

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of a 3x3 grid of colored squares. The colors are: top row (yellow, orange, light blue), middle row (light blue, dark blue, orange), and bottom row (pink, orange, yellow).

# **10ish Things You Might Not Know Best Practices Tells You Do To ...and How To Actually Do Them**



Hon. Elizabeth N. Rainey

Midland County Drug Court / SCAC Member /  
TASC President / RISE Mentor Court '25-27



# How This Is Going To Work

30,000 Foot: Best Practice Standard

10,000 Foot: Fine Print

Weeds: Practical Examples of Implementation

# Meet the presenter

Judge Rainey presides over the Midland County Drug Court, consisting of the Adult Felony Drug Court, DWI Court, and Transitional Treatment Court. These courts combine her passion for serving the people of Midland and helping those individuals suffering from addiction find recovery. *All Rise (formally The National Association of Drug Court Professionals)* has named the Adult Felony Drug Court to serve as a National Mentor Court for 2025-2027.

Judge Rainey is herself in recovery for alcohol abuse. She is happily married with three children and spends her free time on the soccer field and volunteering with PTA.

Judge Rainey graduated in 2009 from Texas A&M University cum laude with a B.A. in Communication. She earned her J.D. from Texas Tech School of Law in 2011.

Judge Rainey was appointed to the Specialty Court Advisory Council by Governor Greg Abbott in February 2022. As of yesterday, Judge Rainey also serves as the President for the Texas Association of Speciality Courts. She is a member of the Texas Bar College, a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a member of the Midland County Bar Association, past-President of the Midland County Young Lawyers Association, serves on The Museum of the Southwest Board of Trustees, and is a sustaining member in the Junior League of Midland, Inc. Judge Rainey is a 2017 graduate of the Leadership Midland program. Formerly she has served on Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of the Permian Basin and Midland County System of Care.





ADULT TREATMENT COURT

# Best Practice Standards

Definitive guidance for treatment  
court practitioners

## Best Practices

The ten most important areas of focus for a specialty court broken down into step-by-step instructions on how to ensure your court is helping and not hurting. (*These are the things Dr. Doug Marlowe yells at people for violating.*)

# #1

# Discuss Goals

Standard 4(b) pg. 79

“...take every opportunity when contemplating and delivering responses to remind participants and other observers (and each other) about the proximal, distal, and managed goals for each phase in the program, the responses for meeting or not meeting these goals, and the rationale for phase-specific procedures. For example, the judge should begin by reminding participants and court observers about the achievable goals for each phase, recap the participant’s progress to date in that phase, and explain why specific accomplishments or infractions merit a particular response.

4(i) pg. 99

“...phase advancement proceedings or celebrations as an opportunity to remind the participant and others in the program of what was required to complete the phase and what challenges and opportunities await the person in the next phase.”

# How To Do It

Keep a list of goals set by each participant in their file

Ask Participants about the goals they achieved during Phase Up celebrations in Court

Allow participants to set their own goals; not just the ones you have for them

Check in on currently set goals during court sessions and office visits

Discuss the specific steps needed to accomplish a specific goal

Ask Participants about goals they plan to set for their new Phase



## Phase Goal Examples

### Transportation

- Driver's License:** Schedule test, gather paperwork, pay off fines, study for test
- Bus:** Review bus routes, make schedule, get a bus pass
- Rides:** Make a list of people willing to help, set up a schedule
- ODL:** Obtain SR22, install interlock, complete required classes, pay off fines

### Relationships

- Children:** Make a list of activities, schedule time, complete a parenting class
- Marriage:** Set aside time for time together, couples counseling, make a list of goals together
- Peers:** Gather phone numbers for 5 new people, schedule an activity, attend a new recovery meeting

### Physical Health

- Lose Weight:** Log meals, create meal plan, find new recipes
- Workout:** Make a workout schedule, join a gym, find an accountability partner, try a yoga class
- Mental Health:** Schedule appointment with doctor, take medications as prescribed

### Self Care

- Hobbies:** Explore options, sign up for a class to learn something new
- Reading:** Gather a list of books to read, try out a new author, listen to an audio book
- Entertainment:** Find a new series to watch, go to the movies, play a new video game with a friend

### Employment

- New Job:** Apply online, make a list of potential employers, prepare resume
- Disability:** Gather paperwork, contact a lawyer, contact doctor
- Promotion:** Make a plan, study for tests

