

Restoring Humanity in the Criminal Justice System: Specialty/ Therapeutic Courts.

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A NEW APPROACH: SPECIALTY/THERAPEUTIC COURTS

- ❖ Specialty Courts (often characterized as “Drug Courts” or “Problem-Solving Courts” are specifically-designed court programs that strive to reduce recidivism.
- ❖ Driven by intensive behavioral supervision, judicial monitoring and treatment of substance abuse and mental health issues.
- ❖ National research has shown that specialty courts reduce crime by as much as 45% more than other approaches.
- ❖ Direct benefit of \$2.21 to a community for every \$1 invested. (NADCP, 2012).

A NEW APPROACH: SPECIALTY/THERAPEUTIC COURTS

- ❖ Concept originated in 1989 in Florida in response to courts seeing the same faces and same cases over and over.
- ❖ Nevada implemented the first of its 46 Specialty Courts in the early 1990s and continues to be a pioneer in that area.
- ❖ Nevada currently has 65 Specialty Court programs, with 62 of these programs being funded by the Nevada's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

A NEW APPROACH: SPECIALTY/THERAPEUTIC COURTS

These 65 programs include:

- ❖ *21 adult drug*
- ❖ *9 DUI*
- ❖ *6 veteran's treatment*
- ❖ *6 mental health*
- ❖ *4 family treatment*
- ❖ *4 juvenile drug*
- ❖ *4 community*
- ❖ *And many more*
- ❖ *There are Specialty Court programs in every county in both urban and rural areas.*



NRS 176.0613



Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 176.0613 defines a Specialty Court program as, “A program established by a court to facilitate testing, treatment, and oversight of certain persons over whom the court has jurisdiction and who the court has determined suffers from a mental illness or abuses alcohol or drugs.”

Specialty Court Process

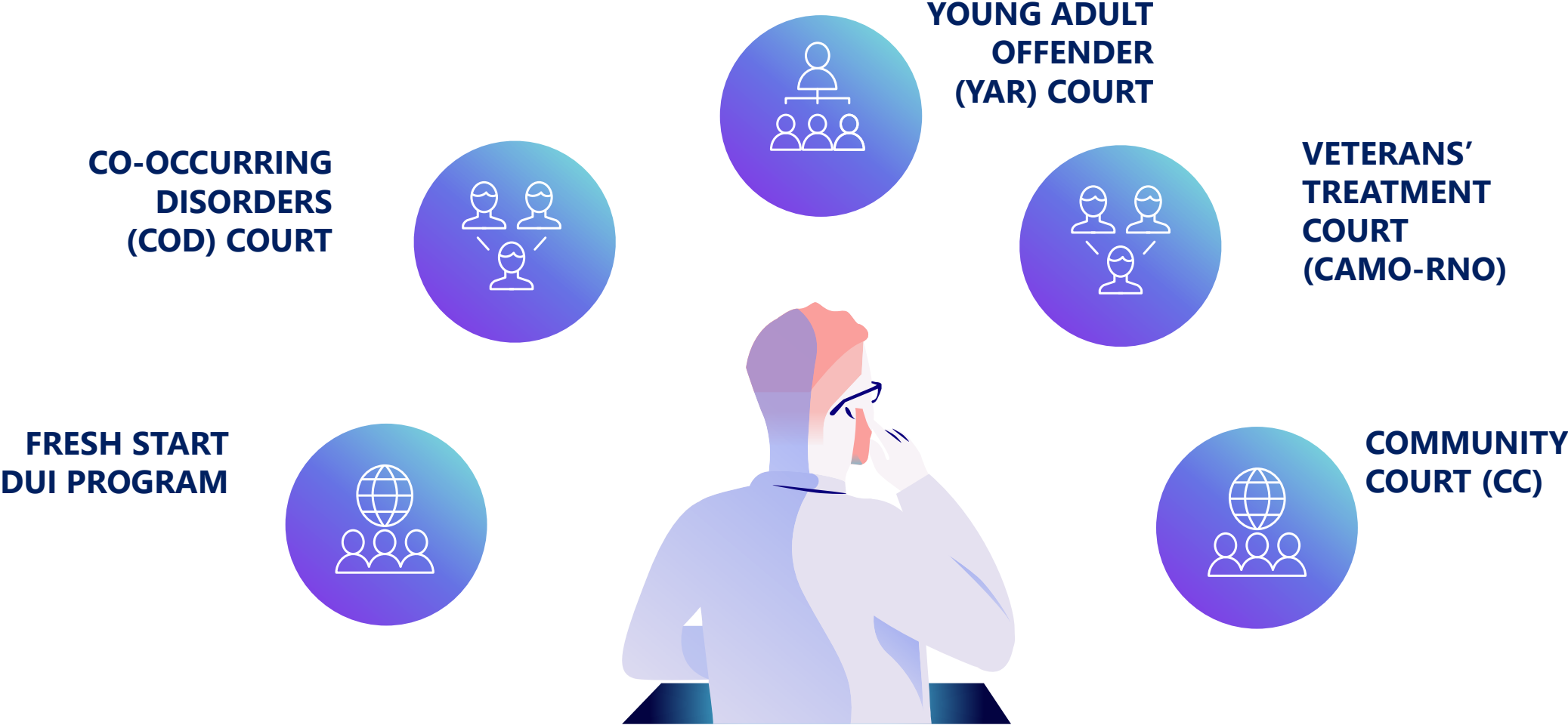
Key components for success:

