



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2017.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

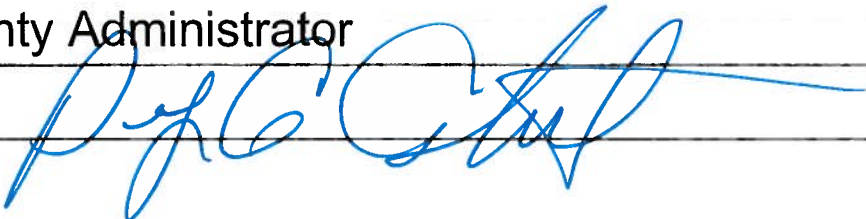
PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Prince George County
Program Title: Hopewell, Prince George, and Surry Drug Court
Program Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Bettina W. Coghill
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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: Percy C. Ashcraft
Title: County Administrator
Signature: 

Overview/Summary of the Problem

Our nation's prison population has exploded beyond capacity. One in 100 U.S. citizens is now confined in jail or prison. The U.S. incarcerates more people per capita than 26 of the largest European nations combined. Most inmates are in prison, at least in large part, because of substance abuse. Over 80 percent of offenders abuse drugs or alcohol, and nearly 50 percent of jail and prison inmates are clinically addicted. Approximately 60 percent of individuals arrested for most types of crimes test positive for illicit drugs at arrest. But imprisonment has little effect on drug abuse, and between 60 and 80 percent of drug abusers commit a new crime (typically a drug-driven crime) after release from prison. Approximately 95 percent return to drug abuse after release from prison. Abuse of alcohol and illicit drugs is costly to our Nation, exacting more than \$600 billion annually in costs related to crime, lost work productivity and health care. But providing treatment without holding offenders accountable for their performance in treatment is ineffective. Unless they are regularly supervised by a judge, 60 to 80 percent drop out of treatment prematurely and few successfully complete.

Traditional court processing is characterized by the following: adversarial proceedings through which offenders are found guilty or innocent of criminal offenses charged against them; court has limited supervision or knowledge of offender's progress after adjudication and disposition; separate and unconnected entities (probation and parole offices, local treatment programs, etc.); punishment is a primary tool for deterring further drug offenses; treatment varies in availability, cost, length, intensity and quality; supervision and drug testing may be intermittent and lacking intensity; and drug relapse is treated as a new crime or a probation violation. Virginia has handled drug offenders in the same way over and over again, perhaps expecting different results. Drug offenders are arrested, convicted, incarcerated, and released. The cycle begins again soon after release with relapse into further drug use. Some Virginia Judges were frustrated when loss of freedom or other forms of judicial punishment did little to correct addiction and criminal behavior. And, the number of drug offenders has continued to climb during the past decade despite the best efforts of court and criminal justice officials. A 1997 study conducted by the Department of Criminal Justice Services indicated that

32% of all convicted felons are drug offenders. This was up from 22% in 1988. In the 1997 survey, half of all convicted felons had evidence of prior drug abuse and a third had alcohol abuse in their background, with over a fourth admitting heavy use. Between 1990 and 1997, drug arrests rose 66% in Virginia. National statistics mirrored Virginia's problems with drug case management. Drug Court programs represent a new way of doing business for state and local courts and criminal justice agencies in the United States.