### Financial

- Save Money:** Create a budget, identify areas to cut back spending, complete a financial literacy course
- Open a Bank Account:** Gather paperwork required, research best options for banks, research types of accounts
- Pay Off Fees:** Create a budget, commit to making regular payments

### Social

- Sports:** Join a rec team, plan to watch a game with supportive peers, play a round of golf, attend a local event (i.e. Rockhounds)
- Religion:** Make a list of churches to try, join a small group, find a bible study
- Community Service:** Complete extra monthly hours, volunteer at a new organization
- Culture:** Visit a museum, get a library card, shop at the farmer's market

### Recovery

- Sponsor:** Make a list of potential sponsors, ask someone to sponsor you, schedule times to meet with sponsor
- Home Group:** Try out several different groups and times, speak at a meeting, sign up to run a meeting, clean up after a meeting, attend a dinner event

# Practical Approach

Phase driven goals should be the basis for advancement according to Standard 4. Timelines alone should not dictate Phases. Allow the Participant to set their own personal goals.

Depending on their abilities, break the goals up into multiple smaller steps.

EX: Driver's license, Opening a Bank Account, Completing DWI Repeat Offender Course, Completing 5<sup>th</sup> Step with Sponsor.

## PHASE REQUIREMENTS

MIDLAND COUNTY DRUG COURT  
JUDGE ELIZABETH N. RAINEY  
500 N. Loraine  
Midland, Texas 79701



Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Court: AFDC ☐ TTC ☐ DWI ☐

Phase-Up Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Phase: 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ Post-Grad ☐ Pull Back ☐

Review each requirement with a Team Member and initial to acknowledge your understanding of the expectation

- ☐ I will attend court ☐ every week ☐ every other week ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month ☐ 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ I will follow my treatment plan.
- ☐ I will comply with supervision and meet with my community supervision officer on time.
- ☐ I will allow law enforcement and/or community supervision officers associated with the Drug Court Program into my residence for home visits per the *Compliance Check Policy*.
- ☐ I will abide by the curfew of \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. to \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. or ☐ I have no curfew restriction
- ☐ I will not leave Midland County without permission from the Court.
- ☐ I will submit to random urine analysis testing as determined by the Drug Court Team.
- ☐ I will notify the Drug Court Team of any contact with law enforcement including traffic stops, arrests, and new charges. I will also identify myself as a Participant in the Drug Court to the law enforcement officer at the time of contact.
- ☐ I will attend peer support and recovery support meetings as instructed in my treatment plan. I understand that only one meeting per day will count toward this requirement.
- ☐ I will make payments toward by probation balance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ☐ week ☐ month ☐ paycheck
- ☐ Special phase requirements/goals:

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I have reviewed the requirements above and understand my responsibilities to the program.

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# #2

# Explain Responses

Standard 4(b) pg. 68

“The judge and other team members also take every opportunity, especially when delivering incentives, sanctions, or service adjustments, to remind participants and other observers about program requirements, the responses that ensue for meeting or not meeting these requirements, and the rationale for the responses.”

Standard 3(d) pg. 62

“Participants may believe that staff render decisions haphazardly, fail to consider their unique circumstances, or treat them more harshly than other persons in the program. Explaining the rationale for a decision demonstrates that staff have taken the participant’s welfare into account, have given the matter experienced thought, and are not unfairly picking on the person.”

MORE: 2(g) pg. 46 - 4(c) pg. 84, 87 - 4(f) pg. 90, 94 - 5(b) pg. 120 - 4(b) pg. 79-80



# How To Do It

Explain why a specific Community Service Hour location was selected

Avoid the “Because I said so” or “Rule and Run” mentality

Point out that a Participant has already met certain proximal goals thus inviting the response

Make sure Participants (and your team) know the difference between ‘incentive’, ‘sanction’, and ‘treatment adjustment’

Discuss how the Team came to the final decision

Share what some other (realistic) options may have been

# Practical Approach

## Alexis

“Alexis, I understand you have a young baby without daycare available. Thank you communicating with your Officer about the issues related to that and the missed UA from Tuesday. This is your first missed UA during your time in the court. You will have 4 community service hours to complete by your next court session. We do have the option of sharpening pencils here at the courthouse and you can bring the baby with you if needed.



## Brandon

Brandon, this is your 4<sup>th</sup> missed UA in the last three weeks and your 4<sup>th</sup> missed treatment session as well. You are in Phase 4 and have been in this program for over 14 months. You aren't communicating with your officer and when she does get ahold of you the reasons you give are constantly related to work. I am ordering you complete 3 days in the jail work program to help remind you that while working is important your treatment and requirements of this court are too. Keep up with the requirements of this court and you won't be working for free for the county. I am also asking your counselor to assign a thinking report on the importance of treatment and attendance that we will discuss at your next court session.

