specified drug offenses and violations.
 5. Objective 5: By July 2009: pass legislation to expand eligibility criteria for clients to enter drug court.
- E. Goal 5 - Treatment Fidelity and Accountability: By July 2010 FADCP subcommittee members will visit two drug courts to help identify best practices, provide guidance and training through peer input.
- F. Goal 6 - Drug Testing Protocols: By July 2010 FADCP provides a protocol for drug testing and ongoing access to the state drug testing contract.
- G. Goal 7 - Drug Court Program Implementation: By July 2011 each judicial circuit shall maintain a minimum of one adult drug court program. Judicial circuits should be encouraged to implement at least one juvenile and family dependency drug court where they do not currently exist.
- H. Goal 8 - Drug Court Program Staffing: By July 2011 each drug court program shall have adequate staffing levels for coordination and case management that are critical to program sustainability.

1. Objective 1: By June 2010 FADCP and OSCA should develop a staffing formula for each type of drug court: adult, juvenile, and dependency.
- I. Goal 9 -Statewide Drug Court Staffing: By July 2011, OSCA should continue to provide adequate staff support for the development of education and training, data collection, and coordination of services for the statewide drug court system.
- J. Goal 10 - Expand Eligibility Criteria: By July 2011 expand the number of drug court clients served in existing drug courts by 25% above the population of spring, 2009. [Note: Expand services to veterans, DUI, and misdemeanor defendants in the criminal justice system]
- K. Goal 11 – Integrate Necessary Behavioral Health Services: By July 2011 complete incorporation of the comprehensive integrated, and continuous system of care model into the drug court process.

II. Local Level

- A. Goal 1 - Maximize Capacity of Drug Courts: By July 2011 drug court programs will review their eligibility requirements to expand the number of clients served using current resources more efficiently.
 1. Objective 1. Evaluate capacity of existing drug court to identify ways to increase number of clients served.
 2. Objective 2. Evaluate key staffing needs to expand court, supervision, and treatment personnel.
 3. Objective 3. Develop plan for expansion of drug court program capacity by 25% above the population of spring 2009 based on better allocation of current resources, calculation of additional resources needed, and efficient application of those resources.
- B. Goal 2 - Integrate Drug Court Principles into Traditional Court Processing: By July 2011 develop local comprehensive plan to adopt drug court model for case processing across court divisions based on the following areas.
 1. Objective 1. Review methods for application of drug court principles across divisions.
 2. Objective 2. Integrate condensed drug court operating tenets into judicial case processing across divisions.

3. Objective 3. Identify judiciary amenable to drug court principles, provide them training on the drug court model and, if they are willing, attempt to assign them duties within the drug court system.
 4. Objective 4. Identify staffing needs for court, supervision, and treatment personnel.
- C. Goal 3 - Institutionalize Drug Courts in Local Jurisdiction: By July 2011 drug court programs should revise program requirements and identify resources to ensure program sustainability.
1. Objective 1. Establish dedicated funding streams by evaluating current resources and identifying new funding sources for program sustainability
 2. Objective 2. Analyze existing drug court processes, requirements, allocation of resources, target population, and client program needs to increase program capacity.
 3. Objective 3. Reorganization of existing resources to increase capacity and establishment of program tracts based on individualized client treatment needs, services, and aftercare requirements.
 4. Objective 4. Revise drug court policies and local administrative orders based on established program tracts which address target population and treatment protocols.
- D. Goal 4 - Develop Local Strategic Plan: By July 2010 drug courts develop three-year strategic plans to increase capacity, identify program goals and objectives including sustainability, expansion, and program modifications to address target populations and individual client needs.

III. Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals

- A. Goal 1 - Garner optimal support for drug courts by educating the judicial, executive, and legislative branches, the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems, treatment professionals, private foundations, corporations, and the general public on the benefits of drug courts.
- B. Goal 2 - Advocate for sustained, stabilized funding for drug courts through legislation and funding solutions.
- C. Goal 3 - By July 2010 initiate planning stages for developing an annual statewide training conference for drug court professionals.

- D. Goal 4 - By July 2010 implement a method to track status of drug courts (fiscally and programmatically) in order to target struggling programs so FADCP can provide technical assistance and guidance.
- E. Goal 5 - By April 2010 provide a quarterly “Report on Florida’s Drug Courts” to drug court professionals in Florida and nationwide.
- F. Goal 6 - By July 2011 develop a best practices model to maintain existing drug court capacity and offer ways to increase program capacity when resources are scarce.
- G. Goal 7 - By July 2011, increase FADCP membership to 350- 400 by targeting drug court professionals, treatment professionals, and justice system partners. Increase in membership has occurred in conjunction with annual statewide training conferences.
- H. Goal 8 – By July 2009 identify three areas for the FADCP Board to concentrate their efforts to advance and promote drug courts.