Problem or Need for the Program

Drug offenders have always moved through our local criminal justice system in a predictable pattern. Drug cases are placed on the same docket with all others and tried using the adversarial system of justice. This system, designed to resolve legal disputes, is largely ineffective at addressing issues of addiction. Indeed, the traditional functions of defense counsel often reinforced the offender's denial of a substance abuse problem. Immediate consequences for continued drug abuse were non-existent due to established court procedures. The result was a constant cycle of incarceration, release and new arrest. In our local criminal justice system, drug court has had the largest impact on chronic substance abusers that have had some previous contact with the court system and were likely to be incarcerated if they did not enter drug court. Thus, in 1997, a group of ten individuals representing state and local government as well as private enterprise, from various professions in the three jurisdictions of Prince George, Hopewell, and Surry, on behalf of the Riverside Community Criminal Justice Board, decided to look at the phenomenon of drug court. What was taking place in our criminal justice system for substance abuse was not working; we were recycling people through the system. Drug courts provide a different type of court intervention in which non-violent substance abusers are held publicly accountable both for their offenses and their recovery. These programs combine intense substance abuse treatment and probation supervision with the court's authority to mandate responsibility and compliance. Drug Court programs seek to address the chronic behavioral patterns of drug offenders. As an alternate to traditional court processing, drug courts have proven successful in deterring addicts from future criminal acts. Recidivism rate of drug court graduates are approximately half or less than the re-arrest rates of non-drug court graduates.

A team of ten traveled for the next two years to various states via a federal grant, to learn and study about the concept of drug court. The team included a general district court judge, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Chief of Police, the Sheriff, the county administrator, the executive director of our Community Services Board, a private treatment provider, a citizen, a juvenile probation officer, and the director of local probation. Upon completion of this extensive exploration phase, the CCJB decided it was important to implement an Adult Drug Treatment Court. All adult drug treatment courts in Virginia were held in the Circuit Courts. Unfortunately, our Sixth Judicial Circuit is comprised of seven jurisdictions that only has two circuit court judges. Thus, **one of our general district court judges agreed to work with our team and be the first drug court judge. On September 6, 2002, we took in our first two drug court participants in the Prince George, Hopewell, Surry Adult Drug Court in General District Court; this was prior to the adoption of the Drug Treatment Court act passed by the General Assembly in 2004.** To this day, we are still the only adult drug treatment court that began its journey and operated in general district court. There are currently mental health dockets and DUI courts operating in district court, but no other adult drug treatment court. And, we began the program using existing resources as there was no funding for the new court. This provides a model that other local governments may learn from and implement in their own localities. In 2005, we were able to move our drug court to Circuit Court and it continues to grow. The partnering, collaboration and innovation that was demonstrated by the local and state government entities combined with private enterprise was truly exemplified in the development of the Hopewell, Prince George, Surry Drug Court. Local government officials and/or staff played a significant role in developing and implementing the program with little assistance from outside consultants. The implementation and sustainability of the Prince George, Hopewell, Surry Drug Court truly exhibits and promotes intergovernmental cooperation amongst three jurisdictions; it also exhibits the cooperation with local, state, and federal entities along with private enterprise in addressing a serious problem in our communities. Drug Court is an innovative solution to a problem; it represents innovative approaches and customization that reflects the needs of our communities by the local government. As the original team

members are not all in the same positions any longer, the continuation and expansion of this program demonstrates the continued commitment of state, local, and private entities.

From 2002 through 2015, the number of deaths nationally from overdose has risen from 23,000 to 54,000. Through the collaboration of all of our agencies across three jurisdictions, we have been able to implement and sustain a very successful drug court team. The teamwork and the ability to think beyond the normal borders, the genuine care and concern for our communities, and the tireless efforts of the ten team members prevailed. It has improved public safety and the quality of life in our communities. It has bridged gaps and brought families back together again. The types of partnerships and relationships formed amongst local governments, state entities, and private providers have been outstanding and the commitment to this project was demonstrated by our nine page Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2002. We have a defense attorney that volunteers her time every Monday to attend Drug Court. We have law enforcement officers assigned to the Drug Court team either from our local police department or sheriff's department that provide weekly home visits, drug screens, and curfew checks. Treatment is provided by our local community services board 1.5 days a week free of charge, and by the Center for Therapeutic Justice, a private entity, provides substance abuse and anger management classes at minimal co-pays. And, the local probation office provides the direct supervision of the drug court participants as part of their job. With the death of our drug court judge, Judge Lee, Judge Hicks from Henrico Circuit Court, not in our Sixth Judicial Circuit, has dedicated every Monday to attend and conduct our drug court sessions. These actions demonstrate how the program fulfilled the awards criteria of innovation, partnering, collaboration and a model for others.