- ❖ Ongoing treatment
- ❖ Multidisciplinary team approach
- ❖ Graduated sanctions and rewards
- ❖ Drug & Alcohol testing--random and long-term
- ❖ Judicial status hearings
- ❖ High risk/High need offenders

Typical Specialty Court Program

- ❖ **Alcohol/Drug Counseling for 1-3 years**
- ❖ **Group & individual weekly counseling**
- ❖ **Weekly AA or other self-help**
- ❖ **Drug/alcohol testing at least 2 times/week**
- ❖ **Weekly journals**
- ❖ **Weekly check-ins with marshal**
- ❖ **Random, unannounced at-home visits**
- ❖ **SCRAM and/or BID**
- ❖ **Regular judicial reviews (weekly)**
- ❖ **Full-time job or school—certain restrictions**
- ❖ **Fines & community service**

RENO MUNICIPAL COURT(RMC) SPECIALTY/THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS



Young Adult Offender (YAR) COURT

- ❖ Began in 2016.
- ❖ Mission is to offer alternative course of action to the traditional criminal justice system.
- ❖ For offenders 18-25 years of age.
- ❖ Consideration given to substance abuse and possible mental health issues.
- ❖ Age-specific best practices, interventions, treatment and rehabilitation.
- ❖ Empowers participants to gain a substance-free, medically secure and productive future.

Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) Court

- ❖ Started in 2011.
- ❖ Has served over 322 individuals.
- ❖ Presided over by Judge Dorothy Nash Holmes.
- ❖ Weekly status hearings.
- ❖ Utilizes RMC Marshals Alternative Sentencing Unit (ASU) to ensure compliance with drug and legal requirements.
- ❖ Contracts with local providers for behavioral health services.
- ❖ Can include residential and transitional housing.
- ❖ Lasts approximately 12-24 months.

Fresh Start Court DUI Program

- ❖ Began in 2007.
- ❖ Has served over 264 individuals to date.
- ❖ Presided over by Judge Gene Drakulich and program lasts approximately 12-24 months.
- ❖ Geared toward individuals sentenced for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charges.
- ❖ Monitors up to 30 people per year.
- ❖ Combination of treatment, electronic monitoring and compliance supervision by RMC ASU marshal supervision.
- ❖ Beginning 2021, this court is unique in that it provide its own treatment clinician.
- ❖ As of 2021 61% of participants had successfully completed the program without a new offense.

VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT (CAMO-RNO)

- ❖ Began in 2018.
- ❖ It is a voluntary program which includes regular court appearances before Judge Shelly O'Neil.
- ❖ It is expressly designed for veterans and drug and alcohol testing is provided by the court.
- ❖ It is unique in that it collaborates closely with the local Veteran Administration (VA) program.
- ❖ Includes a strong mentoring program.
- ❖ Clinical treatment provided by the VA.
- ❖ VA provides vocational training, education and job placement services.
- ❖ Program lasts approximately 12-24 months.

Community Court (CC)

- ❖ Began in March 2019.
- ❖ Created to address the issues that cause the highest-frequency nuisance offenders from re-offending with RMC.
- ❖ CC holds court sessions at the Downtown Reno Public Library which provided comfortability with the target population.
- ❖ Program collaborates with 20 service provider volunteers for immediate connection with services dealing with substance disorders, mental health, housing and much more.
- ❖ As of December 2021, it had a successful completion rate of 67%.

Questions??

An abstract graphic on the right side of the slide, consisting of several overlapping, rounded shapes in various shades of blue and purple. The colors transition from a light blue at the bottom to a deep purple at the top, with intermediate shades of medium blue and teal. The shapes are fluid and organic, creating a modern, artistic background element.