



**MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT • HENNEPIN COUNTY

Hennepin County Drug Court & Change the Outcome

Judge Marta Chou

Current Assignment: Judge on the Property Drug (Felony) Team

Former Assignment: Drug Court Judge

December 12, 2018



Hennepin County Model Drug Court:

Our Mission and Goals

- Mission:

- The mission of the Hennepin County Drug Court is to **increase public safety, improve chemical health, and reduce crime** by targeting the population of felony property and drug offenders who have a substance use disorder and are at high risk to re-offend. A coordinated and comprehensive approach is used to facilitate short and long term behavioral change.

- Goals:

- Reduce criminal recidivism of participants with a diagnosis of substance abuse disorder who are at high-risk to fail on standard probation and reoffend
- Reduce illegal drug use
- Improve community functioning of participants in the areas of employment, education/training and housing.



Hennepin County Model Drug Court:

What do we offer?

- Continuum of Services

- Collaborative case planning
- Long-term treatment
- Cognitive-behavioral therapy
- Intensive probation supervision
- Frequent & random drug testing
- Sanctions & incentives
- Judicial supervision
- Required attendance at community support group
- Restorative Justice
- Wrap-around services i.e. housing, employment, education/training, medical, dental, mental health, etc.

- Structure

- Voluntary 12-month program comprised of four phases.
 - Average length of time in Drug Court: 18.7 months
- Post-Conviction
- Non-universal consent (referral & admission can be over the objection of the prosecutor)
- No opt-out provision



Hennepin County Model Drug Court:

A collaboration of court, treatment and community partners

Hennepin County Partners

- Fourth Judicial District Court
- Hennepin County Attorney's Office
- Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation
- Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department
- Hennepin County Public Defender's Office
- Minneapolis Police Department

Treatment and Community Partners

- Huss Center for Recovery
- NuWay House, Inc.
- Park Avenue Center
- R.S. Eden Programs
- Restoration, Counseling and Community Services (RCCS)
- Wayside House
- Restorative Justice Community Action

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Partners

- R.S. Eden Emmanuel House
- Minnesota Recovery Connection
- Hennepin Healthcare Addiction Medicine Program
- Rise Employment



Four Phases (in a nutshell) of Drug Court:

- **Phase One: Treatment**

- Complete primary treatment
- Continuing care plan
- Attend one support meeting or Drug Court sponsored event weekly
- Attend court every two weeks

- **Phase Two: Cog Skills/Housing**

- Completing cognitive behavioral programming
- Find safe, stable housing
- Work with peer recovery specialist
- Continue following the recommendations of psychological/cultural evaluation
- Following continuing care plan
- Attend two support meetings weekly
- Attend court every three weeks

- **Phase Three: Employment/Education/Community Involvement**

- Engage in employment/school/volunteer work for a minimum of 20 hours weekly
- Complete GED requirements
- Complete Newcomers Group (10 sessions)
- Complete aftercare
- Attend two support meetings weekly
- Attend court every four weeks

- **Phase Four: Service & Sobriety**

- Complete Restorative Justice
- Demonstrate at least 120 days of sobriety in this phase
- Attend two support meetings weekly
- Resolve all pending criminal matters
- Attend court every five weeks



Participant Demographics: 2015 and 2016

Gender:

