Technology in Drug Courts: How Technology Can Address Treatment, Supervision, and Training Goals

Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training
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Research
Operating Projects
Expert Assistance

Mission
Reduce Crime
Aid Victims
Strengthen Communities
Improve Trust in the Justice System
Expanding Access to Drug Court

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

By Sarah Pickard-Prisched

May 2013

A Statewide Evaluation of New York’s Adult Drug Courts

Identifying Which Policies Work Best

By Amanda E. Cissner, Michael Gimpel, and Allison Walker Franks

Center for Court Innovation

Kate T. Fowani and Samuel Hershk

The Urban Institute

Rachel Cohen and Carolyn R. Gordon

New York State Unified Court System

June 2013
Operating Projects
Expert Assistance
National Training and Technical Assistance

- BJA’s statewide treatment court TTA provider
- Community courts implementation and enhancement
- Procedural justice
- Veterans treatment court pilot projects
- Tribal justice
- Treatment Courts Online (www.treatmentcourts.org)
- Prosecutor led diversion
The Center for Court Innovation helps states make universal improvements to their treatment court systems, including:

- Statewide strategic planning
- Statewide evaluations
- Fidelity assessment – peer review or certification process
- Implementing evidence-based practices – 10 Key Components/Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards
- Teleservices assessment, implementation, and strategic planning

We liaise primarily with the statewide treatment court coordinator
Questions for the audience

- Does your court currently use technology?
- What challenges does your court currently face in the delivery of treatment and supportive services?
- What challenges does your court currently face in monitoring participants?
- What challenges does your court currently face in ongoing education for team members?
Overview of presentation

1. Defining “teleservices”
2. Using teleservices to expand the delivery of treatment
3. Using teleservices to enhance compliance monitoring
4. Using teleservices to enhance professional development
5. Examples of teleservices in state drug courts
6. Considerations for planning teleservices initiatives
Teleservices
Teleservices = Using Technology for...

- Treatment
- Supervision & Monitoring
- Training
The Future is Now

Enhancing Drug Court Operations Through Technology

by Annie Schachar, Aaron Arnold and Precious Benally

TELESERVICES: HAPPENING NOW!

Problem-solving courts are using technology to transform the way they operate. Drug courts, in particular, are exploring 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 “tele-services.” In 2020, the Center for Court Innovation (the Center) published “This Future is Now: Enhancing Drug Court Operations Through Technology,” a position paper that explores emerging uses of technology and highlights some of the early winners in problem-solving courts. The following page, the Center assisted four jurisdictions in planning and implementing pilot tele-services projects. This document offers an overview of the pilot projects, highlights promising practices, and offers recommendations for implementing tele-services initiatives in other jurisdictions.

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 places a strain on the Yellowstone County Veterans Court—which is known as CAMO (Court Awarding Military Officers)—which is one of only three veteran 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 veteran 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 tele-services 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 pre-assessment for assessing potential participants “technology readiness.”

Today, CAMO uses Montana’s statewide Project21 videoconferencing system to facilitate remote participation. When a defendant from another county wishes to be considered for CAMO, the court coordinator administers a pre-assessment tool to assess technology readiness. 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 via video as well. There is even a Polycom app that allows participants to connect to the court and operators using their phones. The project has been so successful that CAMO has purchased an additional Polycom unit to begin Mental Health Therapy (MHT) services and substance mentor training.

To enhance supervision of remote participants, CAMO uses the Check2AC 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
Teleservices by any other name...
Telehealth was first developed by NASA to track astronauts' physiological data while on space missions.
The first known media 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
- Diabetes
1. Treatment and Other Services
Teleservices and treatment

- Screening, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, continuing care
- Delivery of evidence-based substance misuse treatment and other supportive services
- Especially useful for rural areas, or areas that lack access to treatment services
- Urban areas with limited resources
The benefits of using technology for treatment

- Provides a broader client reach
- Overcomes treatment barriers
- Expands the arsenal of available services and specialties
- Can alleviate strain on provider caseloads
- Saves travel time and money
- Can be used as an incentive and phase advancement
Evidence-based treatment interventions

- **CBT4CBT** ([www.cbt4cbt.com](http://www.cbt4cbt.com))
  - “Computer-Based Training for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy”
  - Web-based program
  - Uses vignettes and examples
  - 7 modules (approx. 1 hour each)
  - Self-directed and pace
  - Must be enrolled in a clinical program
  - Proven as a treatment enhancer, not as a substitute
Evidence-based treatment interventions

- **TES** ([sudtech.org](http://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
Evidence-based treatment interventions

- Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT)
  - Provide MAT remotely to assist participants with sobriety and recovery
    - Videoconference doctor’s appts. while local practitioner provides IM or prescription is provided to pharmacy
    - Follow-up appointments and counseling with the use of smartphone
    - All participant updates are provided directly to treatment court staff
Bright Heart Health

RAPID ACCESS OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT

FIRST ONLINE OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAM

Bright Heart Health is the first nationwide opioid use disorder treatment program via telemedicine. Individuals meet with our medical staff and counselors via video conferencing – not in a clinic or office. No waitlists, no travel, no traffic, and no hassles. We provide individuals with the highest level of care. We prescribe and monitor medications that allow individuals to stop abusing opioids without experiencing powerful drug cravings or severe withdrawal symptoms.

Our counselors meet with individuals online via telemedicine, and help identify and develop strategies to deal with the issues and disorders that may have contributed to or been impacted by opioid abuse.

At Bright Heart Health, we will help prepare you to live a healthier and more productive life, free from opioid addiction.

Bright Heart Health’s Opioid Use Disorder Program is available through a smart phone, tablet, or computer, making it convenient no matter where you live or travel.
Recovery support and psychoeducation online

- **Step Away iPhone app**: guides users through cravings and high-risk situations ([http://stepaway.biz/](http://stepaway.biz/))

- **SMART Recovery**: in-person and online meetings ([http://www.smartrecovery.org/](http://www.smartrecovery.org/))

- **MyStrength**: “Health Club for Your Mind” helps people manage depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders ([https://www.mystrength.com/](https://www.mystrength.com/))

- **Courage Beyond**: online classes and support groups for veterans ([http://couragebeyond.org/](http://couragebeyond.org/))
Recovery support and psychoeducation online


▪ ACHESS: Addiction Comprehensive Health Enhancement Support System: relapse prevention; peer connection; content and support ([www.chess.health](http://www.chess.health))

▪ LifeRing: secular recovery providing online support communities as well as email support groups ([www.lifering.org](http://www.lifering.org))

▪ In the Rooms: offer a sober online community with online meetings. Members have access to over 129 live online meetings with many fellowships, including wellbriety ([https://www.intherooms.com/](https://www.intherooms.com/))
Case Study: Missouri

- Uses virtual reality avatars for individual and group counseling
  - Participants design their personal and anonymous avatar to participate in treatment in a virtual world
- Uses Skype to verify participants’ identities
- Uses same evidence-based treatment practices as face-to-face treatment (modifications may be needed)
Case Study: Missouri
Case Study: Missouri

- Piloting C.A.R.E.S. (centralized avatar recovery enhancement services) to target equity and inclusion
  - Underserved populations, in this case African American males, receive treatment and “interact in meaningful ways with each other and culturally competent clinicians.”
- Pilot started mid-September
- C.A.R.E.S. is available statewide
- Culturally appropriate setting and avatars available
Case Study: Ohio

Pilot project to provide medication for addiction treatment to rural courts in Ohio (eMAT)

- Currently working with three rural counties for the pilot (Mansfield, Marrow, & Trumbull counties)
- eMAT services will be provided by Bright Heart Health (https://www.brighthearthhealth.com/)
- Various methods of MAT will be used in the pilot
- Bright Heart Health also provides online substance use disorder treatment
- The pilot is underway and the anecdotal information is promising
Case Study: New York

- Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) through BJA
- Partnership with New York State Court System, CCI, OASAS
- Expand access to treatment interventions in rural areas
- Establish secure video connections between 3 residential programs and courts for remote court appearances, clinical case management, training opportunities
- Remotely link rural drug courts with remote access to MAT and counseling services
Case Study New York

- Court connections
- Telepsychiatry
- Remote MAT and counseling – rural drug courts and at discharge planning
- Face-to-face between parents and children in child welfare system during residential treatment
- Online recovery support
- Training opportunities for staff at residential treatment programs
- Exploring interactive journaling and other treatment interventions and use of connecting with peers remotely
2. Client Supervision and Monitoring
Teleservices and Client Supervision and Monitoring

- **Supervise and monitor participant compliance**
  - Remote BAC devices “fill the gaps” of traditional toxicology screens
  - Special apps and devices track participant location (GPS locators)
  - Video compliance hearings between court and participant
  - Video case management and individual counseling sessions
  - Video supervision and monitoring between probation and participant

- **Facilitate communication between team members**
  - Staffing meetings
  - Conduct dockets remotely
SCRAM bracelets: transdermal alcohol testing

