

# Northern Hills Drug Court

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## Northern Hills Drug Court Mission Statement

The Northern Hills Drug Court's mission is to increase community safety, foster healthy families, and proficiently utilize public funds. This will be accomplished by streamlining and coordinating services to felony offenders whose crimes are substantially related to the abuse or dependence upon a controlled substance with a primary consideration given to methamphetamine abuse or dependence. The Northern Hills Drug Court will increase long term abstinence by holding offenders accountable and ultimately reducing drug-related crimes.



Judge Percy accepts a grant from Sturgis Rally Charities representative Shari Scudder. Thank you Sturgis Rally Charities for your support of the Northern Hills Drug Court program.

## What is a drug court?

The first drug court was developed in 1989 in Miami, Dade County, Florida in response to the overwhelming amount of persons arrested for crimes relating to their use of crack cocaine. In spite of large fines, jail time, and being ordered into treatment the same addicted people were passing through the criminal justice system. These attempts to solve the jail overcrowding, and an overwhelmed justice system did not address the underlying problem which was the person's addiction.

A team of professionals was created to develop a new way to address addiction in the criminal justice system. This type of court program was called a drug court.

## What does drug court involve?

Drug Court uses the team concept to rehabilitate an offender. Traditionally the court is reactive, in other words the court reacts after a crime is committed. In drug court the team is proactive heading off problems before they begin. Being proactive requires that the team meet weekly to review all aspects of a participant's life. Not only does being proactive mean the team needs more information, the court services officer supervises his case load more intensely than traditional probation. In drug court, the court services officer functions as a case manager, which is expanding their role beyond traditional probation. A case manager supervises all areas of a person's life. This could include family intervention, medical issues, parenting issues, education, treatment; both for substance abuse or mental health. This concentrated involvement also includes more intensive monitoring by the judge. When the judge meets with the participant on a weekly basis, rule violations can be dealt with immediately. This immediacy establishes a connection between the behavior and the consequence encouraging the participant to make much needed behavior changes.

An integral part of the drug court program is the random unannounced drug testing. In drug court, drug testing is used therapeutically. This means it is a tool used to keep the participant accountable for their substance use while mandating substance abuse treatment. This combination of testing and treatment ensure the participant receives the maximum benefit from the court mandated treatment; thereby ensuring that revolving door back into the criminal justice system does not persist.

# Thank You

The Northern Hills Drug Court thanks the following businesses for their donations to the drug court program.

Sturgis McDonalds

Sturgis Community Center

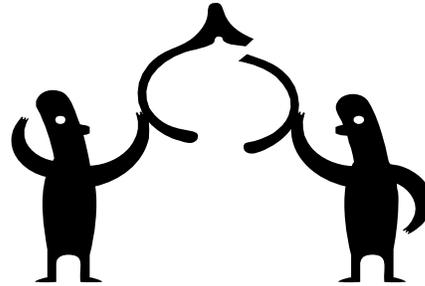
Sturgis Burger King

Mr. Movies

The Retired Enlisted Association

South Dakota Paralegal Association

The Action for the Betterment of the Community ( ABC)



## Wish List for Drug Court

- Art supplies for an adult
- Work Gloves
- Space for educational meetings
- Volunteers willing to teach life skills such as budgeting, finance, tutoring
- Gift certificates to non alcoholic, non gambling establishments



- 118 days without a positive drug test for any of our drug court participants
- Three participants are in Phase II
- Four participants are employed

The Northern Hills Drug Court team is proud of our participant's accomplishments.

Good Job!!!!

## Northern Hills Drug Court

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## TEAM MEMBERS

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Bruce Hubbard	Mike Pisciotta
Ron Merwin	Mary Wood Fossen
Judge Percy	Mari Galles