Center for Court Innovation

Technology in Drug Courts:

How Technology Can Address Treatment, Supervision, and Training Goals

Center for Court Innovation

- Research
- Operating Projects
- Expert Assistance

Mission

Reduce Crime

Aid Victims

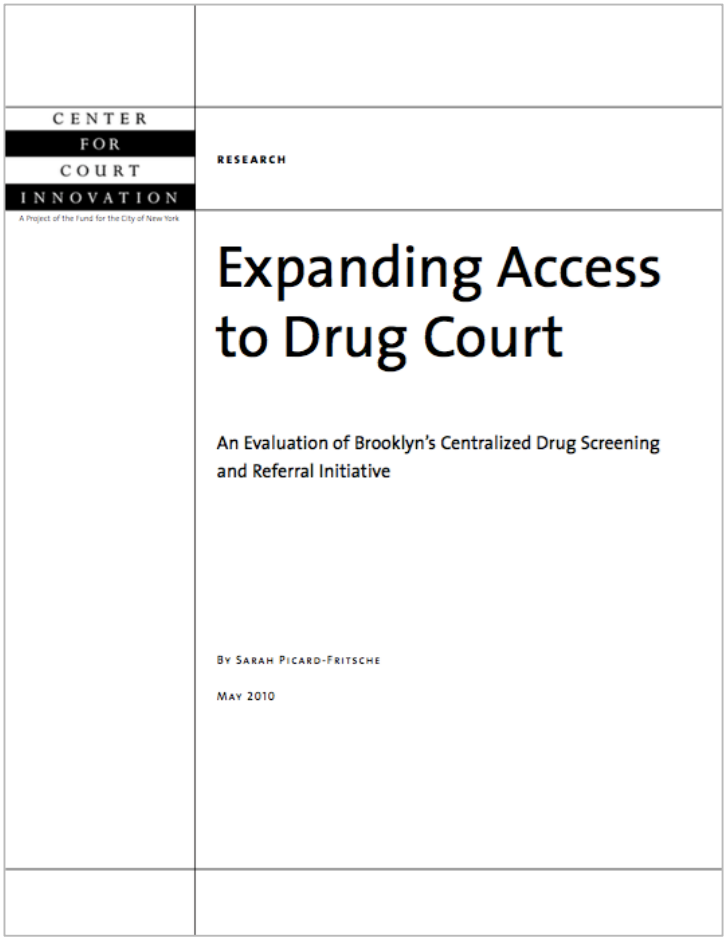
Strengthen Communities

Improve Trust in the Justice System

Demonstration Projects

RED HOOK
COMMUNITY
JUSTICE
CENTER

Research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A Project of the Fund for the City of New York

