

FY19 Fairbanks Wellness Court Annual Report

Introduction

Mission - The mission of the Fairbanks Wellness Court is to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, and rehabilitate chemically dependent offenders through a program of intensive judicial supervision, substance abuse treatment, close monitoring and case management.

Target Population - The Fairbanks Wellness Court serves both 1) high risk probationers referred from the Fairbanks PACE Adult Probation program (Probation Accountability with Certain Enforcement), 2) felony DUI offenders with substance abuse issues that are 18 years old or older. Defendants charged with property crimes may also be considered if the offense is drug related. The court requires intensive out-patient treatment and is therefore designed to best serve those individuals whose prior attempts at treatment have been unsuccessful. In addition, due to the length and intensity of the court, it is beneficial for a participant to face significant jail time in regards to his/her current criminal charges. The participant must live in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Overview - The Fairbanks Wellness Court will use multiple models: diversion; post-plea, pre-adjudication; and probation revocation. Each participant is required to plead guilty to the charge(s) at the beginning of the program and sentencing is delayed until the participant graduates, is discharged or opts-out. The plea agreement provides for two alternate sentences: a more favorable sentence if the participant graduates and a less favorable (regular court) sentence if the participant is discharged or opts-out.

Eligibility Criteria –

A. An individual is not eligible to apply to the FWC if:

1. He/she is currently charged with an unclassified felony, a class A felony, an offense under AS 11.41, defined as an offense against the person, or an offense involving drug distribution;
2. He/she has criminal history that includes any prior drug distribution history or he/she has ever been convicted in a homicide case;
3. He/she has an outstanding felony warrant and detainer from another state; or
4. His/her date of offense was more than 4 months prior to the date the FWC application is submitted

B. An individual is eligible to apply to the FWC if:

1. He/she currently has a PTR out of PACE and has been referred to the FWC
2. He/she is currently charged with a felony DUI or felony Refusal or a misdemeanor DUI or misdemeanor Refusal that is attached to a non-violent class C felony-offense that is drug or alcohol related
3. He/she has other cases where there is a clear drug nexus as negotiated
4. He/she is 18-years-old or older
5. The situs of the alleged crime was within the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Alaska
6. He/she resides in the Fairbanks North Star Borough; and
7. His/her date of offense was less than 4 months prior to the date the FWC application is submitted
8. He/she has not previously participated more than once in a drug or therapeutic court

C. All Applicants shall be screened based on the following standards:

1. An applicant's Substance Use Disorder assessment must meet DSM-V criteria for substance use disorder, moderate or severe.
2. An applicant must be clinically manageable in an intensive outpatient program.
3. If the Applicant meets the criteria for substance abuse withdrawal, he/she must be manageable with outpatient detoxification and he/she will be referred to such services by the FWC Team.
4. If the Applicant meets criteria for withdrawal and is determined to need withdrawal management or inpatient care, his/her admission into the FWC may be deferred until such time necessary when treatment is complete.
5. Any applicant with known physical and/or cognitive impairment that will impede his/her ability to participate in the program without significant program modifications will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
6. An applicant prescribed benzodiazepines, amphetamines, sleep aids, medical marijuana or opiate/Opioid-based medications will generally not be allowed to participate in the program. Alternative options will be explored on a case-by-case basis prior to allowing admission to the program
7. An applicant must be assessed as **medium/high** risk/needs based on the current risk assessment tool (Level of Service Inventory Revised). Therapeutic Court programs approve low risk individuals on a case by case basis.

Current Team

Judge: Judge Hammers(DUI/Drug), Judge Christian(DUI), Judge Seekins (Drug)

Court Coordinator: Amy Bollaert

Treatment representative: Pacific Rim Counseling Agency

Probation Officer: Montie Ford resigned March 2019, Leah Tupper started May 2019

Prosecutor: DA Olson retired April 2019, ADA David Leonard started January 2019 and DA Dallaire May 2019

Defense Counsel: Amy Bennett, Rachel Duvlea, Diana Wildland

Law Enforcement: Fairbanks Police Officer Doug Welborn

PART A: Meeting Goals & Objectives

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To enhance public safety, reduce recidivism/re-arrest and incarceration rates by reducing criminal behavior/recidivism among participating offenders

Goal 2: To reduce the costs associated with re-arrest, criminal case processing, and incarceration of FWC participants

Goal 3: Using evidence-based practices, the Fairbanks Wellness Court enhances participants' well-being and promotes self-sufficiency while they reside in the community and rebuild their lives.

