



Edmonton John Howard Society

EDMONTON DRUG TREATMENT COURT SERVICE

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THE EDMONTON DRUG TREATMENT COURT:

The Edmonton Drug Treatment Court is a program of the Provincial Court of Alberta and commenced operations in December of 2005. The Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service (EDTCS) is a program of the Edmonton John Howard Society (EJHS) and offers treatment support services to the participants of the Drug Treatment Court. The program serves individuals who are committing crimes to support their drug abuse habit. Participants are supported to improve every dimension of their lives including physical, mental, and psychological health, housing, education, employment, and giving back to the community through volunteer service. Drug Treatment Courts have proven to elicit the most effective and cost-efficient results for offenders who are drug dependant and at risk of failing in less intensive rehabilitative programs. The participants of the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court are graduating as healthy and contributing members of society.

WHAT IT IS: The Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service

- Is a program designed to help individuals who are committing crimes to support their drug abuse habit
- Is contained within the criminal justice system and operates within the same legal framework that governs all adult criminal court proceedings in the Provincial Court of Alberta.
- Operates on the basis of a guilty plea with a delayed sentencing process (s.720 (2) of the Criminal Code) with entry being dependant on the consent of the Crown, Court, and the Accused.
- Is founded on national and international principles for drug treatment courts
- Is committed to community justice and restoration

SUCCESS STORY: *Anna is a Metis woman who graduated from the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service program after entering her guilty pleas to her drug related charges in 2016. Anna was facing a lengthy jail sentence but instead obtained a spot in the Drug Treatment Court program. Anna had no idea that entering this program meant she would have to become abstinent from all drugs, face the demons from her past, and build an entirely new life. Anna was angry and the tears she shed daily were from shame, pain, and all the hurt she had built up throughout her life. Anna's childhood was filled with physical, mental, and sexual abuse. At a young age Anna started to use drugs to cope and she continued on that path until her life spiraled out of control. When Anna started Drug Court she had small grandchildren who were in the care of Children's Services and her only hope was that she could one day obtain custody of them and offer them the childhood she had always dreamed of having. 18 months later this dream would become a reality because Anna was willing to do the very difficult work required to graduate from the Edmonton Drug Treatment Court program. Today Anna has brought her grandchildren home and is raising them in a healthy and positive atmosphere. Anna completed treatment, programs, and courses. Anna now actively participates in a life of sobriety every day.*



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WHO IT SERVES: Adult male and female individuals who are committing crimes against society to sustain and support their drug addiction habit. Eligible applicants are:

- Facing a 1 to 5 year custodial sentence (early case resolution offer) for their drug related offences
- Are addicted to illicit drugs including heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, crack, fentanyl, or any opioids
- Do not have a recent history of violence or gang involvement or affiliation
- Are high risk with respect to their level of addiction, risk of relapse, and risk of continuing in a life of crime

HOW IT WORKS: The operation of the Drug Court is based on a multi-disciplinary team consisting of the Judges, Provincial and Federal Crown, Alberta Legal Aid Duty Counsel, Community & Social Services Social Worker, an Edmonton Police Service member and the community EDTCS treatment team. Program services are delivered through the EDTCS team under the direction of EJHS. The team includes case management, probation supervision (AJSG), case coordination, and peer support mentorship (offered by long term graduates of the Drug Court).

The multi-disciplinary team works collaboratively with the participants through intensive judicial supervision including weekly court appearances, ongoing addiction and life skills treatment & programming, community recovery involvement, cultural and spiritual connection, drug screens, and community restoration. Ultimately, the program provides participants with the opportunity to obtain housing, address medical and mental health issues, gain education and/or employment, and reintegrate into their community.

Successful clients will graduate after a minimum of one year of active engagement and participation in the program.



