

Healing to Wellness Court Program Evaluation

Using Your Program's Data to Improve Operations and Outcomes

Tribal Healing to Wellness Court
Enhancement Training

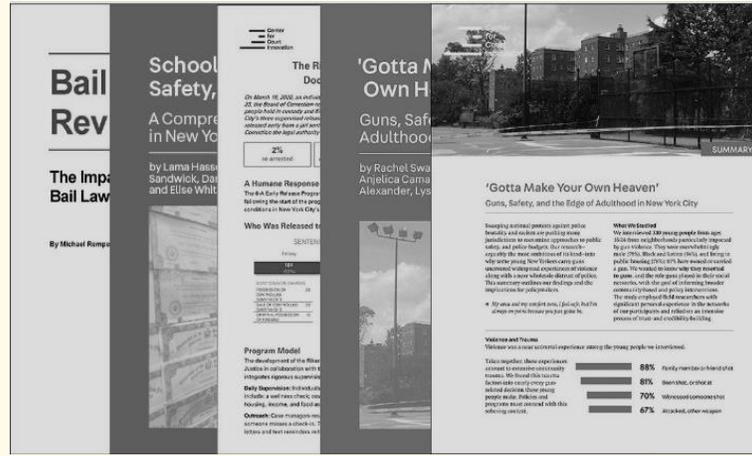
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sept 25, 2022

Presentation Topics

- **Who we are: Center for Court Innovation & Tribal Law and Policy Institute**
- **Basics on Evaluation**
- **Data tracking and Evaluation**
- **Evaluating a Treatment Court**
- **Use of Evaluation's findings**
- **Thinking Creatively about Evaluating a Treatment Court**
- **Conclusions**

Center for Court Innovation (CCI)



OPERATING PROGRAMS

- Community Justice Center
- Mental Health Courts
- Domestic Violence Court
- Reentry Court

RESEARCH

- Identify if new initiatives are successful
- Identify best practices and areas of improvement
- Make programs and policies more relevant to meeting needs of communities

EXPERT ASSISTANCE

- Hosting site visits at Operating Programs
- Consulting for other jurisdictions
- Writing toolkits
- Hosting and presenting at conferences

Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI)

**WE ARE A NATIVE AMERICAN NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
ORGANIZED TO DESIGN AND DELIVER:**



- Education
- Research
- Training
- Technical Assistance

TLPI strives to promote the enhancement of justice in Indian country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native Peoples.

Tribal Key Component #8

Keeping & Telling Stories

Process measurement, performance measurement, and evaluation are tools used to monitor and evaluate:

- the achievement of program goals
- Identify needed improvements to the HTWC and tribal court process
- Determine participant progress
- Provide information to governing bodies, interested community groups, and funding sources

Evaluating a Healing to Wellness Court Saint Regis Mohawk

Working collaboratively,
CCI & TLPI are
conducting a process
evaluation of the Saint
Regis Mohawk Healing
to Wellness Court.



The Purpose of Evaluations

Improve wellness court implementation

Demonstrate the effectiveness of the court

Identify ways to improve it

Modify court planning

Justify funding

Conditions for an Evaluation

Wellness Court
has stability and
routines

People involved
in the court
agree on its
short- and long-
term goals

Freedom on what
the evaluation
can study and
how to do it

Resources and
qualified staff

Types of Evaluations

Process Evaluation

- How has the court been planned and implemented?

Impact Evaluation

- Was there a transformation because of the wellness court?

Cost Benefit Analysis

- Is the investment in the court worth it?

