

# Reaching for the STARS

STAR Court

Summer 2005



## Marion County STAR Court News

### Putting Those Cell Phones to Good Use

Beginning in July, STAR Court implemented a new automated urinalysis drug testing system. “We intend to be more formulaic in our randomness,” said program coordinator Mike Maryanov. Program participants will be assigned certain colors which STAR Court will use to inform them as to when they must submit a “UA”. Participants must now call an automated announcement line daily to determine what color is to be tested on that day. STAR Court team member agency Creekside Counseling will collect and submit the UAs; participants may be tested Mondays - Saturdays.

In the past, STAR Court relied on probation officers and treatment counselors to collect UAs from participants. “That’s fine,” said Maryanov, “but this will 1) add a new layer of accountability, because the kids must call each day or face consequences for a skipped test, and 2) the more randomized aspect, coupled with daily call-in, may help keep all of us on our toes.”

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*“Strengths run concurrently with problems and risks,”* says Michael Clark of the Center for Strength-based Strategies. *“One does not negate the other. It’s not either/or, it’s both/and. Strength-based equals BALANCE.”*  
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### Refresher Refreshing

On June 8 and 9, STAR Court staff along with Juvenile Department, Oregon Youth Authority, ECHO/NW Human Services, and local school counseling staff attended a training refresher on the Strength-Based approach to working with mandated youth and their families. The course was facilitated by nationally recognized Strength-Based consultant, researcher, and author Michael Clark.

While local staff is well-versed in the language of Strength-Based concepts, Clark still was able to impart valuable information on how to look beyond deficits and frustrations and into potential and resiliencies and how to allow “clients” to participate in goal setting and case planning processes.

Clark applauded the Juvenile Department’s Strength-Based Assessment and encouraged staff to continue moving forward collaboratively and with juveniles’ assets in mind.





## Applications Submitted

The Marion County Juvenile Department recently submitted two grant applications seeking federal assistance to support STAR Court. In April, an application was sent to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). If awarded, this three-year Juvenile Drug Court grant would allow STAR Court to increase assessment services for participants, including funding psychological and neuropsychological assessments. The grant would support treatment, and sustain STAR Court's ongoing services such as frequent drug testing, and wellness programming. The maximum award allowed is \$400,000. STAR Court requested \$280,000. SAMHSA expects to issue eight Juvenile Drug Court grants nationally.

In May, STAR Court submitted an application to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for a "Single Jurisdiction Enhancement Grant." This juvenile drug court grant is smaller in scope and duration than the SAMHSA package. STAR Court requested \$100,00 per year for the two year period; funds would support the Wellness Program, the drug testing hotline, and limited treatment services.

Federal grant reviewers will coordinate efforts to protect against duplicating awards and to spread support funds across the country. STAR Court and the Juvenile Department hope to hear the results of these applications by late-summer.

## SAR Hosts Job Skills Day

The Salem Association of Realtors hosted a job skills summit for STAR Court participants. Held at ReMax in South Salem, the event began with a pizza lunch. During the afternoon, a number of Salem Association members talked with the kids about issues including self esteem and its importance in a job search, how to prepare for and participate in a job interview, and how to complete applications and build resumes. Six STAR Court youth participated in the event and all reported having a great time.



And to make matters more exciting, the folks from SAR rewarded program participants with a trip to the mall, helping kids picking out professional-style attire that SAR purchased for them. Not only did the kids have a great time, but now they look smashing too! THANKS to the Salem Association of Realtors!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Welcome to the New Director, and Don't Forget to Write

Star Court extends a very hearty handshake to the Juvenile Department's recently hired new Director, Faye Fagel. Faye joined the Department on July 11. She brings a plethora and variety of wonderful experiences with her and will fit right in here. With all the changes coming to the Juvenile Department in coming months, this is an exciting time indeed!

On the flip side, STAR Court extends a very hearty handshake to the now-retired Director, Larry Oglesby. We cannot express enough our gratitude for Larry's support of STAR Court and all the youth who come through this Department. Although pleased and thrilled for Larry's good fortune to reach this fabulous milestone, the STAR Court team yet is sad to see him go.

## Did you know...?

May was National Drug Court Month. Here in Oregon, programs celebrated with an event to "Bring Drug Court to the Capitol." On May 13, an actual Marion County Adult Drug Court session was held in Conference Room 50 at the Capitol Building. The event was televised, and local dignitaries as well as state-wide drug court professionals attended.

For the first time in the history of drug courts, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution designating May 2005 as National Drug Court Month. In previous years, Drug Court Month was celebrated, but never before proclaimed so luminously.



