

Abstract

This case study explores a county-wide pilot treatment court program. The objective is to understand the program's strengths and barriers to its success. The program functions as an early intervention, assessment, and case management model working with post-arrest non-violent offenders. Any person charged with a felony or multiple misdemeanors may be referred to this pilot program. The program currently is under evaluation by an external team. A standstill has been met by the team and the program regarding continued engagement to plan for the next phases of the evaluation. Several dynamics may be at play impacting such resistance. Examination of this case will bring clarity to the program's dynamics. The intention is to further understand how the program succeeds and struggles as it relates to its intended function as well as the evaluation project. Documentation and paperwork review, observations, and interviews with two case workers, multiple clients, program and other program members were conducted and will be analyzed. Data was collected beginning of June 1, 2009 and extended through June 30, 2010. Analysis of themes will address the complexity of the case and illuminate pertinent issues. Anticipated results include emerging themes around relationships, the fundamental structure of the program and treatment court system. Ultimately, a greater understanding of the nuances of the case will come to light to help successful completion of the program's evaluation process.