# #3

## Keep Updated and United

Standard 8(d) pg. 181

“Because knowledge retention and delivery of evidence-based practices decline significantly within 6 to 12 months of an initial training, all treatment court team members receive at least annual booster training on best practices to sustain efficacy and ensure that they stay abreast of new information.”

Standard 2(b) pg. 37

“...researchers have found that outcomes in drug courts were significantly better when team members attended training workshops or conferences at least annually on topics relating generally to treatment court best practices.”

MORE: 3(a) pg. 63 - 4(i) pg. 100 - 3(a) pg. 56 - 8(f) pg. 182, 201

# How To Do It

Watch webinars on  
new and various  
topics

Attend the TASC  
Annual Training  
Conference

Explore free training  
and tune up options  
through SPCR and  
All Rise.

Hold monthly  
Team Lunch &  
Learn sessions

Cross-train in your  
Team's areas

Attend All Rise's  
practitioner  
trainings and  
annual conference

# Practical Approach

Come together as a Team once per month (on a set date and time) to review a topic related to Speciality Courts. Make it an enjoyable time that allows for Team bonding and collaboration too.

Bonus- Celebrate Team Members' birthdays for the month!

## MCDC 2025 *Team Lunch & Learn*

<b><i>Janaury</i></b>	Best Practice Standard IV: "Incentives, Sanctions, and Service Adjustments"	Judge Rainey
<b><i>February</i></b>	Best Practice Standard VIII: Multidisciplinary Team	Everyone Teaches on Their Own Role
<b><i>March</i></b>	TASC Conference	
<b><i>April</i></b>	Best Practice Standard VI: Recovery Capital	Jenn & Thriving United
<b><i>May</i></b>	RISE25 Conference	
<b><i>June</i></b>	Best Practice Standard V: Substance Use & Treatment	Treatment Team
<b><i>July</i></b>	Best Practice Standard VII: Drug Testing	Upchurch & New Moon Monitoring
<b><i>August</i></b>	Best Practice Standard IX: Census & Caseloads	Probation Team
<b><i>September</i></b>	Best Practice Standard X: Program Evaluation & Improvement	All Team Members
<b><i>October</i></b>	Team Building Event	
<b><i>November</i></b>	Law Enforcement & Jail Operations	Dept. Reese and Capt. Hilliard
<b><i>December</i></b>	Holiday Trivia Fun	Upchurch

# Early Exposure & Guidance

Standard 1(b) pg. 9

“...courts have reported receiving more timely referrals of eligible defendants by posting informational flyers and brochures at the jail, courthouse, and defense counsel offices advertising the benefits of drug court, who is eligible, and how to apply for admission”

Standard 2(c) pg. 40

“...peer recovery specialists with relevant lived experience are most likely to be viewed as a reliable source of information about the pros and cons of participation.”

MORE: 5(c) pg. 124



# How To Do It

Required  
Observation of  
Dockets by  
Potential  
Participants

Place Court  
application,  
brochure, etc. in  
the jails

Host informational  
sessions with the  
Defense Bar

Invite Peer  
Support and  
Recovery  
Coaches to  
attend Dockets

Require all new  
Participants to at  
least explore Peer  
Support Resources

Required Q&A  
with Alumni  
following  
Observation  
Sessions

# Practical Approach

\*Require all applicants or potential participants attend a court session to see what a typical docket looks like. Afterward, have the observers meet with 1-3 of your alumni to answer questions and concerns. Make this a safe space for truthful answers.

\*Invite Peer Support Specialists/Recovery Coaches to attend court sessions to meet with Participants before court as well as after; especially if a Participant expressed concerns or needs that should be addressed quickly.



Melissa Bianchi, Court Coordinator

MIDLAND COUNTY DRUG COURT  
JUDGE ELIZABETH N. RAINEY  
500 N. Loraine  
Midland, Texas 79701



Tel: 432-688-4390

{DATE}

{ADDRESS INFO}

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We have received your application for the Midland County Adult Felony Drug Court. The MCDC program is unlike any court you're ever been before and for that reason we are very selective with applicants. Not only do you have to meet our criteria based, but you must choose us and be ready to participate in a demanding program designed to change your life for the better. Because of this, before we go any further in the application process we require all applicants to observe a court session to make sure you truly want to join us.

