

WORKSESSION

MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2019

TO: Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee
Public Safety (PS) Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst *L.Mc*
Susan Farag, Legislative Analyst *SF*

SUBJECT: **Worksession: FY20 Operating Budget**
Adult Drug Court

PURPOSE: Update and recommendations on FY20 Budget

Those expected to attend this worksession:

Vickie Buckland, Acting Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Dr. Raymond Crowel, Chief, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (DHHS)
Jenna Davis, Problem Solving Court Coordinator, Circuit Court
Erika Finn-Lopez, Office of Management and Budget

Background

The County's website describes the Adult Drug Court as a "comprehensive, voluntary treatment program for adult offenders suffering from drug and alcohol dependence." Its mission is to, "reduce addicted offenders' criminal activity and thereby increase public safety by linking them with appropriate services. Success of the program is tied to the success of participants being able to sustain a crime-free and sober life."

The Adult Drug Court started in 2004. Each year, funding is approved as a part of the DHHS budget but last year, the Joint HHS and PS Committee had significant discussions with the Honorable Nelson Rupp, Circuit Court, and DHHS about the changing nature of the substance abuse and behavioral health issues participants have, particularly regarding opiate addiction. Judge Rupp recounted that when the Drug Court began most often the issue was marijuana and cocaine use, but now many participants are opiate addicts which has required changes in the treatment they need and the length of time they may need to participate. The

Council funded an additional Therapist to provide a more appropriate caseload. The new position was added last fall.

The following information is the Fact Sheet provided by the Circuit Court.

FACT SHEET FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT

- Drug Court is an intense program of treatment, supervision, and monitoring for non-violent addicted offenders.
- The program is a minimum of 20 months in duration with the average length of time in the program being 32 months.
- The program consists of four phases. The requirements for each phase are outlined below.

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Continuing Care
Length of phase	6 months	6 months	4 months	4 months
Frequency of court	Weekly	Once every 3 weeks	Once every 4 weeks	Once every 6 weeks
Frequency of case management meetings	Weekly	Once every 3 weeks	Once every 4 weeks	Once every 6 weeks
Number of times per week a case manager must be called	1	1	1	1
Substance abuse treatment schedule	Mon: 5-8 pm Tues: 5-9 pm Wed: 5-8 pm	Mon: 5-8 pm Wed: 5-8 pm	Mon: 5-8 pm	None
Number of recovery meetings required each week	3	3	3	3

- Each participant works closely with an assigned case manager and addiction therapist.
- Drug Court status hearings are held every Thursday at 11:00 am, 4:30 pm and 5:00 pm.
- Each participant is randomly tested for drugs and alcohol two to three times per week.
- Each participant must live in approved sober housing which is typically an Oxford House.
- Each participant must get a job, enroll in school full-time, or complete volunteer work if on disability.

- Drug Court offers a GED program to ensure every participant graduates with a high school education.
- For those with a high school education, Drug Court is able to assist with enrollment in certificate programs, apprenticeships, and college courses.
- Drug Court also has a life skills/vocational counselor to assist participants in obtaining gainful employment.
- Sanctions are given quickly for positive drug tests and program non-compliance and include increased treatment requirements, short-term incarceration, and inpatient treatment.
- Incentives are given for progress in the program and include verbal praise, gift cards, and phase advancement.
- Probation is closed satisfactorily at Graduation.

Drug Court alumni assist with the sessions that are a part of Phase 4.

Staffing

The following table provides the staffing complement for the Adult Drug Court. There is one vacant Therapist position and interviews have been completed for filling this position. DHHS expects a selection memo will be sent to the Office of Human Resources very soon.

Job Class	FT/PT	FTE
OFFICE SERVICES COORD	FT	1.00
BEHAV HEALTH ASSOC CNSLR	FT	0.50
THERAPIST II	FT	1.00
THERAPIST II	FT	1.00
THERAPIST II	FT	1.00
THERAPIST II	FT	1.00
THERAPIST II	FT	1.00
THERAPIST II*	FT	1.00
MANAGER III	FT	1.00
SUPERVISORY THERAPIST	FT	1.00
Total FTE		9.5

*New position approved by Special Appropriation October 15, 2018

Budget

The table on the following page provides the latest FY19 budget and the CE's recommended budget for FY20.

	FY19	FY20 CE
DHHS Personnel*	\$911,145	\$978,250
Management Consulting	57,538	108,182
Contract Psychiatric**	146,754	146,754
General Office Supplies	3,738	3,738
Printing	250	250
Cellular Phone Line Charges	1,180	00
Travel	1,110	1,110
Tokens	1,750	1,750
Total Operating Expense	\$212,320	\$261,784
TOTAL	\$1,123,465	\$1,240,034

*approximate

**This contract also serves people in medication/outpatient addiction who are not in Drug Court

Capacity – DHHS has provided the following responses

1. What is the current number of participants in the Adult Drug Court? 82
2. Last spring, 12 of 83 clients that were being managed/served by behavioral health providers in the County system that were not a part of the DHHS Adult Drug Court complement. Are clients still being served this way?

Sometimes clients are diverted for individual issues – for example, one client had a historic domestic violence relationship with a new admission, so they were separated for safety reasons. Another example is two clients with a criminal history together, such as co-conspirators in a significant crime, are sometimes separated. Many of these clients are still served in the program via our observed urinalysis program, and many often end up with us for the remainder of their treatment.

3. Is this due to a shortage of staff in the Drug Court complement or are there other reasons?

Clients are no longer diverted to alternative treatment sites due to staffing shortages.

4. What is the current capacity of the Adult Drug Court? Is it still expected that if all Therapist positions are filled that the Adult Drug Court will have a capacity of 90?

The program currently has a full complement of 5 therapists, the newest of which began 4 months ago. On April 5th, interviews were completed for the 6th therapist position. Once in place, oriented and trained, capacity will exceed 90.

Council staff recommendation

Council staff recommends approval as recommended by the Executive.