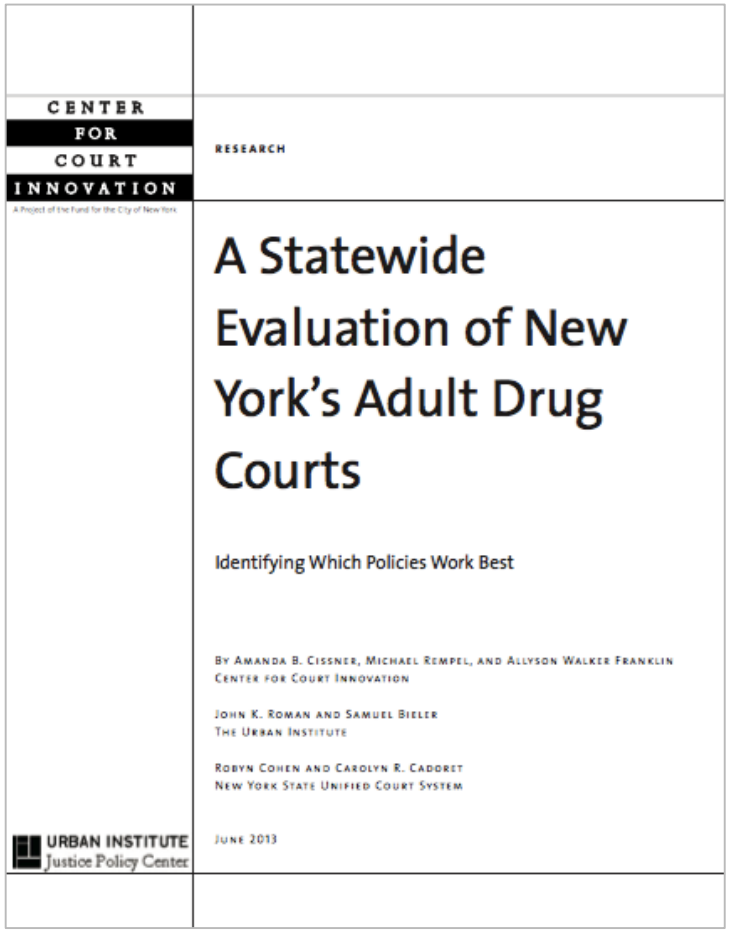
RESEARCH

Expanding Access to Drug Court

An Evaluation of Brooklyn's Centralized Drug Screening and Referral Initiative

By Sarah Picard-Fritsche

May 2010


CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION

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RESEARCH

A Statewide Evaluation of New York's Adult Drug Courts

Identifying Which Policies Work Best

By Amanda B. Cissner, Michael Rempel, and Allyson Walker Franklin
Center for Court Innovation

John K. Roman and Samuel Bieler
The Urban Institute

Robyn Cohen and Carolyn R. Cadoret
New York State Unified Court System

June 2013

URBAN INSTITUTE
Justice Policy Center

Expert Assistance

TELESERVICES

CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION

The Future is Now

Enhancing Drug Court Operations Through Technology

by Annie Schachar, Aaron Arnold and Precious Benally

BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

TELESERVICES: HAPPENING NOW!

Problem-solving courts are using technology to transform the way they operate. Drug courts, in particular, are embracing technologies like videoconferencing, smartphone apps, portable drug testing devices, and many others to deliver treatment services, supervise clients, and train staff. Collectively, these innovative uses of technology are known as "teleservices." In 2015, the Center for Court Innovation (the Center) published "The Future is Now: Enhancing Drug Court Operations Through Technology," a practitioner monograph that explores emerging uses of technology and highlights some of the early teleservices initiatives in problem-solving courts. The following year, the Center assisted four jurisdictions in planning and implementing pilot teleservices projects. This document offers an overview of the pilot projects, highlights promising practices, and offers recommendations for implementing teleservices initiatives in other jurisdictions.

1. USING TELESERVICES TO SERVE MORE PEOPLE IN NEED

Yellowstone County Veterans Court
Billings, Montana

Montana has one of the largest veteran populations in the United States. But the state also has one of the lowest population densities in the country, so these veterans tend to be spread across great distances and often are not within reach of needed services. This geographic isolation poses a challenge to the Yellowstone County Veterans Court—also known as CAMO (Court Assisting Military Officers)—which is one of only three veterans treatment courts in Montana. CAMO sought to use technology to reach more justice-involved veterans who live in isolated parts of the state.

The Center helped to kick off CAMO's ambitious pilot project by facilitating a two-day planning workshop. The CAMO team included the judge, a veterans justice outreach officer, a community outreach worker, and representatives from the prosecutor's office, defense bar, probation, and treatment providers. The team planned a new teleservices track that allows for remote treatment, court appearances, and supervision. In addition, the team developed a remote screening and referral process for accepting cases from other counties. This process included a questionnaire for assessing potential participants' "technology readiness."

Today, CAMO uses Montana's statewide Polycom videoconference system to facilitate remote participation. When a defendant from another county wishes to be considered for CAMO, the court coordinator administers a comprehensive risk-need assessment via video. Defendants also have the opportunity to observe court proceedings remotely before deciding to enter CAMO. Once a defendant has been accepted into the program, the court uses videoconferencing to conduct regular status hearings, and participants engage in one-on-one counseling sessions by video as well. There is even a Polycom app that allows participants to connect to the court and counselors using their phones. The project has been so successful that CAMO has purchased an additional Polycom unit to begin Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) classes and statewide mentor training.