## Drug Courts Proliferate Nationally (but What Does the Future Hold?)

The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) reported that the number of drug courts in the United States increased 37 percent over the past year and doubled since 2001.

As reported in the Providence Journal and by JoinTogether.org, the new report, titled, "Painting the Current Picture: A National Report Card on Drug Courts and Other Problem Solving Court Programs in the United States," found 1,621 drug courts in the U.S. at the end of 2004.

C. West Huddleston, NDCI Director, said, "Drug courts are literally becoming a way of doing business in the courts. Solving problems is becoming a more accepted idea, as opposed to just disposing of cases and either putting people in prison or on probation with few treatment alternatives." Huddleston goes on to explain that drug courts produce an average of \$6,779 in avoided costs by reducing the prison population as well as recidivism, and that the power of drug courts lies in the combination of addiction treatment and court oversight. Research continually bears out that drug courts are cost effective efforts in addressing the legal issues of nonviolent offenders with addiction issues.

Given this, and national as well as local efforts to integrate drug courts further into court operations, what does it mean to institutionalize drug courts? The Center for Court Innovation recently released an article, "The Future of Drug Courts: How States are Mainstreaming the Drug Court Model." This article attempts to make sense of mainstreaming drug courts by exploring the notion of institutionalization and potential outcomes for normalized drug court functions. In other words: "Drug Courts - Once a novelty, now becoming business as usual in many states."



State courts, however, face a looming inevitability as drug courts likely will not survive unless they are institutionalized. Nation-wide, more and more drug courts compete for limited and potentially dwindling federal funds. And, as many programs in Oregon have learned, even if fortunate enough to win federal awards, multiple contingencies must be made to cover expenses once the grant ends. Do state courts account for drug courts in an established budget model or does institutionalization then involve including state legislatures as well as state court systems?

The Center for Court Innovation defines institutionalization as, "the process by which individual drug courts evolve from separate experimental entities to a statewide network that is stable, far-reaching, reliably funded and closely monitored. Oregon's drug court movement is getting there, with 30 drug courts in 27 jurisdictions, an active state Association of Drug Court Professionals, and the Oregon Chief Justice's Treatment Court Advisory Committee. But the Center for Court Innovation goes further, suggesting that during institutionalization, drug court professionals and policymakers no longer focus on basic program administration, but exploring new responsibilities including creating statewide offices and commissions to oversee drug courts, developing best practice guidelines, creating and maintaining statewide management information systems, lobbying for steady funding, and developing a network of relationships across the agencies of state government.

Whew! We at Reaching for the STARS feel inclined to suggest that spreading our news far and wide is a step in the right direction too, and while not wanting to step into the sparks of political worlds colliding, we can only express that drug courts work because systems come together to promote accountability and recovery, and it's the "coming together" part that must be sustained.



## It's Why We Do This Stuff

STAR Court happily celebrated another graduation on July 7, 2005. Two participants left with honors. In this case, STAR court stepped out of its box to celebrate one youth who came to the program from OYA after a significant stay in the Morrison Center Break Through program. He spent a number of weeks being successful in STAR Court, making great choices and impressive progress during his reentry into the community. And he was accepted into the Job Corps. Although he is leaving STAR Court too soon to graduate (and thus not reap the full benefit of record dismissal), STAR Court recognized his accomplishments by reducing his felonies to misdemeanors. He brought great energy and excitement with him to the program, traits that will serve him well on his next adventure.

STAR Court is also thrilled to recognize one youth as a full graduate. She has done remarkable work, truly self-directed and motivated to remove herself from the path of delinquency and destructiveness that she trod. STAR Court was pleased to see a number of her successes during this past year, including reunification...*unification* actually...with family she had never known. Very exciting indeed! And she reaps the benefit of successful graduation as her juvenile record was dismissed during the formal graduation ceremony.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote:

“Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with all your might.... Be active, be energetic, be enthusiastic and faithful, and you will accomplish your objective.”

Leo Buscaglia wrote:

“You have a choice. You can select joy over despair. You can select happiness over tears. You can select action over apathy. You can select growth over stagnation. You can select you. And you can select life. And it's time that people tell you you're not at the mercy of forces greater than yourself. You are, indeed, the greatest force for you.”

And Goethe wrote:

“I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess tremendous power to make life miserable or joyous.

I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration, I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal.

In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis is escalated or de-escalated, and a person is humanized or de-humanized...

We're on the web at:

<http://www.ojd.state.or.us/mar/drugcourt/juvenile.htm>

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*...If you treat an individual as she is, she will stay as she is.*

*BUT,*

*if you treat her as if she were what she ought to be and could be,  
she will become what she ought to be and could be.*

~ Goethe