Goal 4: Conduct outreach and work with the Therapeutic Courts Office and Communications Counsel to inform the public about the benefits of therapeutic courts

Goal 5: Complete and document an annual team review of the Therapeutic Court's Policies and Procedures, Client Contract and Client Handbook

Goal 6: Conduct team trainings needed to assure that best practices are being utilized in the implementation of the therapeutic courts

Retention & Utilization Rates

Goal 2: To reduce the costs associated with re-arrest, criminal case processing, and incarceration of FWC participants

| Fairbanks Wellness Court - Capacity 30 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Annual Statistics Comparison FY18-19 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | General Statistics | | % Referrals Who Initially Opted In | | % Initial Opt-Ins Who Returned to Regular Court | | % Initial Opt-Ins Who Signed Rule 11s | | % Types of Discharges | |
| | FY18 | FY19 | FY18 | FY19 | FY18 | FY19 | FY18 | FY19 | FY18 | FY19 |
| # Total Participants | 37 | 32 | | | | | | | | |
| # Referrals | 23 | 44 | | | | | | | | |
| # Initial Opt-Ins | 23 | 44 | 100% | 100% | | | | | | |
| # Returns to Regular Court | 10 | 29 | | | 43% | 66% | | | | |
| # Formal Opt-Ins/Rule 11s | 13 | 10 | | | | | 57% | 23% | | |
| # Opt-Outs After Formal Opt-In | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | 7% | 0% |
| # Graduates | 11 | 11 | | | | | | | 79% | 79% |
| # Discharges | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | 14% | 21% |
| % Average 12 Month Utilization | 100% | 75% | | | | | | | | |

The FWC is meeting the annual utilization rate of 75% or greater. The average annual utilization for FWC is at 75%. There were 44 referrals made for the FWC: 29 by the PDs, 3 from OPA, 2 from OCC, 10 from private attorneys, and no referrals by the DAs. 10 of the 44 referrals (23%) formally opted into FWC. The remaining 34 (77%) are under the following categories:

- **6-** In the screening/application stage of FWC
- **1-** Approved, but absconded after release from FCC. Warrant was issued.
- **3-** Withdrew application. Completed change of plea.
- **4-** Denied without prejudice:
 - Attempts to contact for assessments were unsuccessful or did not show for appointments
 - Needed a 3.5 level of care with co-occurring capabilities
 - Needed to finish current jail sentence
- **20-** Vetoed by the DAs for the following reasons:
 - Criminal history
 - Current charges or pending charges of additional cases
 - No clear drug nexus or lack of substance use history
 - Victim in case was not supportive of applicant entering a therapeutic court

Over a year ago the FWC expanded to admit defendants with drug histories or charges, so the amount of referrals have doubled over the past fiscal year with a few re-applying after completing residential treatment, providing mental health assessments, and letters of reconsideration. None of these applicants were reconsidered for a final review due to the DA veto provided on their original application.

Those approved for formal opt-in took an average of 64 total days in the application process. There were 21 LSIR's completed taking an average of 22 days to complete with scores averaged at 30 (medium risk) and 16 substance abuse assessments completed taking an average of 17 days to complete. According to the FWC flow chart a referral to formal opt-in should take no more than 42 days and applicants assessed for a level of supervision and treatment and are to be scheduled within 1-5 days of the initial opt-in and completed within 7 days of their appointment.

For the applicants who were able to proceed at some juncture in their application process, a variety of other services were completed and/or maintained by the PO/CM pending their level of supervision needs. All participants attended orientation and treatment intake within 1 day of their formal opt-in. They also receive intense supervision in various forms such as field visits, meetings in the community, and office-based meetings to provide case management and verify their community-based activities.

There were 828 supervision services provided to 12 applicants and 32 participants during FY19.

| Service Provided | Total # Participants Needing Services | Total # Services Completed |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Case Plan Update | 32 | 25 |
| Expanded Case Plan | 32 | 2 |
| Field Visit | 44 | 73 |
| Financial Budget/Meeting Plan | 32 | 49 |
| Orientation/Initial Case Plan | 10 | 10 |
| LSI-R Score | 44 | 32 |
| Meeting with Case Manager | 44 | 583 |
| Sponsor Check | 32 | 55 |

Field visits, budgets/financial meetings, sponsor checks, and meetings with the PO/CM are expectedly high counts due to the frequency of need based on participant's phase in the program and team approval for any structure changes within a phase. With an average of 22 participants during FY19, 73 field visits (average of 3 field visits per participant per FY) were conducted. Of the 73 field visits there were 60 (82%) unannounced home visits, 7 (10%) announced home visits, and 6 (8%) field visits to work, school, and other community agencies.

Expanded case plans and case plan updates are below the average of consistency because of the unstaffed PO/CM position and priority being placed on other supervision areas while other staff filled in for the position. LSI-R scores are also below 100% because not all applicants are approved to continue with assessments.

Participant Sobriety & Graduation

Goal 3: Using evidence-based practices, the Fairbanks Wellness Court enhances participants' well-being and promotes self-sufficiency while they reside in the community and rebuild their lives.

Over the past fiscal year there have been 5 participants referred for mental health services. Referrals were made to Fairbanks Community Mental Health (FCMH), Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and 2 private agencies that provide services on a sliding fee scale. All 5 participants have Medicaid and Indian Health Services, but have been on waitlists for mental health services for over 6 months. This has been a continuous struggle for our participants who need services and are unable to have their needs met in a timely manner. For those who have been referred for services and are waitlisted, PRC has offered services for a reduced financial amount to cover any needs until a provider becomes available.

Other referral services include Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Department of Labor (DOL) for employment and education services, The Re-Entry Coalition, or now known as the Fairbanks Reentry Center, for housing and case management, The Bridge for peer support and employment services, and Partners For Progress for housing and other emergent needs. Partners For Progress assisted with rental requests, mandatory No Alcohol Restricted Identification Cards, medical appointment transportation outside of Fairbanks, and a utility bill after all other options in Fairbanks had been exhausted.