To enhance supervision of remote participants, CAMO uses the CheckBAC smartphone app to monitor alcohol use and track participants' location. The app notifies participants when they are required to submit a breath test. Within 20 minutes of receiving an

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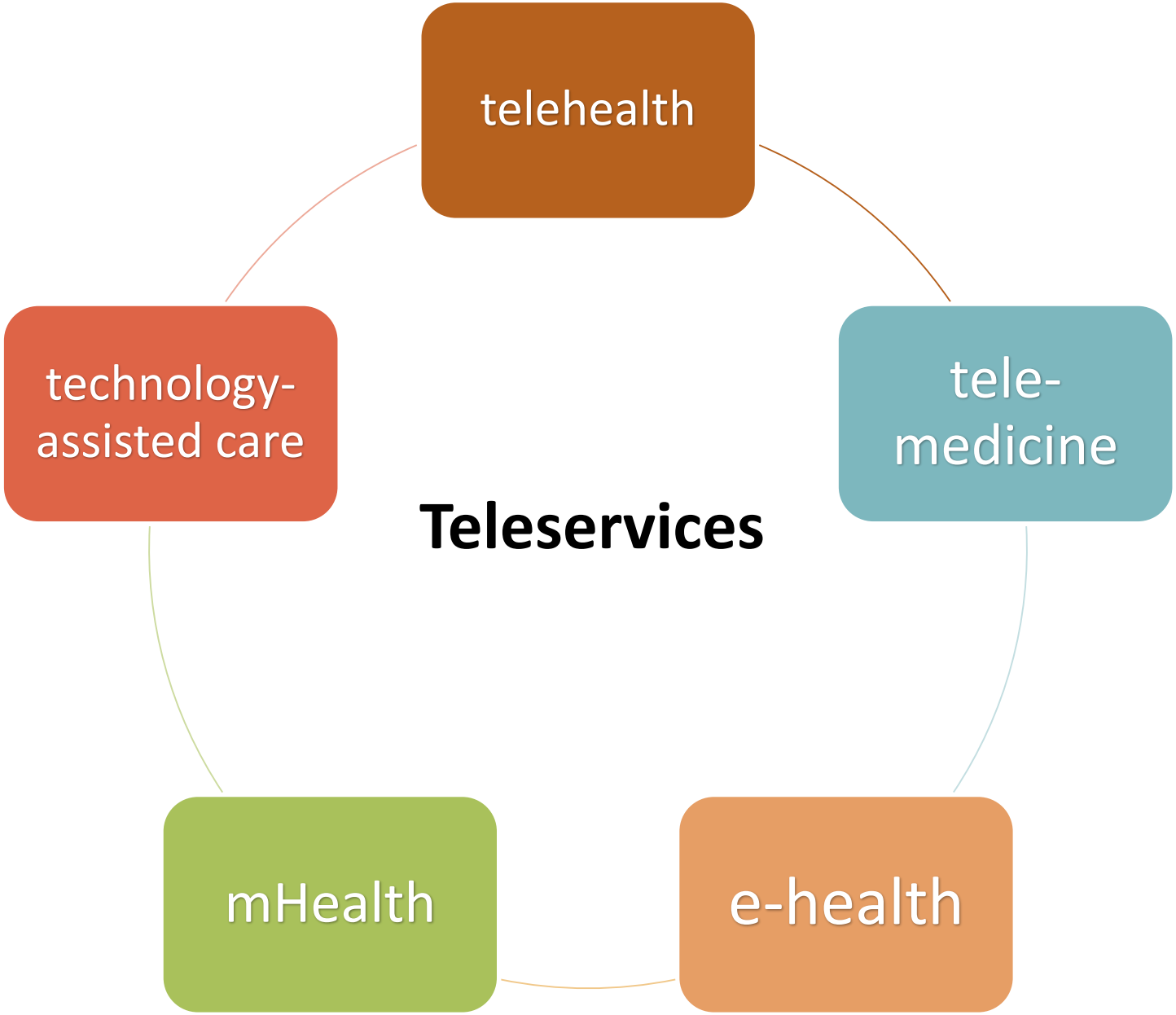
For more information about teleservices and available training and technical assistance, contact Aaron Arnold, Director of Treatment Court Programs, at arnolda@courtinnovation.org.