The next step is for you to complete an observation of the court and speak with members of our Team. Court sessions are held every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. in the Auxiliary Courtroom located on the first floor of the Midland County Courthouse at 500 N. Loraine.

After you have observed a court session and spoken to members of our Team, if you feel that Midland County Drug Court is the best option for you, then we will schedule you for assessments and continue with the application process.

**Attending the court observation is your responsibility and your application will be placed on hold until it is completed.** Please be sure that you check in with the Team during your selected observation time. Also, be aware that the District and County-Courts-At-Law will be aware of your current application status should you have any scheduled dates in their courts.

Sincerely,

Hon. Elizabeth N. Rainey

# Objective Review

Standard 2(e) pg. 41-42

“Treatment courts should avoid subjective suitability determinations in their admissions decisions. Some treatment courts may screen candidates for their suitability for the program based on the team’s subjective impressions of the person’s motivation for change, recovery attitude, readiness for treatment, or prognosis for treatment success. Suitability determinations have been found to have no impact on drug court graduation rates or post-program Recidivism. Intrinsic motivation for change and an optimistic attitude about recovery are not significant predictors of success at entry into drug court... **eligibility criteria should be based on objective and empirically valid entry criteria.**”

Standard 1(a) pg. 9

“...Some treatment court team members may have...extrinsic information about them...information should be considered...only if it bears directly on the question of whether a candidate meets objective and empirically valid admissions criteria. Such information should not be used to determine whether a candidate is likely to success in the program because it has not been validated for such purposes.”

MORE: 1(c) pg. 11 - 1(d) pg. 15 - 1(d) pg. 19

# How To Do It

Do not set  
resource  
requirements for  
acceptance into  
the program

Utilize a  
structured guide  
for reviewing  
potential  
participants

Avoid outright bans  
on certain types of  
offenses

Allow defendants  
to reapply if  
necessary

Don't hold a lack of  
enthusiasm against  
an applicant

Only share  
“personal”  
knowledge if it  
relates to objective  
elements

# Practical Approach

Utilize a standardize eligibility form to keep on track when discussing applicants. Stick with objective criteria such as:

- Risk Level
  - Which domains are high?
- Need Level
  - Prior Treatment
  - Mental Health

## APPLICANT SCREENING REVIEW

MIDLAND COUNTY DRUG COURT  
JUDGE ELIZABETH N. RAINEY  
500 N. Lorraine  
Midland, Texas 79701



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Current Status: ☐ Pending MTR ☐ CSCD Referral ☐ New Charge: \_\_\_\_\_

Midland County Drug Court Program: ☐ AFDC ☐ TTC ☐ DWI Other Counties Involved: \_\_\_\_\_

### Information Presented by CSCD and TRAS Screening

Risk Level: ☐ High ☐ Moderate ☐ Low-Mod ☐ Low Trailers: ☐ Drug ☐ Alcohol ☐ MH

High Domains: ☐ Criminal History ☐ Family/Social Support ☐ Neighborhood ☐ Education/Employment/Financial  
☐ Substance Abuse ☐ Criminal Attitudes & Behavioral Patterns ☐ Peer Association

DOC: ☐ THC ☐ Cocaine ☐ Heroin ☐ Alcohol ☐ Meth ☐ Fentanyl ☐ IV ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Treatment: ☐ TAIP Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Success/Fail

☐ None ☐ 30 Day Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Success/Fail Location: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ CRTC Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Success/Fail Location: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ SAFPF Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Success/Fail Special Needs: Y/N

☐ Other Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Success/Fail Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Risk Level Qualified: ☐ Yes ☐ No Team Member Presenting: \_\_\_\_\_

### Information Presented by Treatment and TAAD-5 Screening

Overall Need Level: ☐ Severe (High) ☐ Moderate ☐ Mild (Low)

High Domains: ☐ Criminal History ☐ Education/Employment/Financial ☐ Family/Social Support  
☐ Substance Abuse ☐ Criminal Attitudes & Behavioral Patterns ☐ Peer Association

DOC Need Level: ☐ THC: S/M/m ☐ Opiates: S/M/m ☐ Stimulants: S/M/m ☐ Alcohol: S/M/m ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

LOC Indicated: ☐ IRT (☐ CRTC or ☐ 30-Day) ☐ IOP ☐ SOP Medical Detox Indicated: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mental Health Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Level Qualified: ☐ Yes ☐ No Team Member Presenting: \_\_\_\_\_

### Information Presented by District Attorney's Office

Exposure Level: ☐ Prison ☐ Probation Possible Prior Prison: ☐ Yes ☐ No DA Presenting: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Decision: ☐ Accept ☐ 30-Day TX Prior to Intake ☐ CRTC/TTC Offer ☐ Deny ☐ Add to 3<sup>rd</sup> Group Data Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised March 2024

# Check Yourself

Standard 2(c) pg. 38

“...common practice among successful organizations is to monitor program operations on an ongoing basis and meet at least annually as a Team to review the information and take self-corrective measures.”