SUCCESS STORY: Donny is an Ojibway man who graduated from the Drug Treatment Court program 5 years ago and is currently employed as a Peer Support Mentor with the program, has graduated University and is also employed as a life skills facilitator with Recovery Acres Residential Treatment Centre. Donny has an extensive criminal record, a history of trauma and abuse and has spent the majority of his adult years in jail. Prior to getting into the program, Donny was remanded in jail for 13 months waiting for a spot to open up in Drug Court. Donny knew that if he was released he would continue on the path of addiction as he always had before. He wanted to make a change and this was his only chance so he made the decision to remain in custody and wait. Donny was accepted into the program shortly after that and with hard work and commitment he graduated successfully. Donny “lives” his recovery on a daily basis, focuses on bettering himself as a human being, and continues to live a healthy life. Donny is an exemplary role model for the participants of the program and the recovery community.

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PROOF THAT IT WORKS: Research and evaluations have been ongoing throughout the 30 year history of Drug Courts in the United States and Canada. Drug Courts are based on best practice and evidence-based research that continues to prove that Drug Courts save money and save lives. The EDTCS has had a variety of evaluations and data analysis reviews since it started in 2005. The Provincial Crowns office provided a data analysis review of EDTCS graduates from 2005 to 2013 indicating approximately 70% of graduates have not had new criminal convictions. A subsequent data analysis review was completed in 2018 that showed approximately 73% of graduates have not had new criminal convictions. Drug Treatment Court works!

FUNDING: The EDTCS is federally and provincially funded and also receives donations from private sources.

Cost Analysis

- The average annual cost to house a federal male offender is approximately \$110,000.00. For every 20 offenders the annual cost is \$2,200,00.00
- On average the annual EDTCS program cost for one participant is approximately \$20,000.00.

The social return on investment is substantial. The story below exemplifies how cost avoidance is even more substantial when families benefit.



SUCCESS STORY: Over 11 years ago, Pamela's children were apprehended by Children's Services when she was arrested and subsequently landed in jail, facing a 3 year jail sentence. As a result of her completion of the drug court program 10 years ago, she was able to regain custody of her children and be their full time parent. These children would have been raised in the child welfare system if their mother had not had the opportunity to recover from drug addiction and rebuild her life. Today Pamela is employed full time with Alberta Health Services and works part time with Drug Court as a mentor. Pamela has won awards for her work with mental health and addictions, she continues to set an example of a life in recovery, shares her experiences, supports the participants as they learn to live in recovery, reconnect with their culture and community and walks the journey beside them.



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PROGRAM OPERATION AS COMMUNITY SERVICE MODEL:

The treatment support team is responsible for the coordination and delivery of on-site and off-site services and accountability to the courts for participant program involvement.

Direct on-site services:

- Ongoing probation case management and program case coordination
- Intake assessments
- Ongoing random and regular drug testing
- Weekly probation update reports – Supervision of recognizance orders
- Weekly participant updates and reports to the Judge and court team
- Monitoring of participant engagement in collaboration with service providers
- Peer support mentorship program and Life skills Coaching (on-site and in community)
- After-care support program (for past graduates and participants)

Off-site community services:

- Safe and affordable recovery housing
- Cultural and spiritual supports and programs
- Financial literacy programs
- Grief and loss programs and supports
- Anger management programs and supports
- Parenting programs
- Alberta Health Services: addiction counsellors, day and residential treatment programs, and addiction services
- Opioid Dependency Program
- Forensic Psychiatry and Assessment Services – psychiatric supports
- Hope and Wellness Clinic, Primary Care Network, dentist, doctors, and other health care providers
- Sexual exploitation supports and programs
- Domestic violence programs
- Program services offered through multiple community organizations
- Recovery-based meetings and workshops (NA, AA, CMA, CA, GA, SAA, etc.)
- Community and Social Services benefit and income support services
- Educational resources and employment skills development
- Contracted psychological and therapeutic counselling services
- Residential addictions treatment programs: Poundmaker's Lodge Treatment Centre, Bonnyville Indian-Metis Rehabilitation Centre, Thorpe Recovery Centre, Adeara (Dreams) Recovery Centre, Recovery Acres Treatment Centre, Aventa Treatment Centre for Women, Drumheller Grace House, McDougall House, Grand Prairie Northern Addictions Centre, Henwood Treatment Centre, Wellsprings Salvation Army, and more.