Participants applied for rental assistance and housing through the following programs and were not able to receive assistance:

- Section 8 and the housing voucher program have over a 2 year waitlist
- TBRA is only eligible through a Department of Corrections (DOC) referral, which our participants are not eligible since they are not under DOC supervision
- Salvation Army is out of housing funds
- TCC housing and emergent funds are not available or participants did not meet the eligibility criteria
- Low income housing is not an option for our participants when they have a felony on their record

1 participant received rental assistance while on short term medical leave and unable to work and attending school for their GED. Assistance totaled \$2,712.50. 2 participants received funding for a State of Alaska / Division of Motor Vehicles photo identification card, with "NO ALCOHOL" labeled on the card. Assistance totaled: \$100.00. 1 participant had medical appointments in Anchorage and Medicaid was unable to assist with cab vouchers in time for the emergent appointments over the course of 2 days. Transportation assistance totaled \$74.00. 1 participant requested assistance with his electric bill. He was incarcerated for a period of time due to sanctions, already behind on personal bills, and lost his employment. Utility bill totaled \$190.06. A total of \$3,076.56 was granted for participants for the past fiscal year.

At times participants still need additional structure and behavior modifications even though they receive community supervision, treatment services, court structure, and referrals for additional services. There were 105 sanctions and 496 incentives during FY19 with the average length of time between behavior and sanction being 7 days. Two factors of this is the wait-time with Redwood lab results (date of UA test taken until the date results were confirmed) or a sanctionable behavior happening on a week there were no status hearings. Although the FWC is consistent with the wait time between behavior and sanction, 7 days can make the difference with a participant's phase change or graduation date.

The average number of days to graduate FWC is 644 days (approximately a little over 21 months). The contributing factors that have delayed a participant's time in the FWC would be noncompliance with program rules, noncompliance with phase requirements in order to move to the next phase and/or graduate, or lack of follow-through with additional recommendations. Out of the 34 active participants there were 16 (47%) who received a sanction of phase or graduation delay with 9 who were sanctioned for positive UA's, refusals, or tampering with their UA. Those 9 sanctioned relapsed more than once, but 7 of the 9 had 90 consecutive days of sobriety by the end of their first year in the program.

One of the contributing factors to the success of participant sobriety is the treatment services provided. PRC provides fidelity to the Matrix Model, but once a relapse, or slip, has occurred they have provided additional services when needed.

| Contact Hours | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total FY19 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Individual appointments | 68 | 59 | 36 | 50 | 213 |
| Group | 526 | 468.5 | 398.5 | 387.5 | 1780.5 |
| Co-joint | 10 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 28 |
| Family group | 69 | 58.5 | 30 | 22.5 | 180 |
| Totals: | 673 | 594 | 468.5 | 466 | |

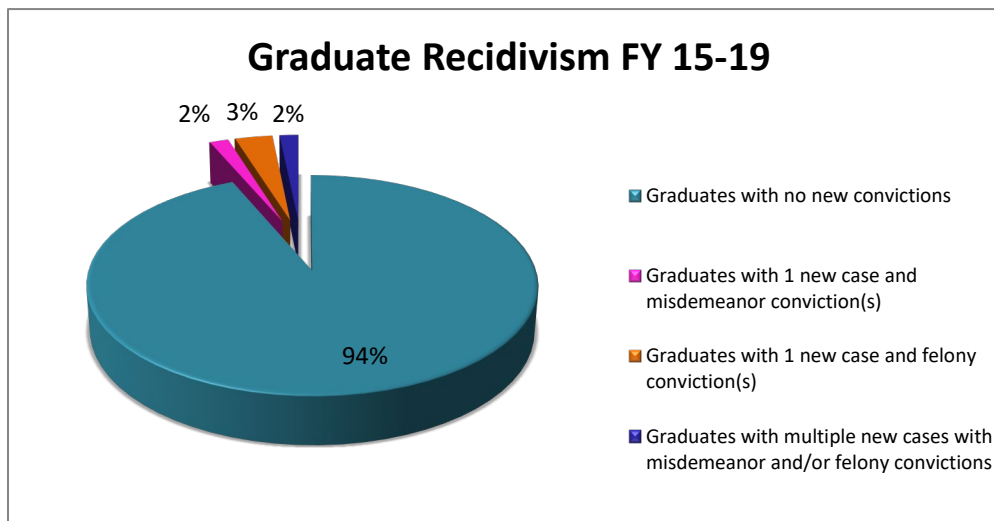
After all resources and services have been exhausted, there will be participants who will not complete FWC. 11 participants (79%) graduated and 3 participants (21%) did not complete their program pursuant to their Rule 11 agreements "[d]ischarge from the program may occur if progressive sanctions have previously been ordered and treatment adjustments have been made, but the judge concludes that the defendant...(v) provides excessive positive, diluted, or missed drug test samples; or (vi) will not be able to make regular progress in the Wellness court program because the defendant requires resources or services that the Wellness court program cannot provide." All 3 discharged participants were heavily engaged in treatment.

