

Hillsborough County Superior Court (Southern District) Adult Drug Court

Information Sheet

The Hillsborough County Adult Drug Court (HCADC) is a collaborative effort of local criminal justice, law enforcement, and substance use treatment agencies. The mission of the HCADC is to reduce criminal recidivism and substance misuse among high risk/high need non-violent offenders and increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation by breaking the criminogenic patterns of behavior related to addiction and substance misuse.

Organizations currently participating in the HCADC include the Hillsborough County South Superior Court; the Southern Hillsborough County Attorney's Office; the New Hampshire Public Defender's Program; the New Hampshire Department of Corrections – Probation and Parole Department; the Nashua Police Department; the Hudson Police Department; the Milford Police Department; Community Health Institute/John Snow Inc.; and Greater Nashua Mental Health Center.

Recognizing that that local cities and towns cannot arrest and incarcerate their way out of the current heroin epidemic, the Hon. Jacalyn Colburn, of the Hillsborough County Superior Court, began approaching prosecution and defense attorneys and local law enforcement agencies, to build support for a Drug Court program, which is designed to provide non-violent offenders at high risk of reoffending and in high need of substance use treatment, intensive substance use disorder treatment and community supervision as an alternative to incarceration.

Greater Nashua Mental Health Center joined the collaborative effort by providing treatment services for those offenders participating in the program. In 2014, the Drug Court received a federal grant, enabling the Court to increase its capacity to serve additional offenders.

With support from the federal grant, GNMHC was able to hire a MLADC to provide substance misuse treatment through an Intensive Outpatient Program and individual therapy using evidence-based assessment and treatment models, and a part-time case manager to help participants to support their treatment and ongoing recovery by addressing other needs such as medical issues, education, and work.

In 2015, the HCADC received an additional Drug Court Enhancement Grant from SAMHSA, which has enabled the hiring of a second clinician and case manager in order to expand treatment capacity.

In addition to the treatment and case management provided through GNMHC, participants are strictly monitored and supervised in the community through increased probation, home visits conducted by both case managers and local police departments, and mandatory, random drug testing.

Sanctions and incentives are a critical component of the Drug Court model and are used to reinforce engagement in treatment and positive, prosocial behaviors and activities in the community. Participants are also required to attend weekly court hearings in front of Judge Colburn and the Drug Court team, which provides additional monitoring and accountability as participants' progress in treatment is reviewed and any issues of substance use or other noncompliance issues are addressed.

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