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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

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DRUG TREATMENT COURTS
MR. KOFI BARNES, CANADA

Drug Treatment Courts
- Canada



CICAD 50 Regular Session.
Buenos Aires, Argentina
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Mr. Justice Kofi Barnes – kofi.barnes@ocj-cjo.ca

Acknowledgements

™ This presentation quotes extensively from “Canadian DTCs by the numbers” prepared by the CADTCP National Evaluation Committee.

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The Problem



Untreated drug addiction
Recurring crime
Increasing costs
Compromised public safety

Recurring Crime

- ™ Recurring crime because of addiction to drugs
- ™ Jail alone not effective because drug addiction not treated effectively
- ™ Return to crime when released from jail
- ™ Increase supply of addicts for dealers

Doing nothing is expensive

- ™ Recurring victim/societal/ economic costs
- ™ Increasing law enforcement costs
- ™ Increasing court processing costs
- ™ Increasing jail costs
- ™ Increasing health care costs
- ™ Impacts on family etc.

A last resort

- ™ As many as 90% of DTC participants have a lengthy history of prior convictions; for example, in one Western Canadian DTC, participants had an average 24 prior convictions.**
- ™ Up to 70% of DTC clients suffer from depression or anxiety disorders, as well as their addiction, with many also having PTSD symptoms, and acute or chronic health needs.**

A last resort

- ™ In some jurisdictions, up to 95% of participants are unemployed upon entering the program, with 22% of participants reporting criminal activity as their sole source of income.**
- ™ 90% of participants tested on a level of risk inventory (LS/CMI) rated 'high' or 'very high' risk to reoffend.**

A last resort

- ™ In some courts, 75% of participants had unsuccessful treatment experiences prior to entering DTC.**
- ™ 86% or more of DTC participants began using drugs before their 18th birthday, with some starting as young as age 12.**

Not soft on crime

- ™ DTCs provide intensive treatment services, case management, and judicial supervision.**
- ™ Judge, prosecutor, defence lawyer, treatment provider, police, probation, ancillary treatment and service providers e.g. housing, job training etc. work together as a close team**
- ™ Provide intensive supervision – aim is to provide holistic rehabilitation without compromising public safety**

Not soft on crime

™ This multidisciplinary team adopts a non adversarial approach.

™ DTC participant most supervised non incarcerated criminal justice participant

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Not soft on Crime

™ DTC participants are released with a strict set of bail conditions, which include rules for curfew, living arrangements and limitations on people and places. In many cases, participants are subject to these conditions for a much longer period of time than their sentence would have been if they had not entered the program

Not soft on crime

- ™ Every week, DTC participants are required to attend court for 9-12 months or more.**
- ™ A series of smart sanctions and incentives are employed to encourage program compliance**
- ™ Residential treatment programs can last from 30 days to 6 months; some DTC programs provide 700 hours or more of outpatient treatment.**

Not soft on crime

- ™ DTC requires participants to provide random urine drug tests at least once or twice per week.**
- ™ To graduate, participants must: have an extended period of abstinence; have no new criminal charges; have stable housing; and be involved in pro-social activity such as employment, education or volunteer work.**

Not soft on crime

- ™ Successful completion of the Program results in a non custodial sentence.**
- ™ Aftercare services are provided to maintain post program completion success.**

Who gets in?

- ™ Low level offender**
- ™ Non violent or low violence offence**
- ™ Low level drug offence**
- ™ Low level non drug offence**
- ™ Drug addiction must be cause of criminal activity**

Reduces Crime

- ™ A western Canadian DTC tracked participants for up to 18 months after graduation; over half had remained entirely crime free.**
- ™ Providing criminogenic treatment in DTC helps clients change their criminal thinking patterns and can reduce recidivism by 70%.**

Reduces drug Use

- ™ One DTC reports frequency of drug use declining from an average of 28.5 days per month to only 0.8 days per month during participation in the program. Another in western Canada found about one-third of DTC participants remained clean and sober for a year or longer in the program.**

Reduces drug use

TM When a comparison was made between one DTC's participants and court-involved clients of a residential treatment program, 100% of the DTC participants were abstinent at follow-up compared to only 64% of those who had received addiction treatment, without the other supports and supervision of DTC

Saves money

TM A DTC in Ontario found that, in that city alone, DTC resulted in an annual reduction of \$3 Million spent on drugs. Criminal activity required to support that drug use (goods stolen and/or drugs trafficked) is estimated at another \$9M, for a total savings of approximately \$12M.