Standard 10(a) pg. 215

“Treatment courts are more effective, cost-effective, and culturally equitable when they conduct routine program monitoring, evaluation, and improvement. Program monitoring refers to examining a treatment court’s adherence to best practices, program evaluation refers to examining its effects on participant outcomes, and program improvement refers to implementing and examining corrective measures, when needed, to improve its practices and outcomes.

“Like many complex service organizations, treatment courts are highly susceptible to *downward drift* in their operations, meaning that the quality and effectiveness of their services may decline significantly over time”

MORE: 8(a) pg. 184-185 - 1(d) pg. 14



# How To Do It

“Fab 5” Meetings with  
Judge, DA, CSCD  
Supervisor, TX  
Supervisor, and Defense  
Counsel

Foster an  
environment where  
Team members can  
express concerns  
or share new ideas

Establish a  
Community Advisory  
Board and meet  
quarterly

Use Exit Interview  
Data to address  
graduate/  
termination  
feedback

Use Team Lunch &  
Learns to conduct  
self-assessments

**ACTUALLY  
MAKE CHANGE!**



You are cordially invited to join the  
**Midland County Drug Court  
Community Advisory Board**

Help support and shape the future of Midland's  
Specialty Courts and the diverse, at-risk  
population we serve. Your unique experience,  
input, and insight are kindly requested.

Please join us  
**Monday, March 17, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.**

Midland County Courthouse  
Specialty Courtroom, 5th floor

RSVP to [ERainey@MCounty.com](mailto:ERainey@MCounty.com)

*Together We ALL RISE*

# Practical Approach

Review all policies and procedures (at least  
annually and then

## ACTUALLY MAKE THE CHANGES!

### EXIT INTERVIEW

MIDLAND COUNTY DRUG COURT  
JUDGE ELIZABETH N. RAINEY  
500 N. Loraine  
Midland, Texas 79701



All information gathered from this survey is anonymous and will be used to improve the Midland County Drug Court.

Court: ☐ AFDC ☐ DWI ☐ TTC Status: ☐ Graduating ☐ Terminated ☐ Voluntarily Terminated

#### Entry Process

How did you first learn that the Midland County Drug Court was an option for you?

☐ Attorney ☐ Court ☐ Family/Friend  
☐ Probation Officer ☐ In Jail ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you begin the program while in custody or were you out on bond with pending charges?

☐ In detention/jail when accepted into program ☐ Out of custody (detention/jail) when I was accepted

Why did you originally choose to apply to this program?

☐ To get out of jail ☐ Support/structure ☐ Less incarceration time  
☐ Treatment available ☐ Financial benefit ☐ Community resources available  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Courtroom Aspect

During orientation, how well were the requirements, program rules, regulations, and expectations explained to you?

	Not at All	Fair	Average/Decent	Good	Explained Well
By Defense Attorney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
By Judge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Which aspects of the court supervision do you feel were helpful in motivating you? *Please check all that apply*

☐ Positive interaction with the Judge ☐ Community service hours ☐ Writing assignments  
☐ Sobriety coins ☐ Jail or threat of jail ☐ Home visits  
☐ Phasing up certificates ☐ Extra recovery support groups ☐ Increased reporting days  
☐ Rewards/Incentives for reaching goals ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# Build Support Systems

Standard 6 Commentary pg. 156

“Helping participants to develop greater recovery capital has been shown to produce significantly longer intervals of drug abstinence, less crime, fewer legal and psychiatric problems, better self-reported quality of life, and lower levels of perceived stress for persons on probation or parole in traditional substance use treatment programs.”

Standard 6(c) pg. 163

“having a supportive social and familial network is a critical component of family or social recovery capital. Persons with substance use and mental health disorders experience significantly higher rates of family conflict and dysfunction than other individuals... Higher levels of parental and familial support are associated with significantly better outcomes in treatment courts and other criminal justice programs...”

# How To Do It

Encourage participants to bring their family, friends, sponsors, etc. to attend a court session

Invite families and support network to attend and participate in community events

Offer family, parent-child, couples, etc. counseling services

Support network meetings required with Judge and Team

Meet the significant other!