Description of the Program

Drug treatment courts are an alternative to traditional court adjudication of drug offenders. Drug Courts are judicially-supervised court dockets that strike the proper balance between the need to protect community safety and the need to improve public health and well-being; between the need for treatment and the need to hold people accountable for their actions; between hope and redemption on the one hand and good citizenship on the other. In comparison, drug courts handle drug cases by: (1) collaborative and

cooperative multidisciplinary drug court team (including judge, commonwealth's attorney, probation officers and treatment professionals) who work together to reduce crime and increase offender's sobriety; (2) treating drug addicts is seen as an effective tool for reducing the demand for drugs and restoring offenders to productive and lawful lives; (3) the court is active in monitoring the offender's progress and applies immediate sanctions when necessary; (4) while treatment is individualized, the program is uniform in structure, quality, and intensity; (5) there is frequent drug testing and probation monitoring; and (6) while relapse and program non-compliance result in graduated and immediate sanctions, beginning stage relapse is viewed as a part of the recovery process rather than a new offense. Drug Courts keep nonviolent drug-addicted individuals in treatment for long periods of time and supervise them closely. Offenders receive the treatment and other services they require to stay clean and to lead productive lives, but they are also held accountable by a judge for meeting their own obligations to society, themselves and their families. They are regularly and randomly tested for drug use, required to appear in court regularly for the judge to review their progress, and receive rewards for doing well and sanctions for not living up to their obligations. Drug court programs have the philosophy that more effective handling of drug treatment for addicts will result in higher recovery rates and reduced criminal behavior. But why involve the courts in addiction recovery? First, the courts are already involved with addicts brought before them on drug and drug-related criminal charges. Therefore, they have a legitimate interest in dispositions that "fit the crime" and best protect public safety. Second, arrest often presents a "teachable moment" for the addict. This crisis often jars the addict's denial of their disease and prompts them to seek treatment. A disposition that takes advantage of this teachable moment by applying appropriate and immediate sanctions may prove more effective than sanctions applied long after the shock of arrest has dulled. Third, no other treatment program has the power of the court to issue immediate sanctions such as jail time or community service when an addict relapses or when he/she does not adhere to treatment rules. Ongoing judicial interaction and supervision increases the likelihood of participant sobriety. There is simply more inducement to take drug treatment seriously when the power of the court is involved. Drug Courts significantly reduce drug use and crime and do it cheaper than any other justice strategy. Drug Courts

provide more comprehensive and closer supervision than other community-based programs, such as probation and are six times more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to get better. Drug Courts reduce crime more than any other program. In a nationally representative study of more than 2,000 graduates from over 90 Drug Courts, the average recidivism rate was only 16 percent in the first year after leaving the program, and 27 percent after the second year. This compares very favorably to recidivism rates on conventional probation, in which 46 percent commit a new offense and over 60 percent commit a probation violation. Drug Courts save taxpayers considerable money. According to the 2012 Cost-Benefit Analysis prepared by the National Center for State Courts, participants in a drug treatment program saved nearly \$20,000 for total costs against the similar comparison group who were in a “business as usual” model.

The Hopewell, Prince George, Surry Drug Court offers offenders the opportunity to achieve recovery through participation in a structured program that provides substance use treatment and intensive supervision to its participants. Drug Court is a fourteen month minimum program with four different phases of treatment, after care, and supervision. As offenders move through these phases, program requirements decline; thus, increasing the opportunity for the offender to accept more responsibility for his/her sobriety and lifestyle. Utilizing a system of rewards and graduated sanctions, a behavioral approach is employed to reinforce pro-social behaviors. Positive reinforcement for program compliance and sustained periods of sobriety provides encouragement and recognition for addicts that have had few accomplishments that would define them as successful in life. While in Drug Court, offenders are required to become involved in community-based self-help groups to aid in the development of an ongoing support system; they are also required to develop an after-care action plan for use after the completion of Drug Court to assist in continued recovery and a healthy lifestyle in the absence of supervision. Successful completion of Drug Court results in a dismissal of the offender’s charges. Our drug court utilizes evidence based practices in its set-up, in its phases, and in treatment. But we are also able to customize our program to fit the needs of the offenders that participate in the program that are also representative of the needs of our communities.