When participants exit FWC surveys are retained. There were 9 surveys collected out of the 14 participants who graduated, opted-out, or were discharged. According to the 9 exit surveys received for the calendar year 2018, 100% of participants that graduate the FWC are in safe and sober housing. 63% of participants entered the program unemployed with 75% leaving employed. 25% were exiting the program with an income increase and 63% at no change. 1 participant had a child in OCS custody and was able to regain parental custody during their participation in FWC. 75% of participants already had their GED or high school diploma before entering the court and 13% were enrolled in an educational program. This leaves a 12% gap of participants exiting FWC with no GED or actively enrolled in an education program. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), tribal DVR through

TCC and Literacy Council have been recommended to all participants if applicable when entering FWC with an average of 37% participants using their services. Communication with participants in the early stages of their case plans needs to be discussed further and more frequently for a clear successful path to ensure all participants are graduating with a GED or high school diploma. Referrals with collaborating agencies on the short-term and long-term goals also need to be reviewed for consistency and follow-through.

Recidivism

Goal 1: To enhance public safety, reduce recidivism/re-arrest and incarceration rates by reducing criminal behavior/recidivism among participating offenders



| | Number of Graduates | Percentage of Total Graduates |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Graduates with no new convictions | 58 | 94% |
| Graduates with 1 new case and misdemeanor conviction(s) | 1 | 2% |
| Graduates with 1 new case and felony conviction(s) | 2 | 3% |
| Graduates with multiple new cases with misdemeanor and/or felony convictions | 1 | 2% |
| Total graduates with new cases & criminal convictions | 4 | 6% |
| Graduates with new DUI convictions (included in number above) | 3 | 5% |
| Total graduates FY14-18 | 62 | 100% |
| Total graduates FY14-18 | 62 | 79% |
| Total non-graduates (discharges, opt-outs) FY14-18 | 16 | 21% |
| Total graduates & non-graduates FY14-18 | 78 | 100% |

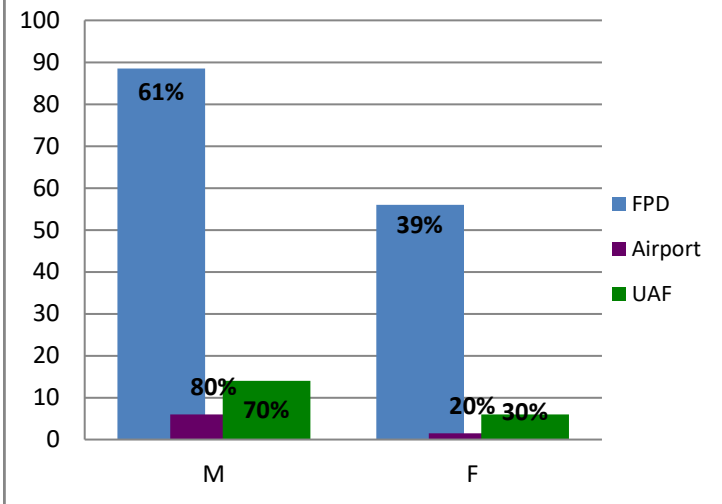
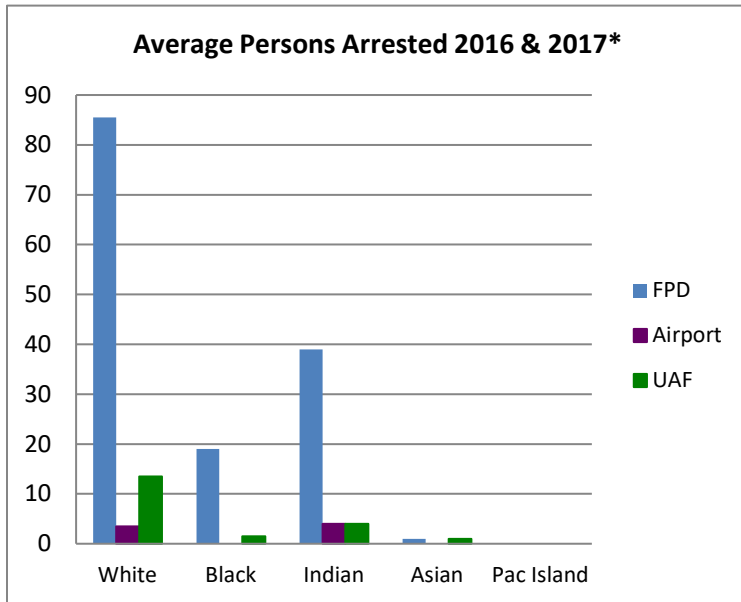
Recidivism outcomes

The recidivism rates post-program participation over the past 5 years has slightly changed from the last year's annual report. There was a decrease in the number of graduates by 5 participants, but the percentage of graduates with no new convictions has increased from 74% to 94%. The new cases and criminal convictions continue to remain low, but have increased by 1%. Probation violations (PTRP's) were not counted as new criminal convictions in this data set, but have been accounted for in the data. This information can be produced if requested.

