# TM Drug Court Overview

Presenter
Dale W. Brien

#### Objectives

After this session you will be able to

- Understand Drug Court basics
- Identify different strategies for healing
- Appraise the value of data collection in Program Management
- Identify potential funding sources

#### First Question

- Are Drug Courts proven to be effective?
- Yes, Meyer, W. G., & Ritter, A. W. (2002). Drug courts work. *Federal Sentencing Reporter*, *14*, 179-185.
- No, Anderson, J. F. (2001). What to do about "much ado" about drug courts? *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 12, 469-475.

#### Tell That To:

- 60 Graduates and their families
- The person who would have to find the \$732,582 savings by DC graduates not going to jail.
- Unknown victims and survivors of future DUI fatalities or drug overdose.
- Helping agencies who consistently work with the same individuals



# **Turtle Mountain Alternative Court**

MaDonna Marcellais, Judge
Dale W. Brien, Director
Vacant, Probation Officer
Terry Jerome, Licensed Addiction Counselor
William Marcellais, Tribal Prosecutor
Terry Baker, Public Defender

#### Dale W. Brien

- TM VOCA Director 1989-1998
- US Attorney's Office District of ND
  - Victims Specialist 1998 2000
- TM Alternative Court Director 2000 Present
- Commissioned Officer in National Guard

#### Mission Statement

"To provide an alternative to the established methods of adjudication by Treating drug /alcohol addicted members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians"

#### Goal of the Mission Statement

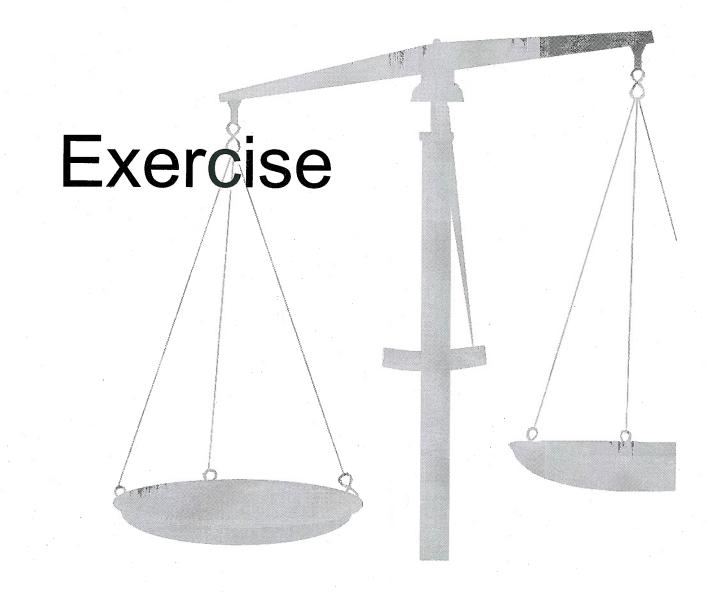
Successful graduates who give back to others by:

- Speaking at group meetings
- Living a drug-free lifestyle
- Involved in community events
- Buffalo Shield with name and graduation date on it
- Jacket with Alternative Court logo and name on it.



# Turtle Mountain Alternative Court

- Program Start Date January 1999
- •Length of Program 11 to 18 months
- •Program Ages 17 to 60 Years (Average Age is 31.76)



#### **Drug Court Defined**

"a special court given the responsibility to handle cases involving substance-abusing offenders through comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services and immediate sanctions and incentives" (Facts on Drug Courts, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, 2001).

# Referring Charges

- Abandonment
- Actual Physical Control
- Driving Under the Influence
- Failure to Protect
- Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs
- Possession of Marijuana
- Probation Violation
- Reckless Endangerment
- Zero Tolerance.

# Making It Unique - Design

- Age Groups (Adult vs. juveniles)
- Gender specific (Male, Female)
- Jurisdiction (Tribal, State, Federal)
- Voluntary
- Pretrial Diversion or Post Sentence (Expungement/Pardon)
- Disqualification factors

# Making It Unique - Staff

- Judge profile
- Counselor profile define role
- Probation Officer define role
- Director (Funder, politics)
- Prosecutor and public defender
- PTSD factors on waiving clients
- Working as a team Benefits

### Making It Unique - Intake

- Procedure for acceptance
  - Minimum 5 days
  - Intake form and background evaluated
  - Staff members are in agreement
  - Possible speech by client
- Initial speech from Director