To be considered for entry into our Drug Court, an offender must acknowledge abuse or dependency

on drugs /alcohol with such dependency or abuse being verified by clinical assessment; be 18 years of age or older at time of sentencing; reside in Hopewell, Prince George, or Surry, or in a jurisdiction that would not preclude offender participation in the drug court requirements; be represented by an attorney at the time of program entry; be approved by Commonwealth's Attorney's Office for participation in the program; and be charged with a qualifying offense. Furthermore, offenders may be disqualified based on other factors such as prior criminal history, pending charges, prescription addiction, history of maladjustment to supervision, and the threat of danger posed to the community. There may be additional factors as those listed are not all inclusive. The case is then presented to the Drug Court Team; although an offender may qualify for Drug Court based on the specified criteria, all admissions for participation are subject to review and approval of the Drug Court Team. When approved for the program and the judicial placement is made by the court, the offender must complete the following requirements to graduate:

Phase 1 Minimal Requirements:

1. Attend 6 hours of treatment per week.
2. Drug test up to 3 times per week.
3. Attend two community support groups per week (AA, NA, CA, etc.).
4. Complete mental health assessment and recommended counseling.
5. Attend Drug Court each week.
6. Comply with curfew restrictions.

Requirements for moving to Phase 2:

1. Complete a minimum of 3 months of the Drug Court Program.
2. Remain abstinent from all mood-altering substances for sixty (60) consecutive days.
3. Remain abstinent of sanctions for any major violation(s) for at least 30 days, from the ending date of the sanction, before moving to Phase 2.
4. Obtain a sponsor or equivalent and develop a list of at least two recovery/pro-social supportive people who the participant can call in an emergency.
5. Participate in a minimum of two community support groups (Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Rational Recovery etc.) per week (no absences for the 30 days prior to moving to Phase 2).
6. Become employed by the end of Phase 1 or demonstrate involvement in an educational/vocational program.
7. Complete, in writing, the first step and present the first step to the Process Group.
8. Successfully complete all written assignments and present to the Process Group.
9. Successfully complete the Phase 1 Behavioral Assessment.
10. Participate in all required mental health appointments and obligations.
11. Be current on all drug court fees and court costs/restitution payments; complete all community service and assignments required by Drug Court Program staff.

Phase 2 Requirements:

1. Attend 4 hours of treatment per week.
2. Drug test up to 2 times per week.
3. Attend two community support groups per week (AA, NA, CA, etc.).
4. Complete recommended mental health counseling, if applicable.

5. Attend Drug Court every other week.
6. Comply with curfew restrictions.

Requirements for moving to Phase 3:

1. Complete a minimum of 6 months in the Drug Court Program.
2. Remain abstinent from all mood-altering substances for one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days.
3. Remain abstinent of sanctions for any major violation(s) for at least 30 days, from the ending date of the sanction, before moving to Phase 3.
4. Maintain a sponsor or equivalent and a list of at least two recovery/pro-social supportive people who the participant can call in an emergency.
5. Participate in at least two community support groups per week (no absences for 30 days prior to moving to Phase 3).
6. Be employed by the end of Phase II for at least 20 hours per week; demonstrate 45 days of continuous employment.
7. Successfully complete all treatment assignments in the Process Group.
8. Successfully complete the Phase 2 Behavioral Assessment.
9. Participate in all required mental health appointments and obligations, if applicable.
10. Be current on all drug court fees and court costs/restitution payments; complete all community service and assignments required by Drug Court Program staff.

Phase 3 Requirements:

1. Attend 2 hours of treatment per week.
2. Drug test up to 1 time per week.
3. Attend three community support groups per week.
4. Complete an approved Specialized/Community group as assigned.
5. Complete recommended mental health counseling, if applicable.
6. Attend Drug Court every other week.
7. Comply with curfew restrictions.

