

Profile of a Drug Court Couple & their Family

Family Information

- Frank and Renee have been together for 5 years, they are married and have 5 children, four of the children live with them. They are also drug court graduates. They were both active in drug court for 12 months from December 2005 though November 2006. Both Mom and Dad were intravenous drug users, heroin was their primary drug. They are both 31 years old. The children's ages are 13, 9, 8, 5, 3.
- The 3 year old is their biological child.
- The father of the 5 & 8 year old spent 15 months in jail for child abuse (other children), lives in Florida and has no contact with the children.
- The 13 year old lives with his dad and step-mom and sees Renee every other week. She gave up custody because of her youth and alcohol abuse. At the time she was living in a one bedroom apartment with her 3 children, her mother, father and niece.
- Prior to drug court, visitation with her oldest was supervised.
- Prior to drug court, as reported by Renee:
 - the children were not cared for.
 - there was never food in the house, the children were always hungry and would go to the grandmother's to be fed.
 - the children did very poorly in school. Homework was never done. Parents didn't care if the children did homework or went to school.
 - a friend called SRS to report them, SRS investigated. Mom reports that it was only a matter of time before the kids went into custody.
 - Mom had not spent time in jail but she reports that it was only a matter of time before she would have been incarcerated.
 - they lived in the downtown area in a 2 bedroom apartment.
 - an eviction proceeding filed against them in October 2005 just prior to coming to drug court.
 - Dad reported that all Christmas gifts given to the kids were returned and the money was used to buy drugs.



Drug Use History

- Renee started drinking alcohol at age 11, prescription drugs, heroin & cocaine at 28. She has been diagnosed with a personality disorder, depression, and anxiety. She has also used cutting and was abused as a child.
- Frank began using alcohol at age 12, hallucinogens at 14, heroin, cocaine and prescription drugs at age 18. Frank also has been diagnosed with ADHD and a severe anxiety disorder specific to crowds and enclosed spaces. When he's in situations that bring on anxiety he becomes uncontrollably violent. He is working with his psychiatrist on medications. He and Renee work together to manage the situations.

Treatment History

- Frank was enrolled in ISAP in July 2002 - discharged unsuccessfully at 180 days. He subsequently participated in the Discovery Program in St. Johnsbury in Dec. 2003 and was unsuccessfully discharged at 90 days.

Criminal History

- Renee's charges were a mix of misdemeanors and felonies from 1999 through 2005: DLS (4), simple assault (2), disorderly conduct (2), theft of rental property, false report/non-existent crime, forgery (3), and a relief from abuse filed against her in 01 (in a previous relationship).
- Frank's charges included misdemeanors and felonies: 12 violations of conditions of release, 12 driving w/ license suspended, 5 retail theft, 3 burglaries, DWI, petit larceny, 2 grand larceny, 3 forgeries, false pretense, unlawful trespass, 4 relief from abuse (previous relationships).

Preliminary Data on Drug Court Costs / Savings

Before Drug Court - 1999 to 2005

<u>Charges (misdemeanors & felonies)</u>	
<i>Frank:</i> 12 violations of conditions of release 12 driving w/ license suspended / 5 retail theft / 3 burglaries / DWI / petit larceny / 2 grand larceny 3 forgeries / false pretense / unlawful trespass 4 relief from abuse (previous relationships) <i>Renee:</i> 4 DLS / 2 simple assault / 2 disorderly conduct / theft of rental prop / false report of a crime / 3 forgeries / relief from abuse (previous)	
<u>DOC involvement</u>	
1472 days under DOC supervision	cost?
552 days incarcerated	\$69,000
<u>Costs to process their cases:</u>	
Law Enforcement	
<i>Frank:</i>	\$8,525
<i>Renee</i>	\$1,125
Court costs	?
<u>Medicaid Utilization</u>	
<i>Total for Frank</i> / dental work	\$415
<i>Total for Renee</i> (pregnancies):	\$11,517
Medical care:	\$6,000
Drugs:	\$150
Surgery	\$1,991
Other	\$3,376
<u>Other:</u>	
Both had lost their licenses	
Total:	\$102,099

