DRUG TREATMENT COURTS IN THE CARIBBEAN

CICAD 48 REGULAR SESSION,
Washington D.C. December 2010

Her Honor Stephane Haisley, Presiding Judge of the Kingston Drug Treatment Court, Jamaica

Drug Treatment Courts Program in the Caribbean. Mr. Antonio Lomba, CICAD

Organización de los Estados Americanos
Drug Treatment Courts have proved to provide an effective answer to four major problems, as they contribute to:

- Reduce crime
- Reduce drug recidivism
- Reduce prison population
- And last but not least, they are cost-effective

DTC AMERICAS PROGRAM

Awareness
Individual exchange visits
Training
Information systems
Drug treatment courts implementation
Accreditation and quality of treatment services
Drug screening
Product and Impact evaluation (quality assurance)
CONCRETE ACTIONS November 2010 – April 2011

Main activities:
• Creation of Task Forces (Judge, Prosecutor, Probation Officer, Treatment Specialist, etc...)
• Develop strategic action plans (commitment and shared responsibility from beneficiary countries and institutions)
• Curriculum Development for capacity building (training) in two selected countries (one being Jamaica)
• Create training teams (at least three people per profile from Canada)
• Training (face-to-face)

Potential Beneficiary countries: Jamaica, Barbados, Bahamas, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Lucia;

This initiative is being executed under the umbrella of OAS’s DTC-Americas Initiative. DTC-Caribbean is being carried out by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of the American States (OAS) and funded by through the Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP), and administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Some strategic partners: Canadian Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals (CADTC) and the International Association of Drug Treatment Courts (IADTC).
We are aware of the impact that Drug Courts have had on the reduction of crime and the rate of recidivism among offenders, the reduction of the prison population and the resulting cost effective benefits and we recognize that this can have a tremendous impact on the improvement of our Justice System.

We welcome the interest in organizing a training workshop in Jamaica. This will provide capacity building for professionals who work in the Drug Treatment Courts and will serve to make such courts more effective. We believe that the concept of training Drug Court teams will facilitate the creation of new Drug Courts in other parts of the Island and we endorse this.

We look forward to working with the OAS to make this venture a reality as we are committed to improving our Justice System in all areas.”

Zaila McCalla, O.J. Chief Justice of Jamaica

- Relevant Statutes
- Therapeutic Jurisprudence
- DTC Eligibility requirements
- DTC Roles
- Treatment Centers
- Termination
- Challenges and Solutions
### Relevant Statutes

The Drug Court is a creature of Statute

- The Drug Court (Treatment and Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act, 1999
- The Drug Court (Treatment and Rehabilitation of Offenders) Regulations, 2000

### Objects of the Act

Section 3 of the Act provides that the objects are to

(a) reduce the incidence of drug use and dependence by persons whose criminal activities are found to be linked to such dependence;
(b) reduce the level of criminal activity that results from drug abuse;
(c) provide such assistance to those persons as will enable them to function as law-abiding citizens.
**Therapeutic Jurisprudence**

**Drug Court apply the principle of Therapeutic Jurisprudence**
- Therapeutic jurisprudence is a perspective that regards the law as a social force that produces behaviours and consequences.
- Therapeutic jurisprudence affords us an opportunity to look at the law in a richer and fuller way.
- Encourages us to see what therapeutic agents we can use to bring about change.
- Encourages us to look at innovative ways to solve problems and to see whether the law can be made or applied in a more therapeutic way so long as other values such as justice and due process can be fully respected.
- It is based on a new paradigm of restoration and not punishment and focuses on prevention and rehabilitation in the application of justice.
- It seeks to establish partnerships that enable and promote construction of a proper network for substance abusers through a court monitored programme.

**DTC Eligibility requirements**

The Drug court is available to anyone who fits the eligibility requirements which are as follows:

- If the person is charged with a relevant offence which is any offence triable by a Resident Magistrate. (persons charged with non drug related offences can also benefit)
- If the person appears to be dependent on the use of drugs
- If the person is at least seventeen years of age
- If the person is not suffering from any mental condition that could prevent or restrict the person’s active participation in a prescribed treatment programme.
DTC Roles

- Judge
- Justice of the Peace
- Prosecutor
- Treatment Provider
- Probation Officer
- Counsellor
- Defense Counsel
- Police Officer
- Administrative Secretary

DTC Treatment facilities

The main treatment facility center is the Maxfield Park Health Centre in Kingston where participants attend and the Treatment Provider Team takes over. Other centers include Salvation Army, Richmond Fellowship-Patricia House, Team Challenge, and UWI Detox Center.

They attend two days for the week Tuesdays and Wednesdays. All of them receive both individual and group counseling and mandatory urine testing for drugs. On Wednesday afternoons they attend the Drug Court and their progress and the urine results are presented. Rewards and sanctions are discussed. When the participant arrives in Court the Court is informed in open Court as to his progress and if the participant is doing well he is commended. If he is not doing well he is sanctioned or he is given a stern warning.
Termination of the programme

The Drug Court shall terminate a prescribed treatment programme in relation to a drug offender if

- The offender successfully completes the programme
- The offender requests the Drug Court to terminate the programme; or
- Based on the report of the approved treatment provider there is no useful purpose to be served by the drug offender’s continued participation in the prescribed treatment programme
- if the offender has successfully completed the prescribed treatment programme, the Drug Court shall discharge the offender in relation to the relevant offence and this discharge may be either absolute or conditional as the Court thinks fit
- At the end of the prescribed treatment programme, if the participant successfully completes, he comes up for graduation.

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Challenges

- Lack of resources (human and material)
- Lack of knowledge
- Number of graduates
- Geographical limitations. Access (location)
- From Pilot to Consolidation
- No follow up (lack of resources)
- Evaluation (impact)

Solutions

- Public awareness (political will)
- Training of professionals
- More resources
- More DTC (for access)
- More Treatment Facilities
- More after-care programme and follow up
- Alliances (OAS-CICAD, etc..)
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