

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.



John, a Northern Hills Drug Court participant, proudly displays one of the many types of produce he cultivated during the spring and summer while working as a volunteer for a local food bank. The garden produce will be used to supplement the food pantry with fresh vegetables and fruits.

Who Are the Drug Court Participants?



You're standing in line at the checkout, and behind you is a man (or woman) wearing work clothes. You can see from his appearance that he had a hard day in the sun and dust. His eyes look clear—but tired. He smiles and nods hello. You strike up a conversation while waiting for your turn. Immediately, you pick up on his sense of humor. You are impressed with his respectful manner and you think to yourself: what a nice person!

Who are the drug court participants? Northern Hills Drug Court is a treatment court and falls under the HIPPA Privacy Rule, which protects the privacy of individually identifiable health information, and the confidentiality provisions of the Patient Safety Rule, which protect identifiable information. In other words, we cannot identify our participants without their permission.

However, we can tell you that each participant chose this program knowing the treatment and supervision requirements of drug court are exceptionally stringent. The Court Services Officer monitors each participant's activities daily. The participants submit to random drug testing at least 2-3 times per week. They are required to account and report their whereabouts 24 hours of the day and risk sanctions if they are not where they are suppose to be at a given time. Even relationships are monitored. The participant may not associate with a felon or known substance abuser. The drug court encourages strengthening family ties, but will not tolerate associations with family members that abuse substances or have serious legal issues. Because of this restriction, some participants feel somewhat isolated until they develop new healthy relationships. *Continued to pg 2*

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Two ladies graduated the drug court program on September 1, 2009. One couldn't wait to complete the program and showed no compunction about it. For the other lady, graduation was bitter-sweet. Not unlike any other graduation, whether it be high school, college or drug court, there are the butterflies of excitement, but also a little fear of what lies ahead. Both ladies are working on furthering their education: one is attending a local college and the other completing an online medical course.

Currently, the Northern Hills Drug Court has 8 participants: 7 males and 1 female and we are reviewing applications for participation in the program.

All of the participants are required to maintain fulltime employment, community service, be a fulltime student or any combination of the aforementioned. Of the seven male participants, one is working fulltime as well as taking classes at BHSU; one works community service to supplement his 30-hour week job. The remaining five men maintain fulltime employment. Our one female participant is employed fulltime and looking for a part-time position to enhance her income.

Of the 8 participants, 4 have young children and one participant is expecting his first child later this fall. All of the drug court participants are involved in their children's lives and are grateful to give their children the gift of being caring, clean and sober parents.

Each participant is required to attend intensive outpatient treatment (IOP) and as part of their treatment plan, they are required to participate in three types of counseling: individual, group and educational. Together, these formats are designed to develop self-awareness, realize self-worth, and practice self-discipline.

In addition to treatment requirements, the participant must attend a minimum of two AA/NA meetings per week and report to the Judge on drug court days.

It's a busy schedule.

Regrets? There are messes to be cleaned up from a lifestyle of drug abuse: relationships to repair, restitution to be paid, court costs and fines to deal with and a myriad of issues that surface from the past. But there are no regrets from these participants in choosing a clean and sober lifestyle. As one participant said recently, "I used to escape my problems, at least temporarily through the use of substances. Now I feel so much better emotionally and physically. I can think and deal with problems."



Northern Hills Drug Court
Wish List

The Northern Hills Drug Court is in need of
Sponsors to provide:

- Family or individual memberships to community health centers.
- Donations for recreational and leisure activities
- "Dining out" certificates
- Movie passes
- Folding felt board for presentations
- Donations of school supplies (paper, pens/notebooks, etc) for college-bound participants. Funding for books.

Northern Hills Drug Court

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TEAM MEMBERS

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