Culturally Responsive Evaluation Process

Understanding the history & culture of the community and the program

Meaningfully include community members in the evaluation process

Conduct data gathering in a culturally respectful manner

Findings reported back in an engaging & action-focused way

Data Tracking and Evaluations

Sustainable system for Wellness Court data tracking



1. Learn how the court is functioning
-Action Research-

2. Allow rigorous internal and external evaluations

Evaluating a Treatment Court

Examples from Saint
Regis Mohawk and
Mexico

In Saint Regis Mohawk

We are conducting a process
evaluation of the Healing to
Wellness court

In Mexico

We are evaluating Therapeutic
Justice programs in five states

Evaluating a Treatment Court

Examples from Saint Regis Mohawk and Mexico

Steps

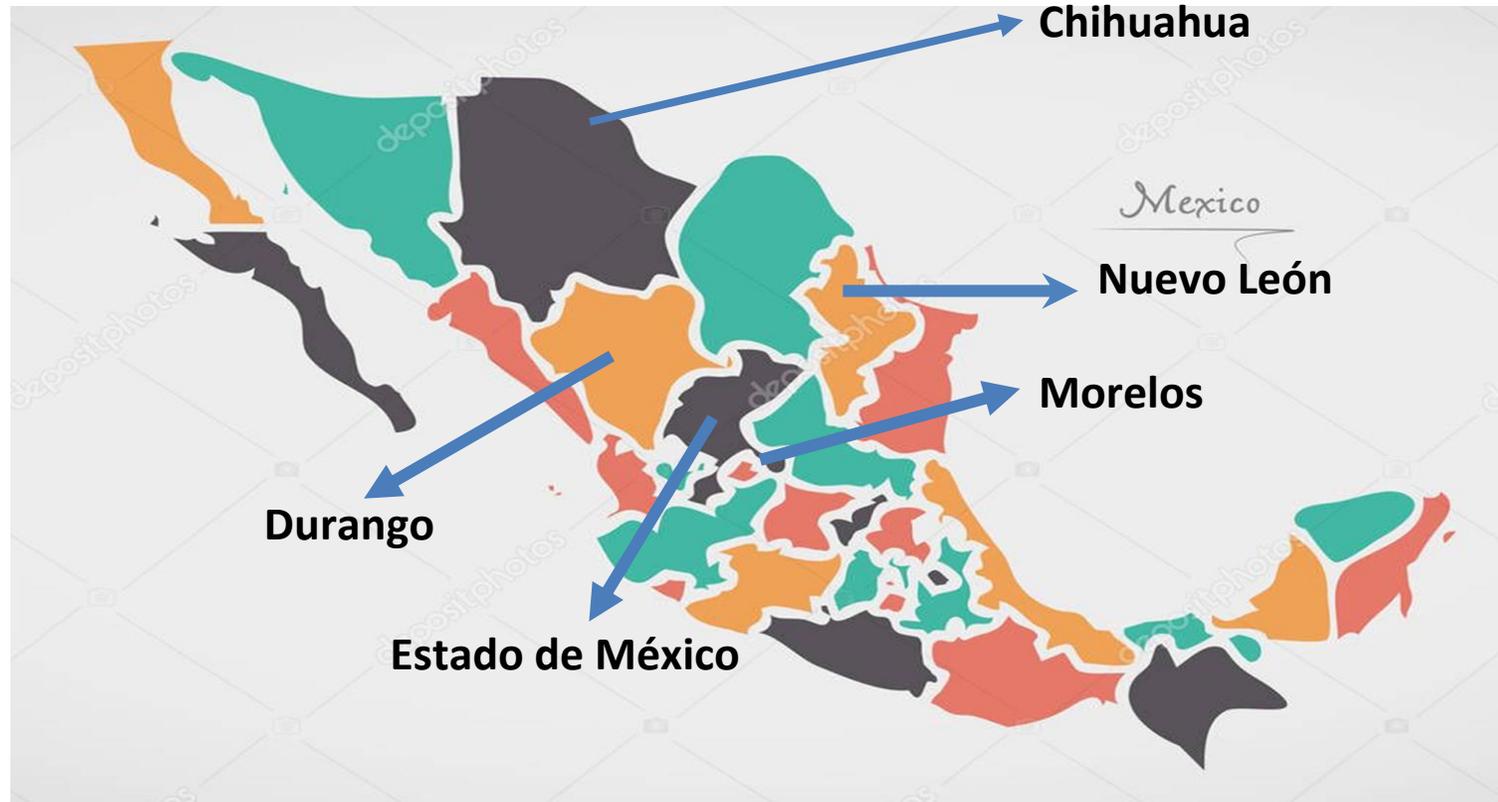
1. Learn about the court/program
2. Identify the goals and how to measure them
3. Data collection
4. Data analysis
5. Final report

Evaluating a Treatment Court

Examples from Saint Regis Mohawk and Mexico

	Data Sources	Type of Data	Collected from/about
	Focus groups Interviews	Qualitative	Participants Staff Program partners
	Surveys	Quantitative & Qualitative	Participants Staff Program partners
	Observations	Qualitative	Participants Staff Program partners
	Program Data	Quantitative	Participants
	Administrative data (official records)	Quantitative	Participants

Therapeutic Justice Program - Mexico



Therapeutic Justice Program - Mexico

¿Qué obstáculos hay para lograr ese/esos objetivo(s)?