Have support system who attend Team meetings observe the docket so they can see what really happens



Judge Elizabeth N. Rainey  
and the Team Members of the

## Midland County Drug Court

are proud to announce the celebration of the

Adult Felony Drug Court  
Transitional Treatment Court  
DWI Court

### Fall 2025 Graduation Ceremony

Please join us

Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5:45 p.m.

The Horseshoe Arena  
2514 Arena Trail  
Midland, Texas 79701

*Together We ALL RISE*

# Practical Approach



## Family Program


Chemical dependency affects the whole family and family involvement is necessary for treatment. Family members are invited to join our educational program to learn more about chemical dependency, the impact on families, and the recovery process. This program will help you improve communication skills and begin healthy changes for relationships. You will meet other families on the journey of recovery and you will experience a supportive environment for personal healing and growth.

**Education for the  
client and adult  
family members**

*\*Must be 18 years or older to  
attend due to class being held  
at the Midland County  
Probation Dept.*

**Group meets on  
the 2nd Thursday  
of each month**

 **6:00pm-7:30pm  
April 10, 2025**

 Please RSVP to:  
Pearl Duran, LCDC, CCJP  
(432) 688-4146

[pearl.duran@midlandcscd.net](mailto:pearl.duran@midlandcscd.net)



# Build Rapport with the Judge

Standard 3 pg. 60

“The judge should take sufficient time and attention to gauge each participant’s performance in the program, applaud their successes, intervene on their behalf, impress upon them the importance of treatment, administer appropriate consequences, and communicate convincingly that staff recognize and value their efforts... Three minute interactions were associated with nearly twice the reduction in crime compared to shorter interactions, and 7-minute interactions were associated with three times the reduction in crime.”

Standard 3(b) pg. 57

“...rotating judicial assignments...were associated with poor outcomes in drug courts...Participants in treatment courts often require substantial structure and consistency...best effects on recidivism were associated with appearances before one consistent judge throughout the drug court process...”

MORE: 3(d) pg. 59



# How To Do It

Show them you are human too. Apologize when you start late, acknowledge errors, use their names, make cheat notes to recall their kids/family's names.

Require orientation sessions with the Judge for newbies

Judges should attend community events

Come off the bench when you can

Maintain consistency with the presiding Judge

Provide your Judge good things to discuss during court to avoid always being negative

# Practical Approach



**SAMMY SAMPLETON**

**DWI Court**

**Probation Officer**  
Bettie Weatherspoon

**SCC Counselor**  
*Ismene*

ML#: 166014

Case #: CR60527

Big Court: 142

Charge: DWI w/child

Yrs in Prison Saved:

DOC: *Mari  
alcohol  
cocaine*

DOB: 03-05-93

Driving Status:  
*suspended*

MHMR:  
Dx:

*NR*

Rx:

## Phase Dates

Phase 1: *8/1/24*

Phase 2:

Phase 3:

Phase 4:

Phase 5:

Graduation:

Post-Grad:

Pull Back:

**Employment:**

*Whataburger (Andrew)*

**Background/  
Special Notes:**

*likes to volunteer*

**Support Network:**

*son - 8 - Ezkeil King / son - 5 - Jeremiah  
mom - Melinda Martinez - live w/  
Brother - Israel - live w/  
Matthew - Lil Brother*

## Treatment History

- ☒ TP *Feb 2025*
- ☐ CRTC
- ☐ SAFP
- ☐ ISF
- ☐ OTHER
- ☐ SCC Tx

## Testing History

- ☒ Creatinine: *10/1/24 TU  
11/14/24 TH*

- ☒ FTS: *11/25/24 M  
11/26/24 TU*

- ☐ DP:

# Money Isn't Everything

Standard 1(f) pg. 23

“When persons of limited financial means do manage to satisfy monetary conditions, this is often accomplished by incurring further debt, neglecting other financial obligations, and experiencing increased rates of housing instability, family discord, and emotional distress...If a program suspects that a participant is underreporting income or other resources, the court should make a finding of fact with supporting evidence that the person can pay a reasonable designated sum without incurring undue stress that is likely to impede their treatment progress. And if the participant's financial circumstances change, this determination should be revisited as necessary to ensure that the person does not lag unavoidably behind on payments, incur additional penalties or costs, and suffer financial jeopardy or emotional despair.”