Teleservices = Using Technology for…

1. Treatment
2. Monitoring
3. Training


telehealth
tele-
medicine
e-health
mHealth
technology-
assisted care
Teleservices

Telehealth was first developed by NASA to track astronauts' physiological data while on space missions

The first known reference to telehealth?

Telehealth is a growing field

COPD

Asthma

Heart disease

Medication management

Neurology

Dermatology

Mental health

Substance use disorders

Prenatal care

Brain injuries

Telephones

Smartphones

Computers

Video teleconferencing

Email

Text messaging

1. TREATMENT AND OTHER SERVICES

Teleservices and Treatment

- Screening, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, continuing care
- Delivery of evidence-based substance abuse treatment and other supportive services
- Especially useful for rural areas, but not only rural areas

Teleservices and Treatment

- Expand ACCESS to treatment
- Overcomes barriers to treatment, like transportation
- Expands the arsenal of available services and specialties
- Can alleviate strain on provider caseloads

Some evidence-based treatment interventions

- **CBT4CBT** (www.cbt4cbt.com)
  - "Computer-Based Training for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy"
  - 7 modules (about 35 min each)
  - Versions for alcohol/drugs and alcohol alone (also Spanish)
  - Web-based or locally-hosted
  - Self-guided, audio/video-driven
  - Requires only basic reading skills, no computer skills
  - 6 NIH-funded studies demonstrate efficacy, durability

Some evidence-based treatment interventions

- **TES** (sudtech.org)
  - "Therapeutic Education System"
  - Interactive web-based program rooted in the Community Reinforcement Approach
  - Includes 65 interactive multimedia modules
  - Self-directed, includes skills training, interactive exercises, and homework
  - Electronic reports of patient activity available
  - Contingency Management Component tracks earnings of incentives

Some evidence-based treatment interventions

- **Matrix Model**
  - Intensive outpatient treatment
  - Uses a number of evidence-based practices in a "package" approach
    - Individual counseling
    - Group counseling (early recovery skills, relapse prevention, family education)
    - 12-Step meetings
    - Urine/breath tests
    - Relapse analysis
    - Social support

Some evidence-based treatment interventions

- Sobriety support and psychoeducation
  - **Step Away iPhone app**: guides users through cravings and high-risk situations (http://stepaway.biz/)
  - **SMART Recovery**: in-person and online meetings (http://www.smartrecovery.org/)
  - **MyStrength**: "Health Club for Your Mind" helps people manage depression, anxiety, and substance use disoders (https://www.mystrength.com/)
  - **Courage Beyond:** online classes and support groups for veterans (http://couragebeyond.org/)
  - **Alcoholics Anonymous Online Intergroup**: online meetings (http://www.aa-intergroup.org/)

