

## SWDC

### Program Updates:

#### June

- June-Two Participants Graduate in Waseca

#### July

- State Allocation remains the same
- Sober Fest
- Alumni Picnic
- Freeze implemented in Steele County based on projected lack of staffing

#### August

- DOC Agent Transfers, position vacant
- Four Participants on track in Graduate in Steele and Waseca
- Budget Forecast
- Two year summary of program usage

# Fall 2016 Steele Waseca Drug Court

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## Graduations

Graduations have remained steady. Waseca County had two program graduations in June. There are four graduations scheduled to occur in August. Our graduates have been mentoring current participants. Two graduates developed an alumni/mentorship group that meets each Tuesday night at the Dual Recovery Program. This group is also hosting a monthly recreational event as well.



## Sober Fest

Dodge County Drug Court hosts Sober Fest annually. In July, over 25 SWDC participants attended including 5 graduates with their family and friends. The day began with a friendly softball tournament, followed by a pork feed and raffle. One of our participants was featured in the Dodge County Independent representing his Team. Locally Foam Craft and participants donated to the raffle.



## Program Usage per County (July 1, 2014-July 31, 2016)

We have enjoyed a great partnership amongst Waseca County, Steele County and the Department of Corrections (DOC). SWDC has been served by three FTE's since January of 2016 allowing program numbers to expand to a capacity of 50. The in-kind service from DOC greatly benefits our program. Additionally the DOC-

Owatonna office serves as a back-up drug testing site at least twice weekly for participants that are unable to attend the morning testing. Steele County exceeded the projected 25 participant cap in February of 2015 and ranged between 26-33 participants monthly (average 28.6). Waseca County reached the 15

projected cap in January of 2016 and since that time has ranged between 16 to 18 participants. Steele County averaged 68% and Waseca 32% of the participants served monthly. Steele County averaged 63.75% and Waseca 36.25% of the referrals screened between July 1, 2014 and July 31, 2016.



### Budget Forecast

The OJP-BJA Implementation grant will expire on September 30, 2017. Attempts will be made to carry any unused federal funds forward. The State Allocation is predicted to remain constant \$170,424 or increase to \$190,000.

On July 1, 2017, Steele County will be converting to a community correction act entity. As part of their conversion, Steele County will provide felony services presently performed by DOC.

SWDC currently receives one in-kind FTE probation officer from DOC to serve both Counties. The DOC agent spent an average of 32 hours weekly in Steele County and 8 hours weekly in Waseca County. Beyond July 1, 2017, DOC will continue felony services in Waseca County.

private attorney services, team training and continued evaluation. If awarded, the funds would become available on October 1, 2016.

As you are aware, we are in a strong position to receive another federal BJA-Enhancement Grant to support mental health services,



*"Most of the things that were worth doing in the world were declared impossible before they were done."*

Justice Louis Brandeis



### Changes in Staffing

Katelyn Lambrecht, Department of Corrections Agent has transferred to a position in another County. Lambrecht was assigned to the drug court program fulltime and served Steele and Waseca Counties. She assisted with co-facilitating a Thinking for Change program between January and March of 2016. Lambrecht attended the NADCP training in June along with the Waseca Team.

Her contribution to this program was invaluable and she will be missed.

The Department of Corrections began to recruit replacing this position prior to it being vacated. We are hopeful that a new employee will be selected. The typical time span to recruit and hire has been about two months. In the meanwhile, the Steele County program has placed a

freeze on new entries. There are currently 48 participants in the program. Services will be impacted based on lack of staffing at this time.

### Community Partners Recognized

Steele and Waseca Counties recognized community partners at this year's Alumni Picnic. Drug Court extended recognition for outstanding contributions in various activities conducted by an individual or organization on several occasions to promote the mission and success of the Steele Waseca Drug Court program. SWDC highly appreciates their efforts in our achievements.

Steele County recognized the Owatonna Police Department who perform "knock and chats", the Steele County Sheriff's Department for drug collection along with the CARE program for case management, Hospitality House and house manager Joleen Sherrets. Waseca County recognized Karie Anderson (Defense Representative), Brandon Servantez (Court Services) for assisting with drug testing, and

Alex Transitional Homes, LLC. Articles were featured in the Owatonna People's Press and the Waseca County News highlighting their contributions. Without these partners we would not be able to achieve the same level of success.

## STEELE WASECA DRUG COURT

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The Steele Waseca Drug Court program was implemented in July of 2014 based on the following factors:

Between 2008 and 2012 in Steele and Waseca Counties:

Narcotics arrests rose from 126 to 226 (a 79% increase)

DWI arrests held steady at 279 annually

202 offenders sentenced for felony drug or felony DWI offense

Both County Human Service Departments showed the cost of transporting and detoxing offenders increased by 47%

There were 68 Child In Need of Protection or Service Petitions filed in which parental drug abuse was a significant factor

### What are Drug Courts?

Drug courts are specialized, problem-solving court programs that target non-violent criminal offenders who suffer from addiction to alcohol or other drugs. The programs involve close collaboration between judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, treatment providers, mental health professionals, probation officers, law enforcement, educational and vocational experts, and community leaders. Through this collaboration, drug courts closely monitor the defendant's progress toward sobriety and recovery through ongoing treatment, frequent drug testing, and regular mandatory check-in court appearances. The programs use a range of immediate sanctions and incentives to foster behavior change.

### Do Drug Courts Work?

A [2012 statewide evaluation](#) that compared over 500 drug court participants to nearly 650 offenders with similar profiles who did not enter a drug court program showed that drug court participants:

Had lower recidivism rates over 2 ½ years – 17% versus 32% reconviction rate;

Spent fewer days incarcerated, saving the state on average \$3,200 per participant over two and a half years; and

Showed gains in employment, educational achievement, home rental or ownership, and payment of child support over the run of the program.

The Steele Waseca Drug Court was one of six new drug courts in the state that opened their doors during the summer of 2014, after the Legislature increased funding for drug courts during the 2013 Legislative Session. In July of 2016, there were 61 treatment courts in Minnesota. The Minnesota Judicial Branch's Drug Court Initiative Advisory Committee has a set a goal to make drug court services available statewide.