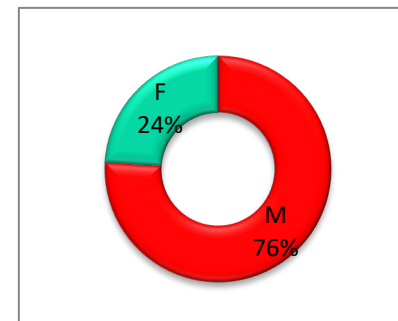
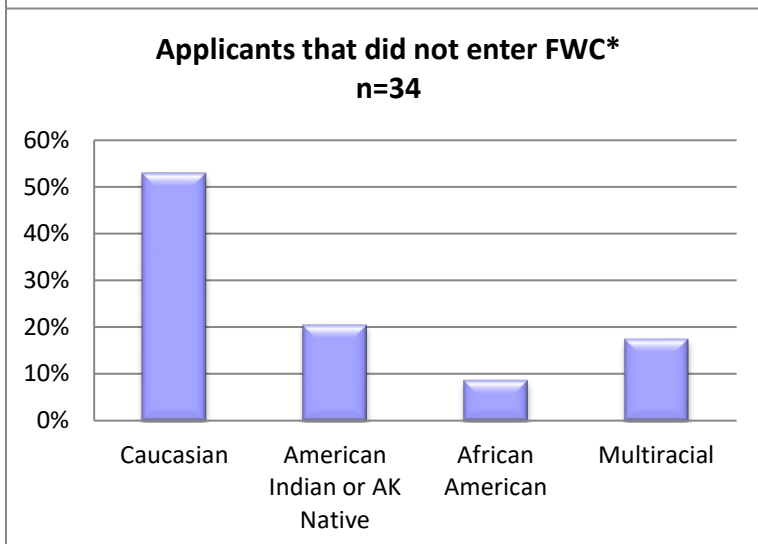
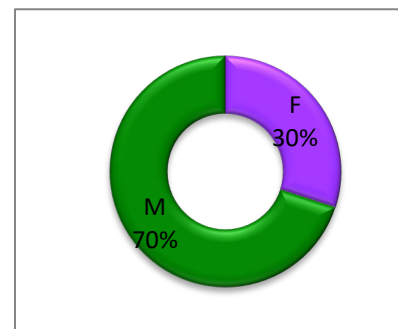
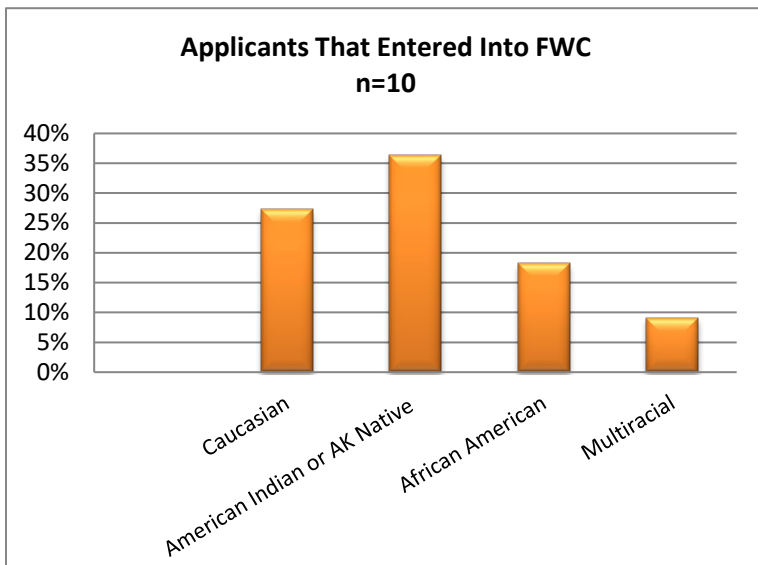
The FWC has remained consistent with the total number of graduates ranging between 79% - 80% and non-graduates ranging between 21% - 20% from last fiscal year. Even though this is positive to have a large amount graduating, it is also a concern that there was an increase in non-graduates. Understandably a small increase is not a major concern, but one to watch while the FWC moves forward with the integration of drug court participants and working on maintaining a full capacity court.