Case Study: Missouri

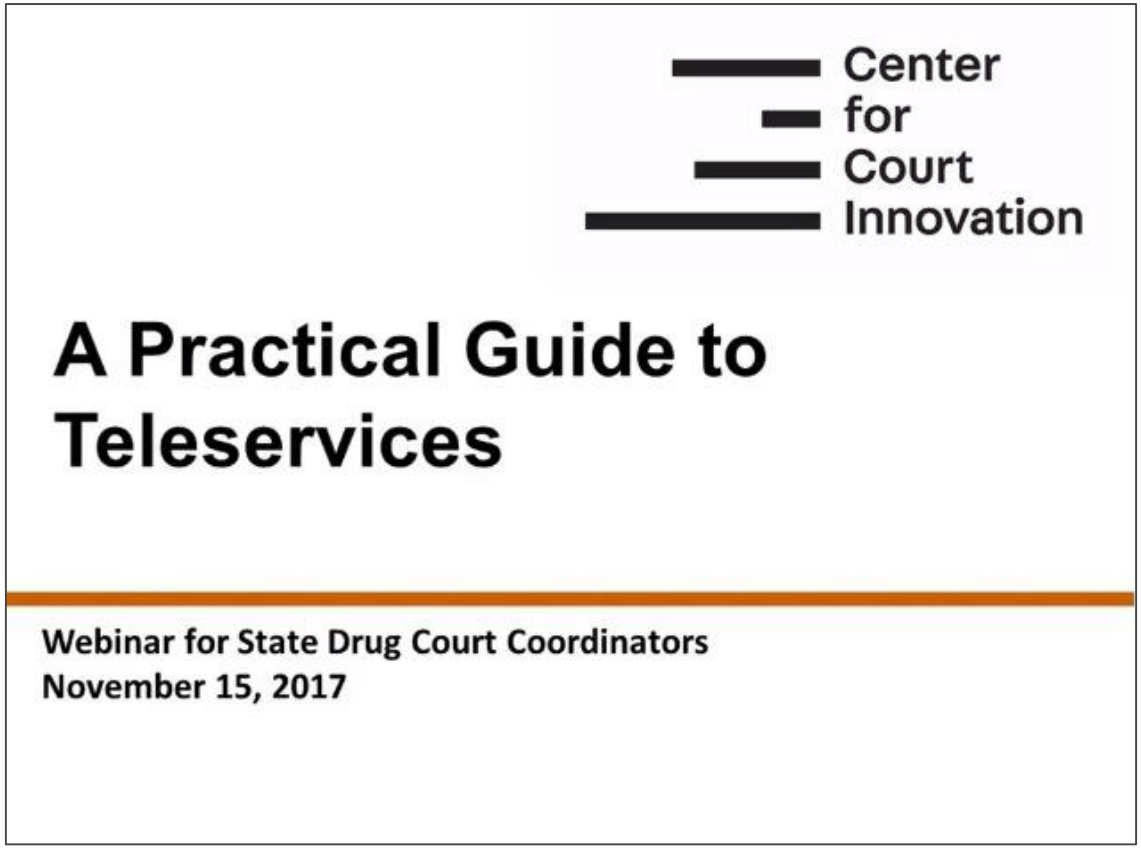
- Virtual World Counseling allows participants to use “avatars” to participate in group and individual counseling

Case Study: Missouri

- Uses Skype to verify participants' identities
- Uses same evidence-based treatment practices as face-to-face treatment
- Currently developing a remote version of H.E.A.T. (Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy), an evidence-based treatment group for African American males

Additional Information

https://treatmentcourts.org/mod/eduplayer/view.php?id=600



2. CLIENT SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

Teleservices and Client Supervision

- Monitor participant compliance
  - Remote BAC devices “fill the gaps” of traditional toxicology screens
  - Special apps and devices track participant location
  - Video compliance hearings between court and participant
  - Video monitoring and supervision between probation and participant

Learning from the medical field: Remote Patient Monitoring

- In the world of health care, providers use “remote patient monitoring” technology to collect, track, and transmit patient health data, sometimes on an ongoing basis

Example: chronic respiratory failure patients

- device monitors oxygen saturation of patient's blood and transmits vital statistics through the phone line
- Information sent to a receiving station where a nurse is available to provide a real-time remote consultation

- SCRAM bracelets: transdermal alcohol testing
- ERAM: remote sobriety detection through eye movement
- Call2Test: assists with randomizing and tracking UA
- Outreach Smartphone Monitoring: combines BAC device and GPS
- ACHESS: Addiction Comprehensive Health Enhancement Support System

Case Study: Montana

- Videoconferencing technology in every courthouse
- Court proceedings, assessments, and one-on-one sessions via video conference
- Supervision via SCRAM and CheckBAC
- Text messaging protocol via Live Inspired (court announcements, updates, reminders, notifications about community events, and motivational recovery messages)

Indian Country Case Study: Idaho & Nez Perce

- Idaho (Clearwater & Lewis Counties) Teleservices Project; ongoing
- State-tribal partnership to provide teleservices to rural counties in Idaho: exchange of services
  - Tribe to provide broadband services (no commitment of new funding)
  - State to provide access to new communications tower in western edge of service area (no commitment of new funding)
  - Tribal members charged with DUI can receive treatment services (teleservices)