ERAM: remote sobriety detection through eye movement

Call2Test: assists with randomizing and tracking UA

Smartphone Monitoring: combines BAC device and GPS
Case Study: Montana

▪ Videoconferencing technology in every courthouse
▪ Court proceedings, assessments, and one-on-one sessions via video conference
▪ CBT4CBT
▪ Remote MAT
▪ Supervision via SCRAM and CheckBAC
▪ Use of online recovery support, i.e., AAonline.net
▪ Text messaging protocol via “I Live Inspired” (court announcements, updates, reminders, notifications about community events, and motivational recovery messages)
Case Study: Montana

SCRAM and CBT4CBT
Computer Workstation

I Live Inspired
Text Messages

Welcome to the CAMO Court text message program. Think, take action, stay clean, and stay sober. We are here for you!

Only phase 2 clients need to attend court this week (July 5th) unless you get a call from one of the coordinators.
Case Study: Montana

Client attempting to adulterate breathalyzer test
Case Study: Montana

Aaonline.net
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
- Staff turnover
- Technology allows treatment court teams to access excellent training opportunities from their offices
U.S. Department of Education report found that students in online learning environments performed *better* than those receiving face-to-face instruction.
A Tribal Nation can only be as strong and healthy as its citizens and families. To help put misguided tribal community members back on track—on to a healing to wellness journey—Healing to Wellness Courts employ an extensive supervision and treatment program enhanced by appropriate cultural elements. Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts are a component of tribal justice systems that incorporate and adapt the treatment court concept to meet the specific needs of each tribal community. By combining judicial supervision, drug testing, treatment services, and community support, Healing to Wellness Courts provide structure and accountability for offenders and give Native communities a powerful tool to address the problems caused by substance abuse.

- Healing to Wellness Court: Lessons
- Healing to Wellness Court: Practitioner Perspectives
- Healing to Wellness Court: Resource Library
- Tribal Justice System Infrastructure
Below are lessons designed to enhance healing to wellness court practitioners’ knowledge and skills in a variety of subject areas. Each lesson is accompanied by Power Point slides, a user evaluation, and a certificate of completion.
Below are interviews with practicing Healing to Wellness Court professionals, which are organized into topic areas. These interviews are designed to add real-world context to the topics covered in the Lessons.
Healing to Wellness Court: Resource Library

Below is a resource library, which is organized into several topic areas. Each resource can be opened in a pop-out window or downloaded as a PDF.
Welcome to the resource center for the Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Project dedicated to assisting tribes with the planning process for renovating, construction, and operating correctional facilities and other qualifying justice system infrastructure. Here you will find resources dedicated to facility design, corrections in Indian Country, alternatives to incarceration, and tribal justice systems. The resources are curated to provide information to assist in the development of culturally-appropriate justice system facilities and planning problem-solving justice initiatives with an emphasis on alternatives to incarceration.

Content will be updated regularly when materials become available, including publications, videos, and recorded webinars.

Each resource can be opened in a pop-out window or downloaded as a PDF.
Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network

Welcome to Telehealth Tuesdays

Telehealth Tuesdays is a series of media events on using telehealth technologies to deliver substance use disorder treatment and recovery services. Visit this page on the second Tuesday of each month to gain access to the collection of new resources such as podcasts, webinars, mock counseling sessions and webinars. See you next Telehealth Tuesday!

Telehealth Tuesday #20 - August 11, 2015

NFAR Telehealth Tuesday Media Series Event

Join us during a live webinar on Telehealth Tuesday to hear about the latest telehealth tools and resources. The webinar will be held on August 11, 2015, at 11:00-11:30AM PDT.

Live Twitter Chat

#telehealth2015

August 11, 2015 | 11:00-11:30AM PDT
Webinars

- Center for Court Innovation
- Tribal Law and Policy Institute
- American University’s School of Public Affairs
- 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
A Practical Guide to Teleservices

Webinar for State Drug Court Coordinators
November 15, 2017
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

- **EVALUATE** the need for teleservices in the three key areas
- **CHOOSE** interventions and services that can be offered remotely
- **ASSESS** technology needed to implement the project
- **IDENTIFY** end users of the technology and assess their training needs
- **BUILD** necessary partnerships and identify funding sources
- **CALCULATE** the cost of implementing the project
- **SELECT** locations where users will access the technology
- **EXPLORE** and **ADDRESS** any regulatory barriers

**Recommendations**

Center for Court Innovation
How does your court use technology to improve treatment, supervision, and staff training?
Jot down three ideas for how your drug court could use technology to improve:

- treatment
- supervision
- training

What would be some of the challenges in implementing new technology?

What pre-existing technology could you leverage?
Thank you!

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