PART B: Demographic Comparisons

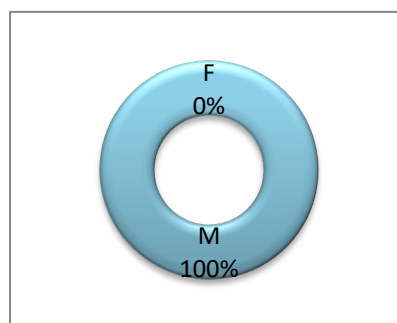
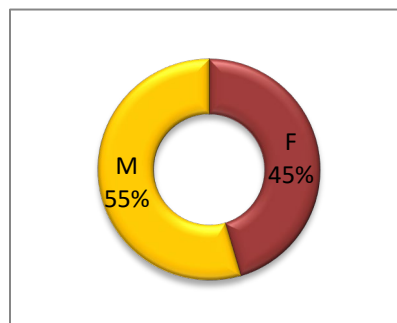
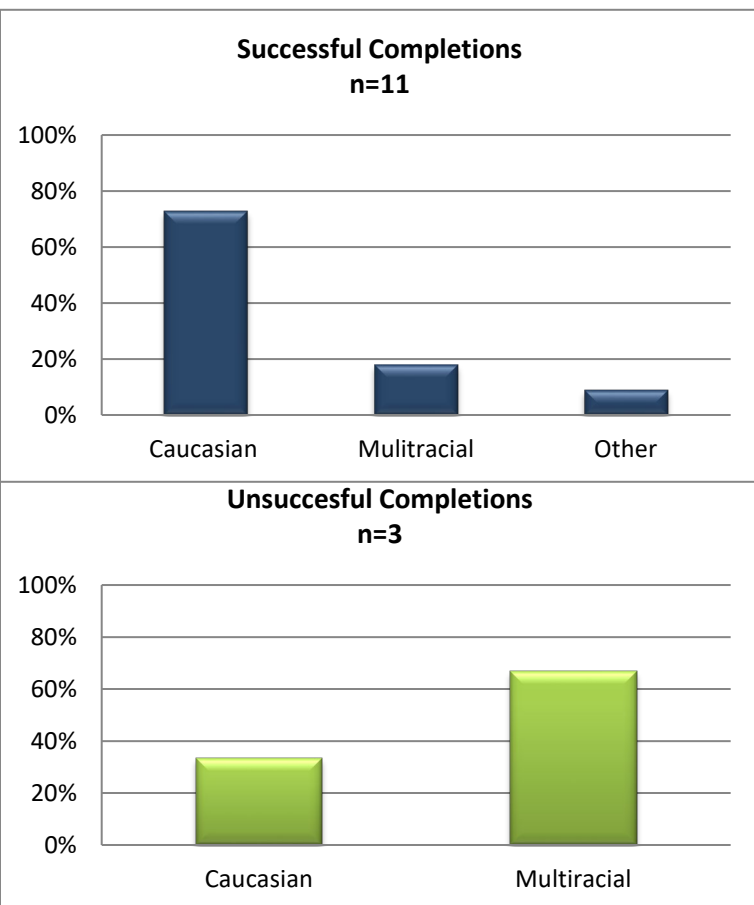
HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS: Citizens who have historically experienced sustained discrimination or reduced social opportunities because of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, physical or mental disability, religion, or socioeconomic status receive the same opportunities as other citizens to participate and succeed in the Drug Court – National Standards for Adult Drug Courts.



*Data is from the 2016 & 2017 Uniform Crime Reporting Program and is specific to Driving Influence Offenses only. AST was not included due to representing statewide data, NPPD did not provide data.



*This number includes pending applicants



There are no concerns that stand out when comparing

The data set for unsuccessful completions is too small for comparison purposes, but the goal is to decrease this minimal amount if possible.

PART C: Policies & Procedures, Participant Handbook

Goal 5: Complete and document an annual team review of the Therapeutic Court's Policies and Procedures, Client Contract and Client Handbook

| Policy | Implementation | Reviewed / Revised |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Mission Statement | Dec 2006 | 2008, Jul 2010, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Mar 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Structure/Model | July 2015 | Mar 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Target Population | July 2015 | Mar 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Goals and Objectives | Sept 2016 | Dec 2017, Apr 2019 |
| Participant Eligibility Criteria | Dec 2006 | 2008, Jul 2010, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Feb 2016, Sept 2016, Dec 2017, Dec 2018 |
| Disqualification & Discharge Criteria | July 2010 | Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Apr 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Admission | 2008 | Jul 2010, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Feb 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Participant Orientation | July 2010 | Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Apr 2016, Dec 2017, Jan 2019 |
| Supervision | 2008 | Jul 2010, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Oct 2015, Apr 2016, Sept 2016, Mar 2017, Dec 2017, Jun 2018, Dec 2018 |
| Treatment | Dec 2006 | 2008, Jul 2010, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Feb 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Medication Assisted Treatment | Sept 2016 | Dec 2017 |
| Medication Use and Monitoring for Active Participants | Jan 2019 | |
| Phase Criteria | Aug 2010 | Jul 2015, Apr 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Drug and Alcohol Testing | Dec 2006 | 2008, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Mar 2016, Sept 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Sanctions and Incentives | Aug 2010 | Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Mar 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Confidentiality / Ethics | Dec 2010 | 2008, Aug 2010, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Apr 2016, Apr 2017, Dec 2017 |
| Records Maintenance | Aug 2010 | Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Apr 2016, Dec 2017, Apr 2019 |
| Multi-Disciplinary Team Training, Cross | Aug 2010 | Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Mar 2016, Sept 2016, Dec 2017 |

| | | |
|--|-----------|---|
| Training and Continuing Education | | |
| Multi-Disciplinary Team | Dec 2006 | 2008, Jul 2010, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Mar 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Status Hearings | Aug 2010 | Mar 2015, Mar 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Memorandum of Understanding | July 2015 | Oct 2015, Apr 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Program Evaluation/Data Collection | Dec 2006 | 2008, Aug 2010, Dec 2012, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Apr 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Discretionary Funds | July 2010 | Dec 2012, Jul 2014, Mar 2015, Jul 2015, Mar 2016, Sept 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Cultural Competency & Diversity | Aug 2010 | Mar 2015, Apr 2016, Dec 2017 |
| Victims' Rights | Aug 2010 | Mar 2015, Apr 2016, Dec 2017 |

Administrative meetings are held once a quarter on a Thursday afternoon before pre-meet and status hearings. Using the pre-arraigned block of time keeps scheduling consistent with the Judges and doesn't take additional time from other team member commitments. The increase of meetings has been helpful when reviewing administrative paperwork and providing information to the team. The meetings have also been cut back from 3 ½ hours to 1 ½ hours which doesn't leave a lot of time for training and policy work, but all agenda items are provided to team members at least a month in advance and are sent weekly thereafter until the meeting date in hopes everyone comes prepared and ready to review or provide suggestions.