3. STAFF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

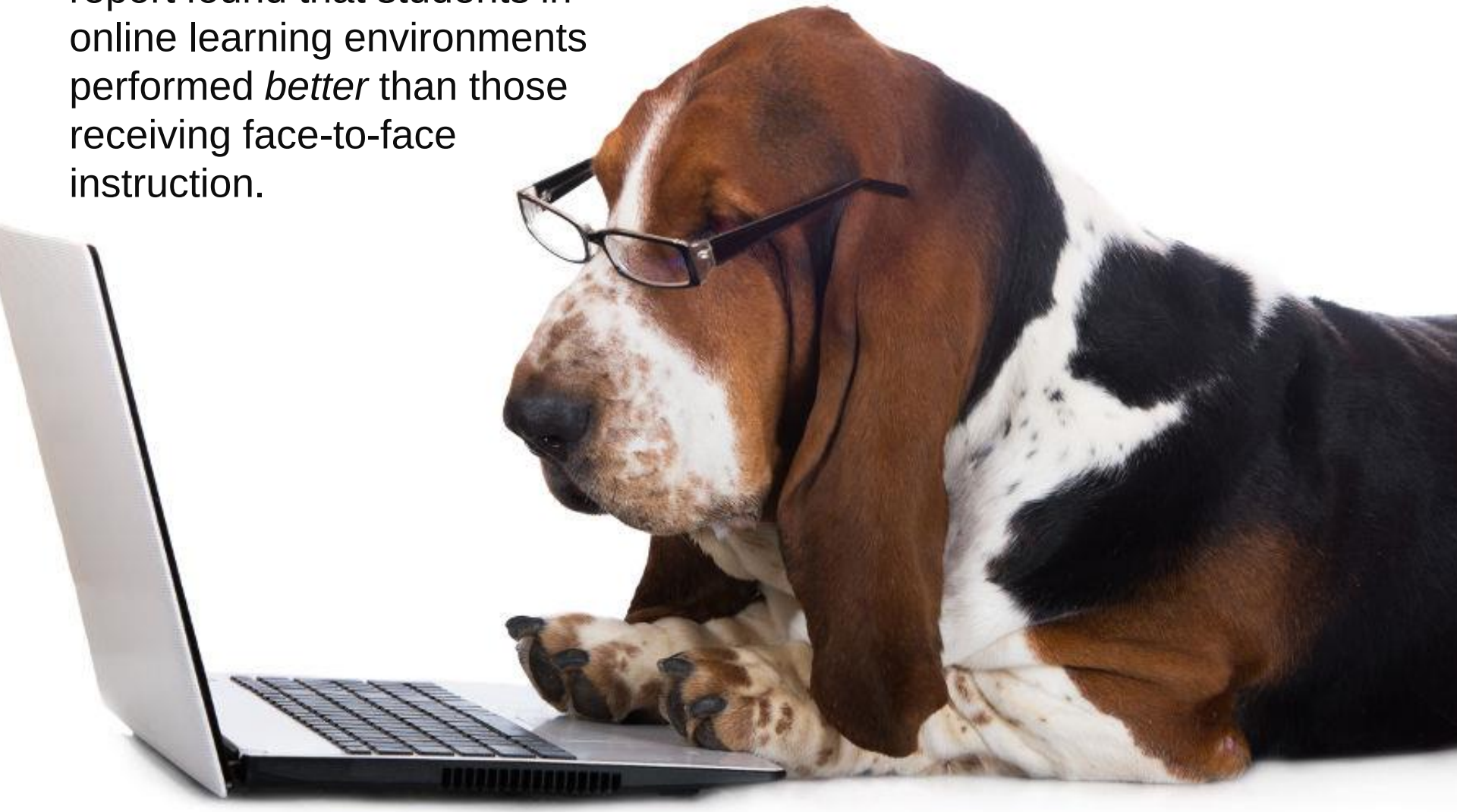
Teleservices and Training

- Best practices are constantly evolving fields
- Practitioners must stay current
- In-person training events can be expensive and time-consuming
- Technology allows treatment court teams to access excellent training opportunities from their offices

Treatment Courts Online

www.treatmentcourts.org

U.S. Department of Education report found that students in online learning environments performed *better* than those receiving face-to-face instruction.