Standard 2(h) pg. 47

“...persons should not be prevented from completing treatment court based solely on their inability to pay fees, restitution, or other costs. Keeping persons involved indefinitely in the criminal justice system is unlikely to improve their ability to satisfy debts or meet other financial responsibilities...Treatment court practices and policies should enhance, not interfere with, participants' ability to achieve long-term recovery and sustain treatment benefits.”

Standard 4(d) pg. 84

“Treatment courts may reduce participants' fines, fees, treatment costs, and other financial obligations as an incentive for successful performance. Because many participants have limited resources, allowing them to earn fee reductions by following the rules can be a very effective way to increase success rates. Contrary to some assumptions, studies find that fines and fees do not deter crime, and payment of treatment fees does not improve treatment outcomes.”

# How To Do It

Review Budgets  
periodically (at least  
at each Phase Up)

Allow graduation  
from program  
with pending fees  
and fines

Include fee  
reductions as  
incentives

Require proof of  
employment (or  
disability)

If possible, begin each  
new phase with a  
clean financial slate


Require  
completion of a  
financial literacy/  
budgeting course



# Practical Approach

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
REQUEST FORM**

MIDLAND COUNTY DRUG COURT  
JUDGE ELIZABETH N. RAINEY  
500 N. Loraine  
Midland, Texas 79701



Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Court: ☐ Adult Felony Drug Court ☐ Transitional Treatment Court ☐ DWI Court Phase: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the information below and submit to your Probation Officer for consideration by the Court.

Reason for requesting financial assistance: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have completed the following required steps to receive financial assistance from the court:  
☐ Attending/ Completed treatment ☐ Current/ Completed required community service hours  
☐ Completed a financial literacy course ☐ Completed a budget process

My current payment plan is:  
☐ Probation Fees/Fines: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per wk / mo ☐ Monitoring/Device Fees: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per wk / mo  
Current Balance: \$\_\_\_\_\_ as of \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Current Balance: \$\_\_\_\_\_ as of \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Last Payment: \$\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Last Payment: \$\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

☐ All information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.  
☐ I understand my responsibilities to the court and the possible sanctions should I fail to comply.

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Probation Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For MCDC Team Use: Submitted Timely: Y / N In Compliance: Y / N Recommendation of Officer: Y / N  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Teach participants to handle money wisely. Review budgets with them periodically and require them to complete a financial literacy/budgeting course.

The old thought of “they bought drugs, they can pay fees” isn’t appropriate. You don’t want them doing what they used to do to get that money.

Assure them you are not a debt collector, and you care about their recovery, but the financial requirements are part of the program as a whole.

## Your Money, Your Goals

### A Financial Literacy Discussion

#### Class Topics:

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Your Money Values and Influences  | Your Income and Expenses            |
| • Your values and money           | • Net income vs gross income        |
| • SMART goals                     | • Understanding a pay statement     |
| • Confronting external influences | • Payroll deductions                |
|                                   | • Income tax withholding            |
|                                   | • Tracking your income and expenses |

#### Next Class Dates

February 28, 2025      April 25, 2025      June 27, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Casa de Amigos, 1101 Garden Lane, Midland Texas

- Attendees must register by the Wednesday before the Friday class.
- Attendees finishing the class will receive a \$25 gift card to Walmart.
- Free childcare services for children 8 months to 8 years of age.

**FREE!**



**To Register:**  
<https://bit.ly/48omgdG7r=qr>



For questions, call 432-682-9701 and ask for Alfredo, or [achaparro@casadeamigosmidland.org](mailto:achaparro@casadeamigosmidland.org).

# Have Options

Standard 4(e) pg. 85

“If a participant is attending treatment but is not improving, the treatment should be adjusted to better serve the person’s needs and preferences.”

Standard 2(f) pg. 43

“Offering a “secular alternative” to 12-step meetings is also constitutionally required because appellate courts have consistently characterized the 12-step model as being “deity based” thus implicating First Amendment prohibitions against compelling persons to attend a religious activity.”

Standard 4(b) pg. 119-120

“Outcomes are significantly better...when clients were given a voice in selecting their preferred provider and treatment modality.”

MORE: Standard 4(f) pg. 92 - 4(b) pg. 113 - 4(b) pg. 121 - 4(c) pg. 124



# How To Do It

Do Not Mandate  
Traditional 12-Step  
(AA/NA) meetings!