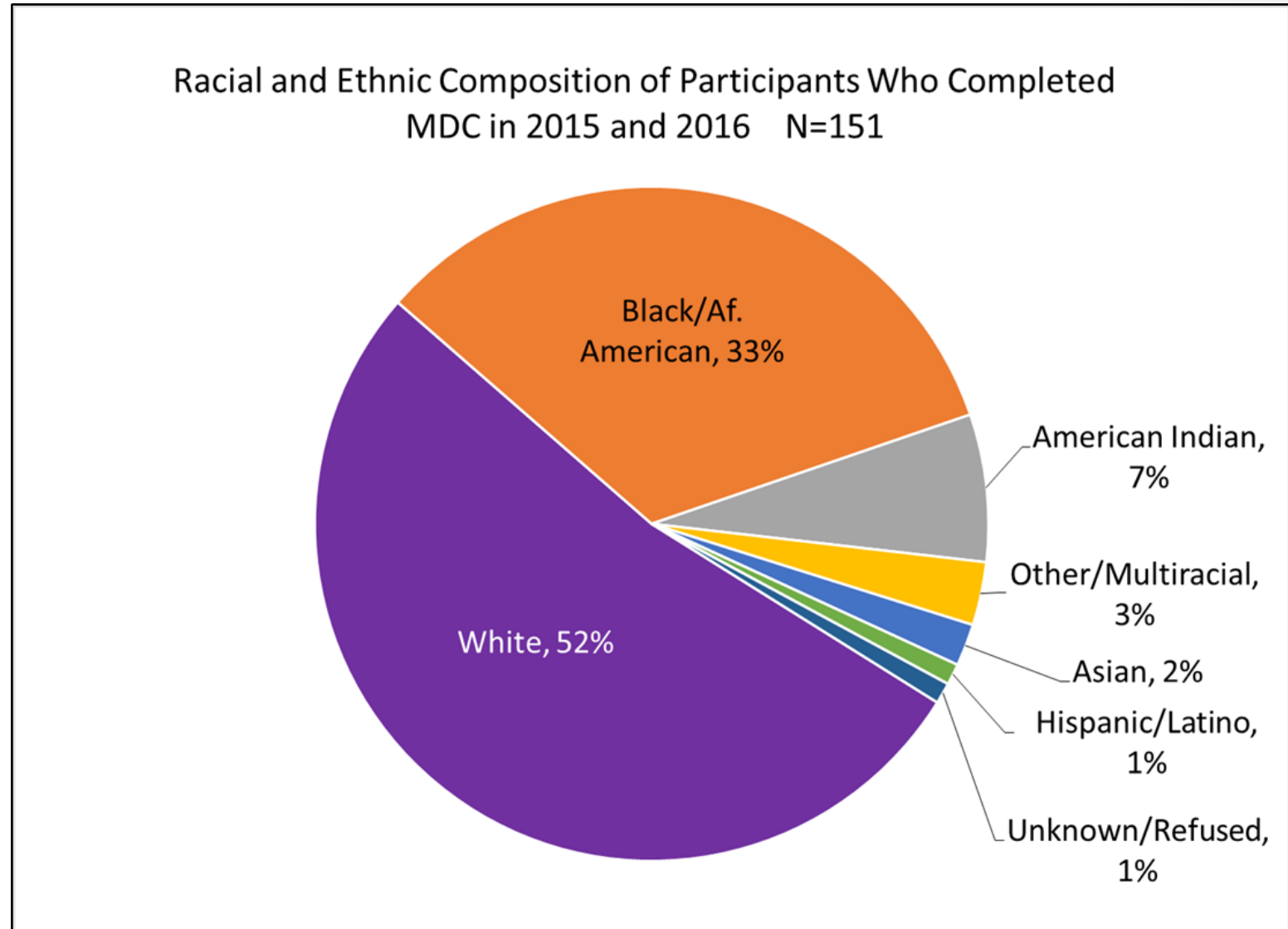
- Male (64%)
- Female (36%)

Offense:

- Fel. Drug (74%)
- Fel. Property (26%)

Age:

- ≤ 25 (23%)
- 26 to 30 (17%)
- 31 to 40 (31%)
- 41+ (29%)



What Our Participants and Graduates Say About Drug Court ...

- “I’d like to think I could’ve stopped on my own. But honestly I just don’t know. Sometimes I think it would’ve been impossible any other way. And in that sense, I’m grateful I was arrested because if I wasn’t, I might not even be here. This has been the hardest thing I’ve ever done. But it’s been worth it.” (Current Drug Court Participant)
- “My recovery saved my relationship with my family and since I have gotten sober I had my two wonderful boys. My boyfriend is in recovery too.” (Graduate, January 2017)
- “I’m trying my best to come to grips what I’ve done and my reasons for it all and how I can best pick up the pieces in the aftermath of the disaster I’ve made of my life.” (Current Drug Court Participant)
- “Being in recovery brought me closer to my family, they trust me a lot more and look at me as a responsible adult.” (Graduate, January 2017)
- “Before Drug Court, my life was a mess. I was in a very dark place. I was making terrible decisions based on criminal, selfish and antisocial motives. I had destroyed most of my relationships with family and real friends. I was homeless, living dangerously, and my actions were putting others at great risk. I had little care for the welfare of myself and others. Today, my life is basically the complete opposite. I am living a safe, comfortable, productive life. I have a wonderful relationship with my family, which is only getting better. I have hopes and dreams again, which are actually attainable. I have found peace and patience, both of which I rarely had in the past. Today, I operate with a conscience, and make decisions based on the principles I have learned. I have thrown myself into my community, and serving others, and spend most of my free time volunteering, serving in the recovery community, and being helpful to others.” (Graduate, November 2017)



From the Courtroom to the Classroom ...



Colleen and Luke Ronnei



Colleen Ronnei reading a victim impact statement at the sentencing of Beverly Burrell.



Colleen Ronnei participating on a classroom panel along with young adults in recovery from opioids



... to the Twin Cities Film Festival



Need More Information?

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Change the Outcome
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