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CONCLUSION: The ultimate goal is to break the cycle of addiction and criminal activity, to emphasize a life in recovery and to support the reintegration of participants back into their communities. Drug Courts overall have been proven to elicit the most effective and cost-efficient results for offenders who are drug dependant and at risk of failing in less intensive rehabilitative programs. The participants of the EDTCS are graduating with the tools they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.



SUCCESS STORY: *Brandi became a daily drug user at a very young age. By age 16 Brandi was an active meth user and had been exposed to ongoing trauma and neglect. When she was arrested and facing jail time she had already lost custody of her baby daughter. With the help of the Drug Court program Brandi reconciled with her past and made the decision to change her life. Today Brandi has her own residence, is raising her two young daughters, has graduated from the Women Building Futures Program and is employed as a heavy duty mechanic apprentice. Brandi's children have a positive future ahead of them because their mother had the opportunity to rebuild her life and continues to live a life in recovery.*

For more information please contact the Program Manager, Grace Froese at gfroese@johnhoward.org



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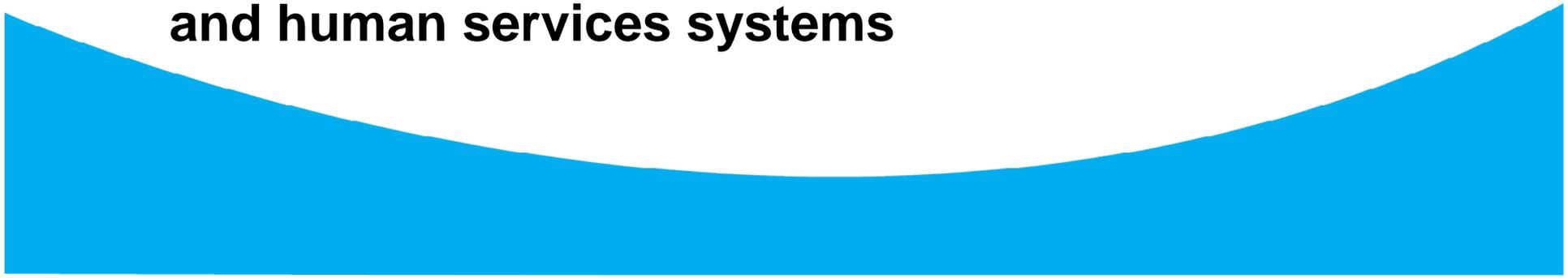
Through programs and services, we work to prevent crime and to help people affected by crime.

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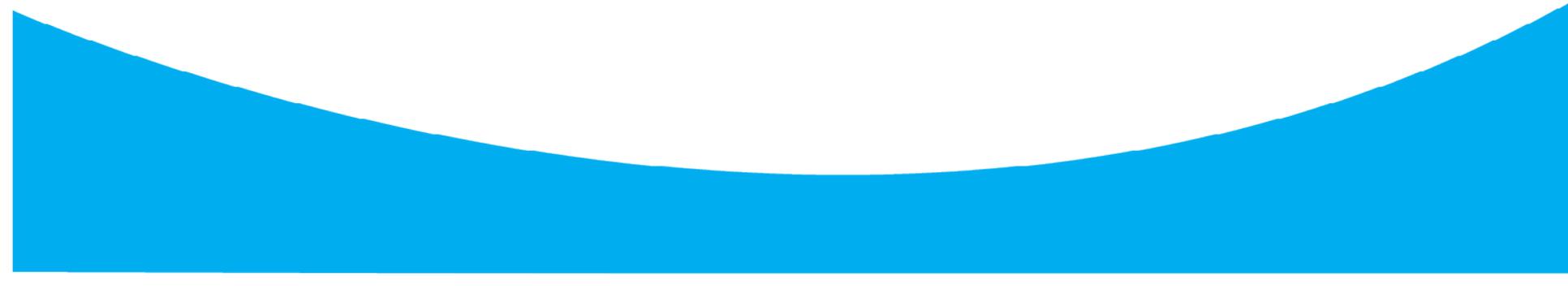
What is a Drug Treatment Court?