Requirements to move to Phase 4

1. Complete a minimum of 9 months in the Drug Court Program
2. Remain abstinent from all mood-altering substances for one hundred fifty (150) consecutive days.
3. Remain abstinent of sanctions for any major violation(s) for at least 30 days, from the ending date of the sanction, before moving to Phase 4.
4. Maintain a sponsor or equivalent and a list of at least two recovery/pro-social supportive people who the participant can call in an emergency.
5. Participate in at least three community support groups per week (no absences for 30 days prior to moving to Phase 4).
6. Successfully complete an approved Specialized/Community group as assigned.
7. Maintain employment, at least 20 hours per week; demonstrate 45 days of continuous employment.
8. Successfully complete all treatment assignments in the Process Group.
9. Successfully complete the Phase 3 Behavioral Assessment.
10. Participate in all required mental health appointments and obligations, if applicable.
11. Be current on all drug court fees and court costs/restitution payments; complete all community service and assignments required by Drug Court Program staff.
12. Develop and present to Drug Court the Recovery Life Style Analysis through the Process Group.

Phase 4 Requirements:

1. Attend 1 hour of treatment per week.
2. Drug test randomly.
3. Attend three community support groups per week.
4. Complete recommended mental health counseling, if applicable.
5. Attend drug court every third week.
6. Comply with curfew restrictions, if applicable.

Requirements to Move to After Care Program

1. Complete a minimum of 12 months in the Drug Court Program.
2. Remain abstinent from all mood-altering substances for one hundred eighty (180) consecutive days.
3. Remain abstinent of sanctions for any major violation(s) for at least 30 days, from the ending date of the sanction, before moving to After Care Program.
4. Maintain a sponsor or equivalent and a list of at least two recovery/pro-social supportive people who the participant can call in an emergency.
5. Attend at least three community support groups per week (no absences for 30 days prior to moving to After Care Program).
6. Maintain employment, at least 20 hours per week; demonstrate 90 days of continuous employment.
7. Successfully complete all treatment assignments in the Process Group.
8. Successfully complete the Phase 4 Behavioral Assessment.
9. Complete revised Recovery Life Style Analysis and present to Drug Court.
10. Participate in all required mental health appointments and obligations, if applicable.
11. Be current on all Drug Court Program fees and court costs/restitution payments; complete all community service and assignments required by Drug Court Program staff.

After Care Program Requirements

1. Attend 3 hours of treatment per month.
2. Drug test randomly.
3. Attend Alumni Group once a week.
4. Attend two community support groups per week.
5. Attend drug court every fourth week.

Requirements to Graduate

1. Complete a minimum of two months in the After Care Program.
2. Remain abstinent from all mood-altering substances for two hundred and forty (240) consecutive days.
3. Remain abstinent of sanctions for any major violation(s) for at least 30 days, from the ending date of the sanction, before graduating.
4. Have an active sponsor or equivalent and at least two recovery/pro-social supportive people who the participant can call in an emergency.
5. Attend at least two community support groups per week (no absences for 30 days prior to graduation).
6. Maintain employment, at least 20 hours per week; demonstrate 120 days of continuous employment.
7. Successfully complete all treatment assignments in the Process Group.
8. Pay all Drug Court Program fees in full; be current on all court costs/restitution payments; complete all community service and assignments required by Drug Court Program staff.

Statistics show that 67% of probationers use illicit drugs and 69% of jail inmates are in need of drug treatment.