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NDCI
NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE

TRAINING RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS LAW

SEARCH GO

- Design A Drug Court
- Know Your Role
- Advanced Training
- Visit a Mentor Court
- Online Trainings & Webinars
  - Online Course: Transitioning Judges
  - Online Course- Essential Elements of Adult Drug Courts
  - Online Course - The Beat: A Law Enforcement Officer's Guide to Drug Courts
  - Online Course - Treating and Supervising Meth Addicts in Drug Court
  - Webinars

> GET EMAIL UPDATES

> BECOME A MEMBER FOR ADDED BENEFITS

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF ADULT DRUG COURTS

Share |

This self-paced online course is designed to build a sequential understanding of the Essential Elements of Adult Drug Courts. Whether you are planning a new Drug Court or you are a new Drug Court team member, you will learn the core knowledge, skills and information necessary to properly work within a Drug Court.

Click here to register for the Essential Elements Course

Contact Us
elearning@ndci.org

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Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network

Webinars

- American University's School of Public Affairs
- Tribal Law and Policy Institute
- Children and Family Futures (family drug courts)
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (juvenile drug courts)
- SAMHSA/Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
- Individual state court drug association websites

Additional Information

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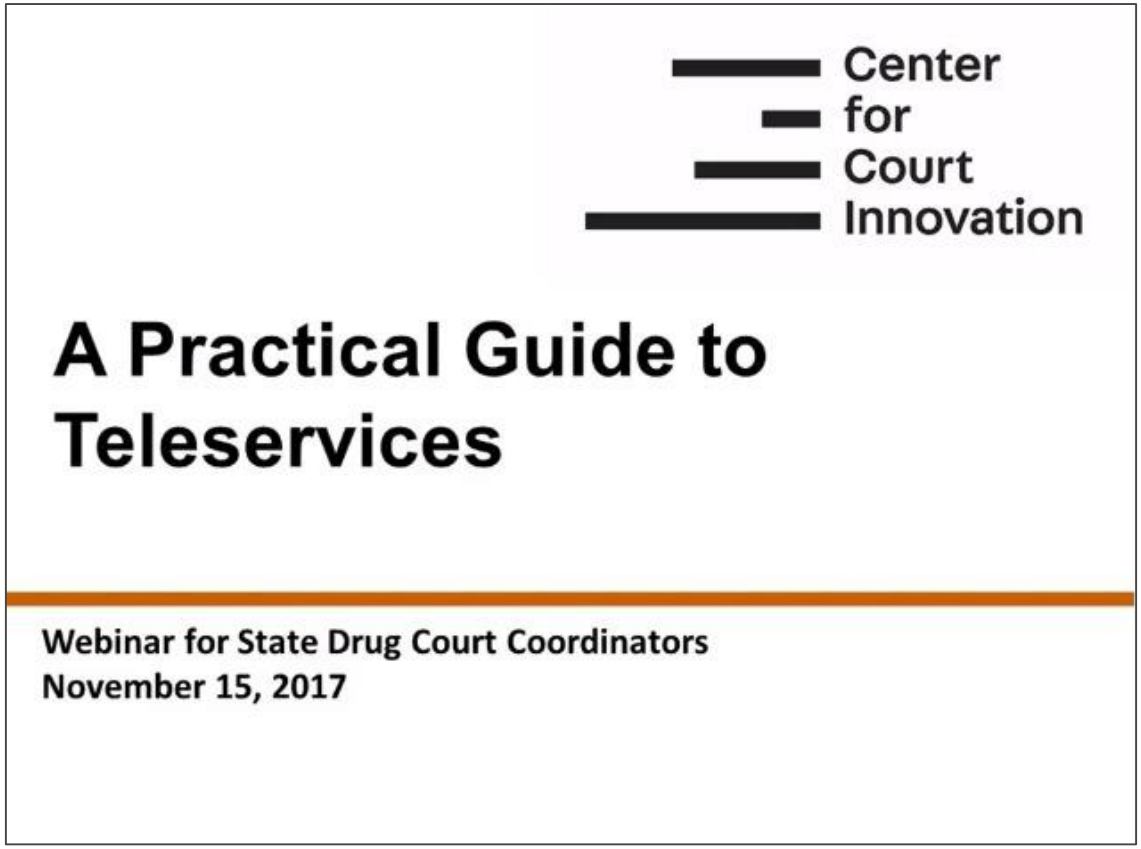
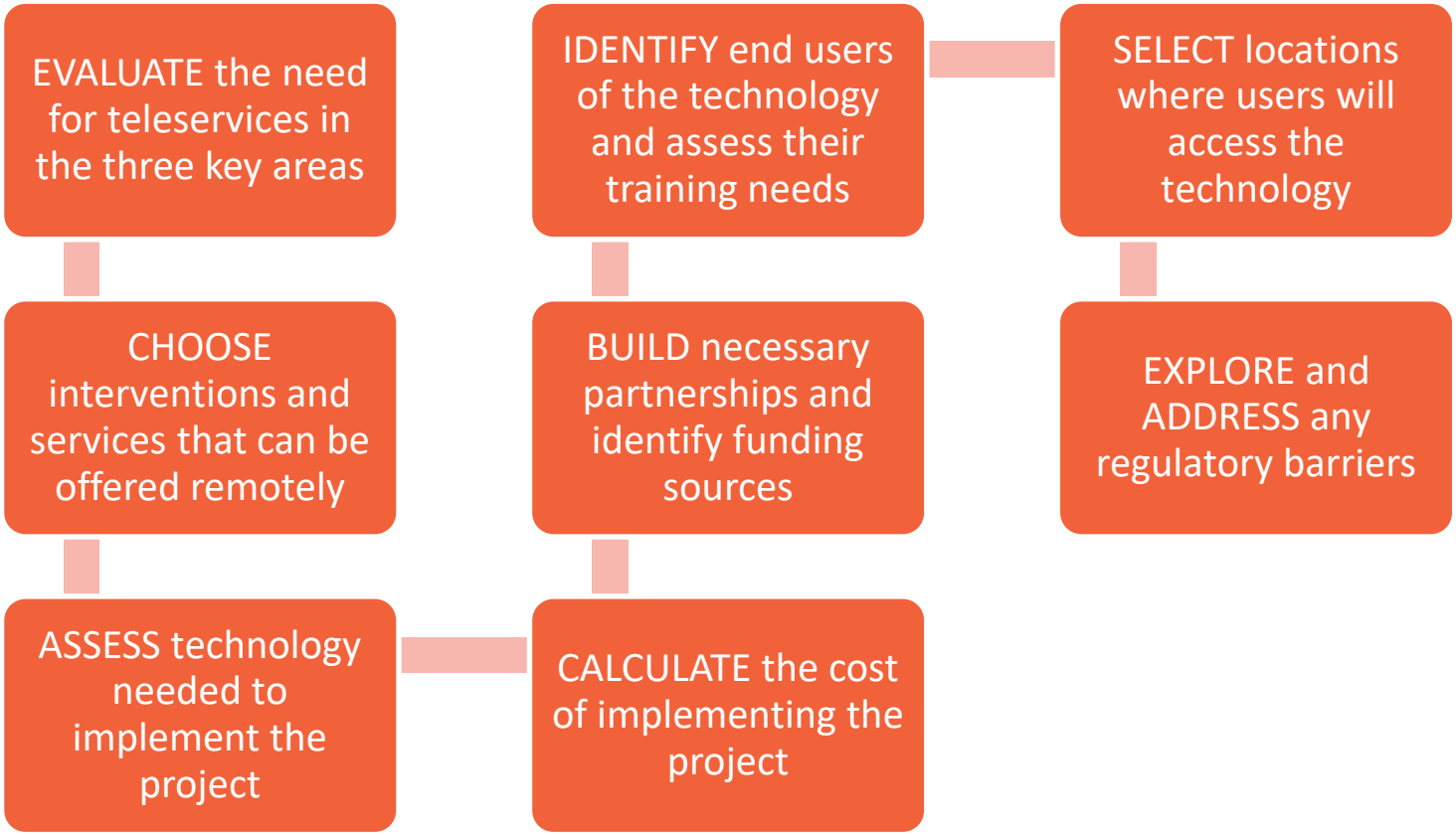


CONSIDERATIONS FOR TELESERVICES PLANNING

Potential barriers

- Cost
- Access to technology
- Regulatory issues
- Insurance coverage
- Use comfort and experience with technology
- Quality control
- Fidelity to evidence-based practices
- Legal and privacy issues

Recommendations



Thank you!
Questions?

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