The recent revised version of the policies and procedures was completed on April 11, 2019 in order to maintain compliance with our goals and national standards. Collaboration with Anchorage and Palmer Wellness along with the Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) program Courts helped guide some of the policy work and language. The Participant Handbook was also revised on April 30, 2019 to reflect current court practices.

(Goal 5: Objectives 1, 2)

PART D: Team Members, Training Plans

Goal 6: Conduct team trainings needed to assure that best practices are being utilized in the implementation of the therapeutic courts

Team training webinars are watched during administrative meetings and articles are sent out on a regular basis. Although the training plan looks like we are maintaining, webinars and articles are not comparable to an interactive training. Webinars are not watched by all team members as suggested and time does not permit for more than 1 hour of webinars during administrative meetings. During this fiscal year there has been over 50% in team member turnover. It has been requested that interactive training become priority for the FWC team and should include alternate team members as well. Interactive team training also opens opportunities to ask questions, network with others in a specific team role, assist with productive conversations, and most importantly team cohesiveness. Team training plan and spreadsheets are attached for more details.

(Goal 6: Objectives 1, 2)

PART E: Outreach

Goal 4: Conduct outreach and work with the Therapeutic Courts Office and Communications Counsel to inform the public about the benefits of therapeutic courts

The following outreach was made in order to show positive community support, learn and expand our referral and resources, and to provide information to new agencies, coalitions, and organizations.

- One day training was held for all participants. The day consisted of information on employment, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's), resiliency, Question Persuade Refer (QPR) suicide prevention, nutrition, and community resources. Professionals within the Fairbanks community ranging from a naturopathic doctor, a psychiatrist, a State of Alaska Department of Labor employee, University of Alaska staff, and a University of Alaska practicum student volunteered their time to present information and referral services.
- Judge Hammers and the Project Coordinator met with retired Judge Rhoades and the Reentry Coalition Coordinator Linda Setterberg to discuss local mental health options and future possibilities.
- PO Ford and the Project Coordinator presented information on the FWC at the Fairbanks Correctional Center (FCC). Updated applications, introductions, and eligibility criteria were presented along with a question and answer portion at the end.
- The Project Coordinator assisted with the Fairbanks Wellness Coalition booth during the Tanana Valley Fair. The Fairbanks Wellness Coalition represents various sectors in the Fairbanks North Star Borough who provide education and prevention efforts on suicide, prescription opioid misuse, and heroin use in teens and young adults.
- The Project Coordinator met with a local mental health counselor to discuss the possibility of collaborating services.
- PRC Counselor Max Todhunter attends the monthly Fairbanks Opioid Workgroup.

- The Project Coordinator attended the Fairbanks Symposium on Homelessness which explored the possibilities of developing a local Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team or a local Intensive Case Management (ICM) team in Fairbanks.
- The Project Coordinator attended the Gateway to Recovery open house.
- The Project Coordinator assisted with National Drug Take Back Day.
- The Project Coordinator and PRC Clinical Director Kira Hansen attended The Bridge open house.
- The Project Coordinator attended the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition meeting.

The FWC Alumni have been active in participating and hosting a variety of events. They attend weekly status hearings in court, monthly coffee groups, various community outreach and fundraising, host monthly sober activities, and mentor participants. The alumni group stability is still a work in progress, but the strength in the active participation has been a success.