Allow the  
participant time to  
find a sponsor or  
mentor (if they  
want one); do not  
place timelines on  
that decision

Do not make  
participants justify  
their hesitation about  
12-Step to you  
(leave that to Treatment)

Encourage  
Participants to find  
what “works for  
them” individually

Discuss recovery  
plans with  
participants instead of  
Dictating them

Present  
treatment  
options to  
Participants and  
discuss them

# Practical Approach



THRIVING  
UNITED  
PRESENTS

EMPOWERING  
PATHWAYS  
GROUP  
MONDAY  
- FRIDAY  
9:30AM - 11:00AM  
2:15PM - 3:30PM  
@ 301 E.  
ILLINOIS AVE

COME JOIN US FOR KNOWLEDGE  
AND STRATEGIES THAT WILL  
HELP YOU CREATE LONG TERM  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**\* MCDC Alumni**

**Meetings & Fun Events!**

Every **FRIDAY**

5:45 p.m.  
**about an hour**

Family Support Group  
**1st and 3rd FRIDAY**

Thriving United  
**300 E. Illinois**

**\* Not Just For Graduates  
All Are Welcome!**

# LOC ‘Bubbles’

Standard 4(i) pg. 99

“The phase structure of a treatment court is a **separate matter from** the stages of a participant’s treatment regimen... **Phase advancement should not be based on the level, dosage, or modality of treatment that is required to help them achieve these goals.**”

Standard 5(c) pg. 124

“Some treatment courts may arbitrarily and imprudently begin all participants in the same level of care or may taper down the level of care routinely as participants advance through the successive phases of the program....Participants should not be assigned to a level of care without first confirming through a standardized assessment that their clinical needs warrant that level of care. Moreover, treatment care levels should not be tied to the treatment court’s programmatic phase structure. Phase advancement should be based on the achievement of proximal or attainable goals (e.g., resolving unstable housing or initiating abstinence) and not on the level or modality of care that is required to achieve or maintain these goals. For example, a participant might temporarily require a higher level of care to maintain abstinence or avoid impending symptom recurrence, but this fact does not necessarily require returning the person to an earlier phase in the program.”

Standard 4(e) pg. 86

“Under no circumstance should non-clinically trained members of the treatment court team impose, deny, or alter treatment services if such decisions are not based on clinical recommendations of qualified professionals, because doing so is apt to undermine treatment effectiveness, waste resources, disillusion participants and credentialed providers, and pose an undue risk to participant welfare.”

MORE: 5(c) pg. 123 - 4(f) pg. 89 {Phase Back}

# How To Do It

Do not predicate  
Phase Up on  
Treatment LOC

Make sure  
Supervision and  
Treatment are  
communicating

Conduct Treatment  
assessments to  
determine Level of  
Care

Avoid Cookie  
Cutter approaches  
to Treatment and  
Supervision

LISTEN TO  
TREATMENT!!!

Phases can be  
altered if needed  
to fit the  
Participant without  
a Phase-back or  
Phase-up

# Midland County Adult Felony Drug Court Phase Schedule

	Orientation Phase	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Post-Grad Phase
	Phase Length: 14-30 Days	Phase Length: No Minimum/Maximum	Phase Length: No Minimum/Maximum	Phase Length: No Minimum/Maximum	Phase Length: No Minimum/Maximum	Phase Length: Min 90 Days or the Time Needed for a 14 Month Program	Phase Length: 6 Months
Requirement							
Court Appearances	Weekly	Weekly	Every Other Week			Monthly	Monthly
Drug Testing Minimum	2x per week					1x per week	Randomly
Probation Reporting	Weekly			2x per Month		Monthly	Monthly By Kiosk
Counseling							
Group Counseling Sessions		Will Be Determined By Treatment Plan and Updated			Monthly		
Individual Counseling Sessions		Will Be Determined By Treatment Plan and Updated			Monthly		
Recovery Support Group		Will Be Determined By Treatment Plan and Updated			Monthly		
Peer Support Group		Will Be Determined By Treatment Plan and Updated			Monthly		
Other							
Fee Payment		Will Be Determined By Supervision Plan and Updated In Each Phase Until Paid In Full					
Community Service Hours			10 Hours Per Month Until Completed				
Curfew	9 p.m.		10 p.m.	11 p.m.	12 a.m.		
Home Visits/Field Contact	1x per month						
ProSocial Activity			1x per week				

## Practical Approach

Keep treatment plans and levels of care separate from supervision level (Phases).

Remember that they can and should operate independently for the most part.

# Questions?

Hon. Elizabeth N. Rainey

432-688-4512

[Erainey@MCounty.com](mailto:Erainey@MCounty.com)

