

Mission

The mission of the Trempealeau County Recovery Program is to protect our community by reducing repeat drug/alcohol crimes through a comprehensive team approach to assist offenders in overcoming addiction, thereby becoming productive citizens

Referrals and additional information can be obtained by contacting:

Patrick Bell, Justice Coordinator
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Or

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Monday thru Friday

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Trempealeau County



Recovery Court

What is Recovery Court?

Recovery Courts are built upon a unique partnership between the criminal justice system and the drug treatment community, one which structures treatment around the authority and personal involvement of a Recovery Court Judge. Recovery Courts are also dependent upon the creation of a non-adversarial courtroom atmosphere where a Judge and a dedicated treatment team of court officers and staff work together toward a common goal of breaking the cycle



There are many unique problems and opportunities that present themselves in working with drug-involved criminal offenders.

The following “evidence-based” strategies are recognized:

- Addicts are most vulnerable to successful intervention when they are in the crisis of initial arrest and incarceration, *so intervention must be immediate and up-front.*
- Preventing gaps in communication and ensuring offender accountability are critically important. *Therefore, court supervision must be highly coordinated & very comprehensive.*
- Addiction to drugs and alcohol is a longstanding, debilitating, and insidious condition, *so treatment must be long-term and comprehensive.*
- Addiction to drugs and alcohol seldom exists in isolation from other serious problems that undermine rehabilitation, *so treatment must include integration of other available services and resources such as educational and vocational assessment and assistance.*
- Relapse and intermittent advancement occur during the recovery process, *so progressive sanctions and incentives must be integral to the Recovery Court strategy.*

Key Components of a Recovery Court Program

- Each participant voluntarily signs a contract agreeing to the conditions of the Recovery Court Program.
- An individual treatment plan is written and updated as necessary.
- The Program is divided into four phases. Each participant moves to the next program phase when he or she completes the phase requirements and demonstrates a level of competency.
- Each participant is required to participate in alcohol/drug abuse treatment.
- Each participant is required to find employment and remain financially accountable.
- Periodic urinalysis (UA) tests are mandated parts of case planning.
- Random PBT (Preliminary Breathalyzer Tests) are mandated.
- Before each court appearance, the Recovery Court Team reviews the participant’s progress, addresses positive and negative behaviors and recommends to the Judge any incentives or sanctions.
- Recovery Court Participants appear before the Judge on a consistent basis.
- Participants may be expelled or suspended from the program if a violent offense is committed or if there is inadequate progress in the program phases.

Benefits of Recovery Court



For Recovery Court Participants:

- Recovery from Addiction
- Improved physical and mental health
- The opportunity for education and employment
- Improved Social/Family relationships
- The opportunity to become a productive member of society
- A favorable disposition to a court case (such as reduction or dismissal of charges)

For the Community:

- An improved work force
- Community Service hours
- Reduction in spread of substance abuse related medical problems (drug addicted babies, spread of diseases, AIDS, Hepatitis, etc.)
- Reduced medical costs
- Reduction in criminal behaviors

Recovery Court Team Members

Honorable Judge John A. Damon

District Attorney, Taavi McMahon

Justice Coordinator, Patrick Bell

Public Defender’s Office,

Christine Kuczynski

Trempealeau Co. Sheriff’s Department:

Joan Koval

Harlan Reinders

Probation and Parole, Brent Falkner

Behavioral Health Rep., Janet Butler

Trempealeau County Human Services,

Dee Ann Anderson