#### Making It Unique - Positives

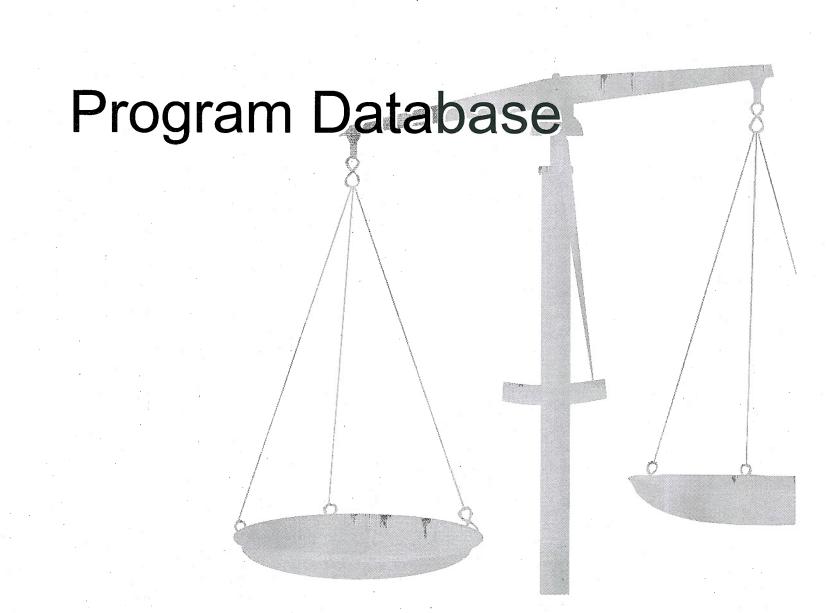
- Celebrations Graduations
- Graduate jackets
- Family picnics
- Working with spouses/family
- Frequent pats at on the back
- Pizza certificates
- Client of the Month Award

# Making It Unique - Sanctions

- Staff recommendations and client recommendations.
- Clients input on waiving out of individuals
- Face to face with victim survivors
- Reports on costs of DUI accident
- Clients acceptance of responsibility
- Being consistent and flexible with reasons

# Making It Unique - Other

- Spirituality (Religious preference not the key but having one is)
- Pros and cons of use/non use
  - \$10 a month dues vs usage costs
- One on one with PO and LAC
- 4 phases of program/4 directions



#### **Statistics**

- Total # of Clients 145
- # of Graduates
  - 62 (32 Alcohol and 30 other)
- Total Waived Out
  - 69 (40 Alcohol and 29 other)
- Total Warrants
  - 10 (5 Meth, 3 Alcohol, 1 Marijuana, and 1 Illegal Prescription)
- Current Case Load
  - 4 (3 Meth, and 1 Illegal Prescription)

#### **Recidivism Rates**

- Records show a 25.8% return to drug related crime for graduates as compared to a 39.7% rate for individuals waived out.
- Need to collect non-program comparison group.

#### Accomplishments

- 27 graduates with alcohol as their drug of choice have not re-offended.
- 17 graduates with other drugs of choice have not re-offended.
- The total jail time sentenced for the 60 graduates was 11,270 days.
- \$65 x 11,270 = A savings of \$732,582.50 for our overcrowded BIA jail facility.

# 10 Key Components

Defining Drug Courts, Drug Courts Program Office, 1997

- 1. Incorporating drug testing into case processing.
- 2. Creating a non-adversarial relationship between the defendant and the court.
- 3. Identifying defendants in need of treatment and referring them to treatment as soon as possible after arrest.
- 4. Providing access to a continuum of treatment and rehabilitation services.
- 5. Monitoring abstinence through frequent, mandatory drug testing.
- 6. Establishing a coordinated strategy to govern drug court responses to participants' compliance.

#### 10 Key Components - Continued

- Maintaining judicial interaction with each drug court participant.
- 8. Monitoring and evaluating program goals and gauging their effectiveness.
- 9. Continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
- Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations to generate local support and enhance drug court effectiveness

#### Resources

- National Criminal Justice Resources Center
  - BJA
- Drug Court Clearinghouse BJA
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention -SAMSHA
- Drug Court Planning Initiative BJA
- Congress of State Drug Court Associations
- Native American Alliance Foundation

#### DiscussMeth@methresources.gov

- Ask the question, everyone can answer.
- Wide variety of views.
- Wide variety of topics
  - Meth clean-up
  - Sentencing information
  - Clinical and psychological effects
  - Drug Courts
  - Etc.

#### Recent Stats

July 1, 2007 – October 30, 2007

- Tribal Court Database: 9 NDD; 24 POM; 19
  ZT; and 53 DUI charges.
- Tribal Court Civil Division reported 45 total petitions for involuntary commitments, which are broke down as follows: 15 were alcohol, 4 methamphetamine, 9 prescription, 9 were other drug and 8 were both drug & alcohol related.
- Child Welfare reported 163 total reports 32 involved drugs and 45 involved alcohol.

# Funding

- National Criminal Justice Resources Center
  - Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program
  - Justice Assistance Grant Program
  - Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program
  - Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse
  - Tribal Court Assistance Program
  - Community Capacity Development Office

# Funding - Continued

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health
   Services Administration
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Drug Confiscation Funds
- Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary
   Grant



# **Turtle Mountain Alternative Court**

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