Falta de empleo para los participantes

Falta de apoyo de la red social, dependencia muy alta a la sustancia, falta de apego a la actividad laboral, falta de tiempo disponible para acudir a cumplir con las obligaciones del programa, empatía del área laboral para permisos

La sujeción y compromiso al programa depende en gran medida de todos los integrantes del equipo, los programas son altamente efectivos, pero es necesaria la participación activa de los integrantes

al no partir de la depen gobi opor cana integ

recursos materiales y recursos humanos para concientizar no solo al participante, sino a su familia, redes de apoyo, entorno y personas de confianza. Capacitación en temáticas sensibles con casos prácticos en temas de perspectiva de dependencia en el consumo problemático y sustancia psicoactivas.

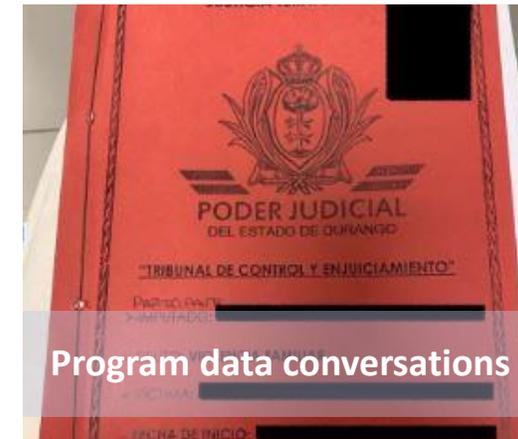
Falta de apoyo de los comerciantes o empleadores, ya que no se les da la oportunidad de laborar y llevar a cabo su proceso

Los obstáculos son la falta de apoyo de las redes familiares de los participantes, ayudado a que no se tiene mucha infraestructura para canalizarlos a donde necesitan.

Falta de recursos

Los obst fami vultu de educ con consensifer que prob pers juver gene cent para depe susti

Introductory Meetings with multidisciplinary teams



Some preliminary findings

Staff shared that they were not convinced about the program when they first started, but their engagement and involvement has grown over time.

Multidisciplinary teams actively use therapeutic justice during hearings.

There is a consistent understanding of what the program seeks to achieve and how.

All interviewed participants expressed that the program helped them improve their relationships with their families.

Participants reported that without the program they would not have access to services and resources (i.e., therapy, education).

Plan for Reporting Back

Once the
evaluation
report is
completed

We will go to each site and meet for two days with the multidisciplinary team to present and discuss the findings with them.

We will revisit with the team the relationships between available resources, activities and results.

We will work collaboratively with them on an action plan to address the program areas of improvement.

Evaluating a Treatment Court

Examples from Saint Regis Mohawk and Mexico

Deliverables

Final report:

- Documenting successes and challenges of the court
- Making policy and practice recommendations to strengthen its foundations.

Use of Evaluation Findings

Lessons learned from a Healing to Wellness Court evaluation (Gottlieb, 2010)



Team based on roles not individuals



Use an “informed consent” with potential participants



Choose participants who are motivated



Integrate cultural traditions into treatment



Begin a systematic collection on Day One

Thinking Creatively about Evaluating a Wellness Court

INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS

- A stand alone evaluation can provide an objective assessment

SELF EVALUATIONS

- Tracking own data to report essential performance information. Identifying areas of success and challenges

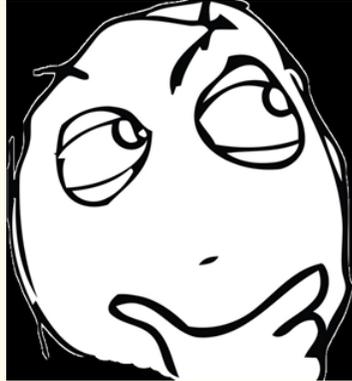
INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

- Partnering with similar courts to conduct evaluations

ACTION RESEARCH

- Provides immediate and useful feedback about everyday program operations and performance

Self evaluation – Collaboration – Action Research



Have you...

defined goals & objectives of your HTWC?

identified how to measure them?

identified activities that allow you to meet objectives?

developed a data collection plan to determine if objectives are being met?

defined participant information should be collected?

Conclusions

For any evaluation to work, the program itself must be well planned with clear goals and a well-defined strategy to achieve those goals.

Research can be conducted by an outside, independent evaluator as well as by project staff on an ongoing basis.

“Action research” places a premium on using data to inform operations and on creating a sense of vibrant partnership between researchers and administrators.

A permanent system for data and performance tracking is intrinsically related to evaluation.

THANK YOU!