- **It is an intensive court supervised program for individuals who are committing drug driven crimes to support their addiction.**
 - **Must be willing to enter guilty pleas with a delayed sentencing process.**
 - **Entry is dependent on the consent of the crown, the court and the individual.**
 - **Drug Courts are committed to community justice and community restoration.**
 - **Drug Courts abide by standards and principles that govern how a Drug Court operates.**
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Purpose of Drug Court

- **Remove individuals who are addicted to drugs out of the jails and direct them to appropriate resources in community**
 - **Reduce drug abuse with goal of abstinence**
 - **Change criminal and addictive thinking patterns and behaviors**
 - **Eliminate homelessness**
 - **Become contributing members of society**
 - **Restore justice by making amends for crimes committed**
 - **Reduce overall expenditures of the justice and human services systems**
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Who is Eligible for Drug Court?

- **Early Case Resolution offer of 1 to 5 years custody.**
 - **Do not have a recent history of violence.**
 - **Cannot have gang involvement or affiliation.**
 - **High risk of relapse and returning to a life of crime.**
 - **Motivated to change**
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Community Accountability

- **Court and probation supervision**
- **Case management**
- **Referrals to resources and services**
- **Make amends for drug driven crimes**

Through ongoing accountability the participants are given the opportunity to live productive lives and become contributing members of the community.

Following through on responsibilities “is not optional”.



Intensive program with individual approach to treatment and a community restoration focus.

- **Reporting to Judge weekly in court**
 - **Minimum 26 court ordered probation conditions**
 - **Weekly probation reports**
 - **Regular & random drug screens**
 - **Phase case management model**
 - **Residential & day treatment programs**
 - **Recovery meetings**
 - **Mental health supports (psychological & psychiatric services).**
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Community Restoration

- **Therapeutic programs**
- **Life skills programs (parenting, relationships, social skills, financial literacy, etc.)**
- **Cultural and spiritual programs**
- **Health services supports**
- **Community volunteering ***
- **Education and employment**
- **Housing**



Multi-disciplinary Team Concept

- **Case Treatment Team - Program Manager, Case Coordinator, Probation Officer, Peer Support Mentors**
- **Volunteers & Life Skills Coach**
- **Drug Screener**
- **Judges**
- **Federal Crown Prosecutors**
- **Provincial Crown Prosecutors**
- **Legal Aid Duty Counsel**
- **Alberta Works Social Worker**
- **Edmonton Police Service Liaison**
- **Psychiatrist, Psychologists & Therapists**
- **Addictions Counselors (AHS)**



Collaborative Approach

- **Alberta Ministry of Justice & Solicitor General**
- **Alberta Ministry of Community & Social Services**
- **Alberta Legal Aid**
- **Public Prosecution Service of Canada**
- **Alberta Health Services**
- **Edmonton John Howard Society**
- **Edmonton Police Service**
- **Community Agencies & Supports**
- **Justice Canada**

***Funded by Justice Canada, Alberta Justice & Solicitor General and Private donations**



The Edmonton Drug Treatment Court Service program works collaboratively with partners and community service providers to orchestrate client supports, hold them accountable and provide the opportunity to become healthy contributing members of society, thus creating safer communities.



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- **What can we do better?**
 - **How can we increase collaboration and partnerships?**
 - **What are the gaps?**
 - **Provincial expansion of Drug Treatment Courts**