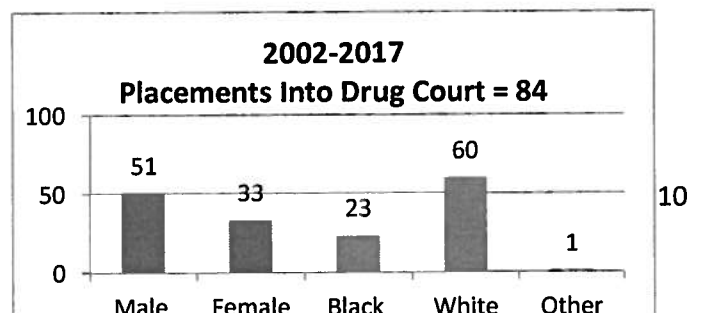
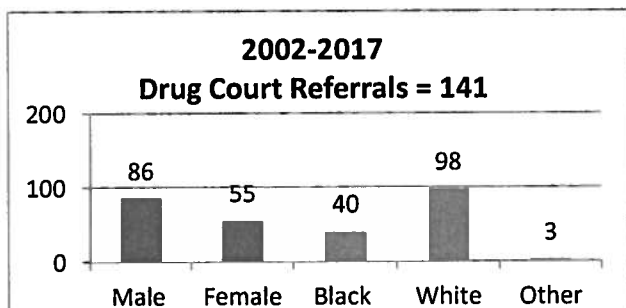
Treatment lacks the “teeth” to enforce treatment retention and compliance. Judicial oversight in Drug Court ensures offender accountability and treatment compliance. Thus, the dispositions fit the crime and best protect public safety.

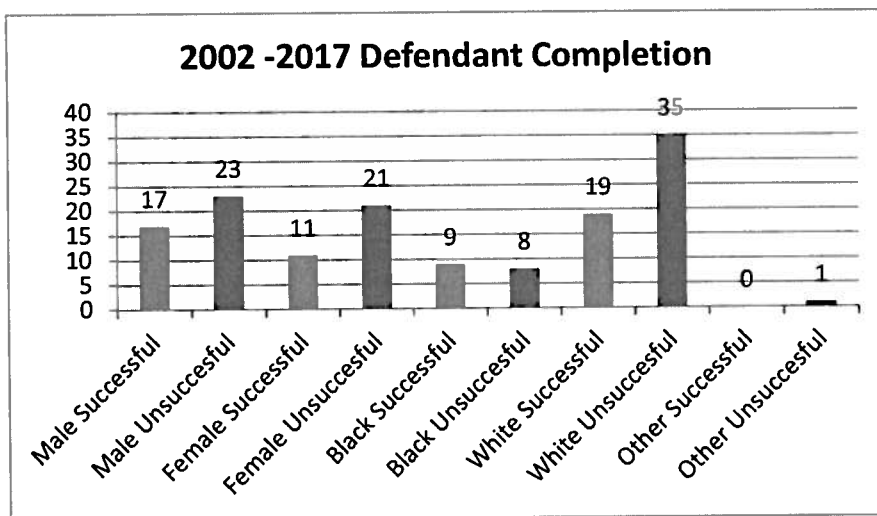
Execution of the Program to include financing, staffing, and program results

To date, 141 people have been referred to the Prince George, Hopewell Surry Adult Drug Treatment Court program with 84 of those being accepted into the program. We have eleven currently enrolled, with two

awaiting entry upon their release from incarceration. While we are a small program, all staff volunteer their time to this project as our Drug Court had never been funded. For the first 14 years of operation, we were totally un-funded. We relied on existing resources through our local probation and pretrial department, District 19 Community Services Board, our law enforcement agencies, and Center for Therapeutic Justice. The offenders are charged \$100 per month for their participation in Drug Court and must remain current on all fees to continue participation in the Program. This fee is used to assist with the costs of co-pays for the treatment groups. In January 2017, we were notified that we would be receiving \$95,000 from the Supreme Court of Virginia as they wanted to see our Drug Court thrive, not just survive. The grant from the Supreme Court will provide a dedicated probation officer to drug court for the remainder of this year and will allow our program to continue to grow.