- **July** - The Alumni and phase III sober activity in July was floating the Chena River in canoes and rafts which was attended by fourteen alumni, phase III participants, and family.
- **August** - The Project Coordinator and Alumni met with Captain Walters and Volunteer Coordinator Heidi Fulton of the Salvation Army to extend appreciation for their generous donations over the past year and to inquire about how the FWC can collaborate with volunteering efforts in the future. Six alumni and participants held a coffee group to plan for their National Recovery event in September. The 'Reality Check - Life as a Felon' outreach panel provided another session this month to individuals with second misdemeanor convictions referred by the FASAP program. There were five people in attendance.
- Participants and alumni held an awareness event in **September** for National Recovery Month. Over fifty participants, alumni, and community members had a participated in a 5K walk/run, a barbeque afterward to share personal stories and successes in sobriety, and disbursed eighty bags of essential clothing and toiletries for those in need.
- **October** – The 'Reality Check - Life as a Felon' outreach panel provided another session this month to individuals with second misdemeanor convictions referred by the FASAP program. There were five people in attendance.
- **November** – Alumni hosted a Thanksgiving potluck dinner for Fairbanks Wellness Court participants and their families, friends, and sober supports. Sixty-three people attended including five Alumni. Thirteen Alumni and participants held a coffee group to plan their Christmas event in December.
- **December** – Phase III participants hosted a Christmas treats & presents party for all participants, alumni, supports, and their children. Fifty-seven people attended including four alumni. The 'Reality Check - Life as a Felon' outreach panel provided another session this month to individuals with second misdemeanor convictions referred by the FASAP program. There were four people in attendance. Alumni hosted their first nutrition cooking competition. Two FWC participants cooked nutritional and budget friendly meals and had them judged by volunteers who attended the event. This cooking competition was the first event that participants could attend voluntarily and was put together solely by FWC alumni. There were eight people in attendance.
- Ten alumni and participants held a coffee group in **January** to plan for their activity in February.
- **February** - Twenty-five alumni, participants and their families, friends, and sober supports attended an evening of bowling.
- **March** - The 'Reality Check - Life as a Felon' outreach panel provided another session this month to individuals with second misdemeanor convictions referred by the FASAP program. There were twelve people in attendance. Fifteen alumni and participants also held two coffee groups to plan for their Alcohol Awareness Event in April.
- **April** - The 'Reality Check - Life as a Felon' outreach panel provided another session this month to individuals with second misdemeanor convictions referred by the FASAP program. There were ten people in attendance. Alumni and phase 3 participants partnered with Stone's Throw to host an Italian dinner cooked and served by participants to raise awareness for Alcohol Awareness Month and fundraise for other FWC events throughout the year. Approximately forty-seven community members attended to show their support. An alumni and phase 3 participant shared information about therapeutic court and their personal stories on Interior Scope, a local iheart radio broadcast.
- **May** - Phase III participants and Fairbanks Wellness Court Alumni hosted their annual picnic in celebration of National Drug Court month for all of the Fairbanks Wellness Court participants and their family, friends, and sober supports. Sixty-seven people attended including nine Alumni and six FWC team members.
- **June** - Seven alumni and participants held a coffee group to plan for their July activity.

FY19 Donations included:

- The Fairbanks Police Department donated 7 bicycles over the past year for participants
- United Way donated well over 60 gifts for children at the Christmas Celebration
- River City Café donated gift cards ranging from \$5-\$10 for participant incentives and drawings
- Anonymous monetary donations to help pay for various events and supplies totaling \$551.81

- Alaska Club donated a 2 day gold pass for the Alcohol Awareness Event (\$300 value)
- Sunshine Health Food donated a \$30 gift card for the Alcohol Awareness Event

Outreach efforts have been successful and have been an asset when referring participants for services and information gathering. With continued efforts it is anticipated that services may be obtained sooner for participants entering the FWC in emergent need.

PART G: Summary

FY 19 has brought many changes and challenges to the FWC. With the influx of applications doubling over the past fiscal year it is clear how important it is to maintain timelines, deadlines, and consistent communication within each agency and within the team. The FWC normally maintains the court between 90%-100% capacity, but due to team staff shortages and turnover FY19 maintained between 60%-87%. It is clear that the application process cannot run efficiently without some sort of transition plan or consistency within agencies. During the increase of referrals the DA's office went through staff changes and the FWC had 3 different attorneys at any given time, Pacific Rim Counseling (PRC) had a reduction in staff, and the PO/CM resigned with that position remaining unfilled for over 3 months. Once an attorney was assigned and the PO/CM position was filled, PRC still remained a counselor short, and referrals were being processed at a higher rate which created a bottleneck between the initial intake date and final review date.

Another piece to work on is decreasing the number of non-graduations and recidivism. Recidivism within the FWC has had little fluctuation considering the small date set, but every participant counts and their outcome(s) depend on all of us working towards a common goal. 78 participants exited the FWC between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2019. Of the 78 participants who exited the FWC, 62 (79%) participants have graduated, 3 of the 62 (4%) recidivated with an additional felony DUI charge, and 1 of the 78 (1%) voluntarily opted-out. Although no participants were terminated from the program due to excessive drug test failures, unsuccessful discharges exceeded the objective by 6%. It is possible to decrease the number of discharges with earlier supervision and therapeutic interventions and expanding sanction options. There is a small increase in unsuccessful discharges, but this will optimistically decrease with changes to treatment standards and team practices documented in the revised goals and objectives.

Discussions and training will need to occur on how the team can achieve cohesiveness and 'buy-in' on certain issues such as policy changes, screening referrals, and understanding of the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts and The Guiding Principles of DWI Courts.

A success to FWC is the consistent outreach to new agencies and fostering current partnerships by FWC team members, Alumni, and participants. Not only have monetary, product and service donations been an inspiring addition to the FWC, but our referral resources have expanded to other agencies such as OPA, OCC, and new private attorney's as well. Credit should also be given to the active Fairbanks Alumni community. While they are a small group, they are providing a positive impact on future alumni by participating in weekly status hearings, hosting monthly sober activities, and demonstrating dependable positive relationships within the recovery community.

PART H: Judge's Comments

This has been a particularly challenging year for the Fairbanks Wellness Court. The community as a whole continues to experience significant levels of crime relating to both the opioid crisis and other controlled substances. The number of cases being referred to the program appears likely to continue increasing over time. The number of cases being vetoed by the State appears to be on the rise as well. The program has experienced significant turnover. Multiple changes in the assigned attorneys have occurred. The probation officer position remaining unfilled for an extended period and was extremely difficult to compensate for. Although the program has weathered this stormy year and appears to still be a success, a new team will take time and effort to settle into place. This would be an ideal time for some form of extended training that involved the entire team.

Judge Seekins