Drug Court Intervention - 12/05 to 11/06

<u>Intervention:</u> frequent court hearings, frequent random drug screens, intensive case management, intensive outpatient program, support groups, treatment groups, bupenorphone, employment/training, education, paying fines (court, restitution & motor vehicle)	
<u>DOC involvement</u>	
0 days under the supervision	0
7 days incarceration/sanction	\$875
<u>Costs to Process a DC Case:</u>	
Drug Court team	\$12,306
<u>Medicaid Utilization</u>	
<i>Total for Frank:</i>	\$ 9,155
Drugs/bupenorphone:	\$4,448
Medical care (Evergreen)	\$4,704
<i>Total for Renee:</i>	\$11,550
Medical care	\$7,236
Drugs/bupenorphone	\$4,314
<u>Other:</u>	
Restitution paid	\$225
Court fine paid	\$352
Motor Vehicle fine paid / license reinstated	
Costs	
Drug Court & Treatment:	\$ 33,883

After Drug Court - 11/06 to 11/07

<u>Charges:</u>	0
<u>DOC involvement:</u>	0
<u>Costs of Pprocessing cases:</u>	0
<u>Medicaid Utilization</u>	
<i>Total for Frank:</i>	\$4,962
Drugs/bupenorphone & hypertension	\$4,075
Medical care	\$369
Surgery & care for cyst	\$518
<i>Total for Renee:</i>	\$3,378
Medical care	\$402
Drugs/bupenorphone	\$2,871
Lab (otitis media)	\$105
Total:	\$13,302
<u>Cost Savings</u>	
Average cost of Foster care for 1 child:	
\$32,000/yr for 4 children:	\$128,000
Children could be in FC the equivalent of 47 years at a cost of:	\$6,016,000
DOC savings/incarceraton (1yr) based on Frank's history:	\$45,625
Savings in supervision:	unknown
Cost saving for children's incarceration.....Children who have parents who have been incarcerated are 5-7 times more likely to end up incarcerated - unknown.	

*Incarceration, Medicaid utilization, and substitute care (foster care) are the first costs/savings to be calculated.

After Drug Court Graduation: *Other positive indicators - Renee reports "We've come a long way."*

- During drug court Renee started and facilitated an NA group at Turning Point Club. Both Renee and Frank continue to attend AA and NA meetings. Renee also started the drug court alumni group. Renee says that through drug court she came to understand her triggers, she also is aware of her limits and boundaries.
- The family has moved to an apartment in a neighborhood with bedrooms for the kids and a lawn for play. They have friends in the neighborhood who come to visit.
- Renee now has unsupervised visitation with her oldest son. He comes over often. She and his step-mom have developed a good relationship.
- Renee also shared that a close friend recently died from a drug overdose. She left an infant behind. DCF now has custody of the baby and she thinks that she will be adopted soon. Renee says that this has been hard - it could have been her. Through this she remained drug free.
- Renee applied for and received Social Security Disability: she reported that 2 years ago they would have used the money to buy drugs and it would have been gone in a very short period of time. She reports that she paid her court fine, paid ahead on their car insurance, bought a new car - large enough for the whole family, bought new boots for winter for everyone, paid ahead on the rent (before they didn't pay the rent), put money in the bank, bought a new camera and took the kids on a ferry ride across the lake.
- Frank and Renee recently attended the Parent-Teacher Conferences for the kids. They've never done this before. The kids are doing really well in school and in some areas excelling beyond that of their peers especially in reading. After school they all sit down together to do homework - this has become a family routine.
- Frank is working with vocational rehabilitation for job training.
- Renee volunteers at the children's school as the head of the Books and Beyond program.
- Renee recently ran into the police officer who arrested her and the DCF worker who conducted the investigation. She told them how she and the family are doing. Renee shared that they both said how proud they were of her and Frank.



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