We are celebrating our 15th year of operation this year and even though almost half of our participants did not graduate, many of them continue to visit us; we have been told too many times to count that Drug Court saved their lives. We have several participants that come to our office every few months to show us how well they are doing even though they were terminated from the program which resulted in time in jail. They credit our Drug Court and the skills, tools, etc. they acquired during their participation for their ability to maintain their sobriety/recovery and for the achievements in their lives upon their release from incarceration. For example, let's call this past participant Porcia. Porcia stops by our office every time she goes to the Court to pay on her court costs. She is working on her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and is currently working as a Life Skills Coach and Mental Health Skill Builder. She has her driver's license and her own home; and depends on no one for support. Her children are healthy and happy; their ages are four and ten. Porcia was terminated from Drug Court two weeks after her youngest child was born. Immediately upon her release from jail, she came to our office and thanked us. She continues to visit us regularly and said the Drug Court Team knew what was best for her. There are even happy endings with unsuccessful cases.





Brief summary of the program 3 to 4 paragraphs that could be used for press release

The Hopewell, Prince George, Surry Drug Court offers offenders the opportunity to achieve recovery through participation in a structured program that provides substance abuse treatment and intensive supervision to its participants. Drug Court is a fourteen month minimum program with four different phases of treatment, after care, and supervision. As offenders move through these phases, program requirements decline; thus, increasing the opportunity for the offender to accept more responsibility for his/her sobriety and lifestyle. Utilizing a system of rewards and graduated sanctions, a behavioral approach is employed to reinforce pro-social behaviors. Positive reinforcement for program compliance and sustained periods of sobriety provides encouragement and recognition for addicts that have had few accomplishments that would define them as successful in life. While in Drug Court, offenders are required to become involved in community-based self- help groups to aid in the development of an ongoing support system; they are also required to develop an after-care action plan for use after the completion of Drug Court to assist in continued recovery and a healthy lifestyle in the absence of supervision. Successful completion of Drug Court results in a dismissal of the offender's charges. Our drug court utilizes evidence based practices in its set-up, in its phases, and in treatment. But we are also able to customize our program to fit the needs of the offenders that participate in the program that are also representative of the needs of our communities. The Drug Court Model works because it utilizes best practices focusing on Behavior Modification; Levels and Types of Specific Treatment; Weekly Judicial Review with Immediate Sanctions and Incentives; Intensive Supervision and Treatment; and Commitment of the Drug Court Team.

DRUG COURT: A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

HOPEWELL PRINCE GEORGE SURRY DRUG COURT

Drug Court Staff

The Honorable W. Edward Tomko

Susan O'Prandy Fierro

Rick Newman

Derek Davis

Sheriff Bucky Allin

Mary K. Martin

Bettina Coghill

Deputy Robert Vaughan

Dr. Jeff Jacobs

Contact your local
Commonwealth's
Attorney or the Drug
Court Coordinator for
more information.

Susan Fierro: 733-2790

Rick Newman: 541-2255

Derek Davis: 757-294-3118

Bettina Coghill: 733-2760



The Hopewell, Prince George, Surry Drug Court accepted its first participant into the program in 2002. Drug Courts nationwide have proven to reduce recidivism and save money; these are just two of the many benefits of treatment courts.

Who is the ideal Drug Court candidate?

- ◆ felony offense but current offense must not involve drug distribution, breaking and entering, or a felony act of violence
- ◆ drug or alcohol dependency
- ◆ non-violent criminal history without distribution conviction(s)
- ◆ resident of Hopewell, Prince George, or Surry; or
- ◆ resident of a jurisdiction that would not preclude defendant participation in the drug court requirements

Are there fees associated with participation?

- ◆ required Drug Court Clinical Evaluation is \$100 fee
- ◆ monthly fee of \$100 to \$150 for treatment costs

What else do I need to know?

- ◆ if the defendant has other pending criminal charges and is found eligible for Drug Court, his/her admission into the program may be deferred until all pending matters are concluded
- ◆ defendant's participation must be approved by the Commonwealth's Attorney of the locality wherein jurisdiction lies for prosecution of the charges
- ◆ minimum of 14 months long with defendant appearing in court as often as weekly
- ◆ defendant must gain employment, must attend nightly treatment groups, must comply with a nightly curfew, must submit to drug and alcohol testing
- ◆ defendant must pay restitution and court costs prior to conclusion of the program