Saves money

- ™ Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone. (American Figures)**
- ™ When considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$12 for every \$1 invested. (American Figures)**

Saves lives

- ™ DTCs help reunite families. Approximately 50% of DTC participants re-establish a connection with supportive family members after entering the program.**
- ™ DTCs providing employment/education preparation services show impressive outcomes of up to 75% of participants moving on to educational or employment activities.**

Saves lives

™ At least 61% of participants enter DTC with acute or chronic health issues. At any given time as many as two-thirds of participants in some DTCs may be Hepatitis C positive. These issues are addressed through: onsite health services located in some DTCs; community health care partnerships; and intensive case management.

Saves lives

™ A western Canadian DTC administered Cantril's Life Ladder – a simple scale measuring clients' quality of life perceptions – with 1 as the worst, and 10 as the best life. Clients' satisfaction with their lives overall improved from an average score of 1.8 on admission to 7.8 at graduation.

In their own words

™ It's changed my life:

“Getting into this program saved my life. This program got me away from coke, which I thought I'd never be able to do. The program's awesome: really, it's changed my life.”

DTC Alumni

In their own words

– “It's a known fact: if it weren't for this program, I'd either be locked up for a really long time – and wouldn't have learned anything – or I'd be in a grave.”

DTC Alumni

In their own words

™ Since I started at Drug Court, I have seen a change in my health and wellbeing. I've gained weight. I feel healthier. I've noticed little things - now my fingernails grow. When you are living with active addiction, it just depletes your whole body of all nutrients and everything. It affects your hair, your fingernails, your skin; everything. A lot of people make the comment that I look healthy now.

™ DTC Alumni

Training

™ American research has shown that Drug Treatment Courts that participate in ongoing training are five times more effective than those Drug Treatment Courts that do not.

Training

- ™ Canadian Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals (CADTCP)**
- ™ Has access to Drug Treatment Court experts (Judges, lawyers, treatment providers, police officers, probation officers, researchers and evaluators etc.)**
- ™ Partners with national and international partners e.g. Organization of American States to deliver Drug Treatment Training and technical assistance around the world**

Partnerships with OAS

- ™ CADTCP – OAS training partnerships in 2011:**
- ™ Conference in Argentina - September 2011**
- ™ CICAD 50 Argentina – November 2011**
- ™ Drug Treatment Conference in Chile – November 2011**
- ™ Conference in Costa Rica – November/December 2011**

Partnerships with OAS

- ™ At least 170 practitioners trained in 2011:**
- ™ February 2011 in Jamaica – Jamaica has 2 Drug Treatment Courts**
- ™ October 2011 in Trinidad & Tobago – training delivered in partnership with practitioners from Jamaica, American University and the National Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals**
- ™ Trinidad & Tobago anticipates opening a Drug Treatment Court in June 2012**

Future cooperation

- ™ Areas of future potential cooperation between OAS and CADTCP include:**
- ™ Additional practitioner training sessions around the Americas as required.**
- ™ Assignment of CADTCP experts to help establish DTCs in OAS selected countries and sites**

Future cooperation

- ™ Facilitate on site training at selected Canadian DTCs for OAS member state practitioners selected and sponsored by OAS
- ™ Facilitate the participation of practitioners from OAS member states in CADTCP sponsored international Drug Treatment Court conferences example:
 - ™ February 29 – March 2012 in Toronto.
www.CADTCPconference.com

Future Cooperation

- ™ Provide experts to participate in discipline specific best practice workshops sponsored by OAS
- ™ Ongoing provision and contribution of DTC expertise to OAS member states as required.
- ™ Main OAS contact has been Mr. Antonio Lomba
- ™ Participant evaluations on training programs has been outstanding

Ongoing partnerships

- ™ CADTCP hopes to continue to provide DTC training and other technical assistance to countries around the world who require such assistance.**
- ™ CADTCP is committed to working together with reputable international organizations such as OAS to achieve this objective**