



Making Change Drug Treatment Court

Drug Treatment Court

Offenders participating in Drug Treatment Court attend a session of court every two weeks held by the Drug Treatment Court Judge. The Judge becomes very familiar with the individual cases and works closely with a Drug Treatment Court team to keep an offender in treatment.

Locate a Program Near You

East - 919-890-1208
Central - 919-890-1208
West - 919-890-1202

People who graduate from a well-structured community-based corrections program are half as likely to be rearrested.

“The Program has Set Me Free” - Barbara is an energetic woman who spent the decade between 1993 and 2003 in and out of jail and prison. I tell everybody I know that this program has set me free,” she says. “There is nothing that could make me go back.” Barbara now has a full-time job in her chosen profession and gives back to the community by sponsoring others in Narcotics Anonymous.

“Drugs Were the Only Way I Knew to Stop the Pain” - Barbara had a lot of pain. In 1993, her 16 year old son was shot and killed in a gun accident at a friend’s house. Her son’s death sent Barbara into a desperate search for something to shut out a pain she simply could not bear to face. She felt like a person who had broken a bone in an accident and had to have a pain reliever. “If I don’t get high, I’m not going to live,” she thought. “Everything got caught up in it.” Barbara used drugs for the next 10 years, living a life of chaos and addiction.

“I Had to Make a Change” - In 2003, Barbara’s mother died ten years after her son’s death. It was at that point she finally realized that she had to make a change. “It takes a lot of work to get high as often as I did,” she says.

Finding Drug Treatment Court - In spite of her obvious addiction, the criminal justice system did not require Bonnie to enter treatment. She finally told the Public Defender that she had to do something different. She didn’t even want to get out of jail because she knew she couldn’t make it on the street. “What can I do?” she asked, “I don’t want to live like this anymore.” When the public defender told Barbara she might be a candidate for Drug Treatment Court, it was the beginning of an entirely new life.

Facing the Pain with the Help of Drug Treatment Court - Once Barbara was admitted to Judge Bell’s Drug Treatment Court, the team was able to get her admitted to Haven House, a residential program, which was a wonderful experience for Barbara from day one. Ironically, the only thing that actually ended the pain was not the pain killer, it was facing the pain of her son’s death. She had to work through it and finally let it go.

Change makers



Drug Treatment Court helped Barbara battle addiction, a chronic relapsing disease.

Keeping it Simple – For Barbara, the key to completing the program was simple. “All I had to do was follow the counselors’ recommendations and live like the people who had successfully done this before,” she said. “For me, that was a relief. I was so excited that they would tell me what to do and I didn’t have to figure it out for myself.” She notices that a lot of people have problems following directions and she advises them to give it a try. “You’ve got nothing to lose by trying to do things the way they are doing them,” she says.

Life at Hope Haven - “I was grateful to be in a residential program,” Bonnie says. The counselors at Hope Haven and SAIL were there for me. I had never met people like them.

Be a Good Listener - “If you want to change your life and complete a Drug Treatment Court program, you’ve got to be a good listener. All I had to do was follow the suggestions they gave me and one door after another kept opening. I had to be willing to listen to what they said.”

Attend Narcotics Anonymous - Barbara also benefited from Narcotics Anonymous and her sponsor. “The NA program has already been written and it’s been working for thousands

of other people. It can work for you, too, but you need to listen.”

“I Honestly Did not Know I had a Problem” - “A lot of people in jail and prison are just like me,” Barbara says. “I thought my problem was the pain I would have if I didn’t get high. You have to get in touch with what caused you to use. Nobody starts out wanting to be an addict. Everybody who decided to use had some pain in the first place.”

Life Keeps on Coming – For Barbara, the key was to stop running from life. “I was a runner she says,” both in terms of eluding the police and in running away from problems. “You’ve got to bring the pain out, deal with it. You can live through the hurt. I’ve had to keep on doing that,” she says. “Life keeps on coming. My brother passed and my nephew passed, but I didn’t use.”

Life Now - Barbara has gone from one positive step to another since she stopped using drugs in 2003. She has obtained an Associate’s degree, gotten married, found a good job and is even buying a house, something she never dreamed was possible during her decade of addiction.

Barbara’s Recommendations for Change

**You don’t need to figure the program out, just do it. If you do, you can complete the program and change your life.*

**Don’t use any drugs or alcohol. Don’t go around people who use drugs and alcohol*

**Stay in a 12 step program, get a home group, a sponsor, and a network.*

**Do what recovering people do and live like they live. They have figured out this program and it works.*

