



TRAVIS COUNTY DWI COURT

JUDGE ELISABETH EARLE, PRESIDING

DWI Cases Are A Significant Percentage Of New Cases Filed In Travis County:

- 23% of all new cases filed in FY 2009 are new DWI cases**
- Total cases filed in FY 09 were 7281**

Multiple Pending DWIs

- On November 1, 2006, there were **375** individuals with two or more DWIs pending
- That number has increased to **477** individuals with two or more DWIs pending as of May 27, 2010

Implementation Background:

May 2007- 80th Legislature passed H.B. 530 requiring counties with a population of over 200,000 to create a Drug or DWI Court; funding not associated with the bill

June 2007 – Travis County agencies receive training

September 2007 -Travis County DWI Court Steering Committee formed

Committee Members Include:

- Judges
- Court Administration
- Probation
- County Clerk
- Pretrial Services
- County Attorney
- Defense Attorneys
- Counseling and Education Services
- Criminal Justice Planning
- Treatment Provider

Mission

The mission of the Travis County Adult Probation DWI Court is to enhance public safety through providing an intense, judicially supervised program of team-based counseling, treatment and supervision to alcohol dependent DWI offenders

Mission

This mission is accomplished through **collaborative** partnerships between the DWI Court, public agencies, and community-based organizations. The Court uses a pro-active approach which entails the **early identification** of repeat DWI offenders and provides them with the **support and services** needed to stop their repetitive involvement with the criminal justice system.

The Travis County DWI Court Steering Committee decided on a post-adjudication DWI Court:

- **To increase public safety**
- **Based on local and national trends**

Target Population

- DWI offenders 17 years and older
- Resident of Travis County or adjacent county
- Arrested in Travis County for a 2nd or subsequent DWI within two years of first arrest or conviction
- No other unresolved pending cases
- Cases do not involve victims
- No violent criminal history
- Must meet clinical criteria

DWI Court Program Summary

The program consists of three phases with the entire program lasting a minimum of 12 months, and includes the following activities:

- Judicial Oversight- Regular court appearances for progress review
 - ✓ Phase I = 1 time per week
 - ✓ Phase II = every other week
 - ✓ Phase III = 1 time per month or as directed by Judge
- Case Management: Regular office visits with a probation officer to monitor compliance with the program requirements and conditions of probation
- Alcohol Drug Testing: Random testing to ensure abstinence

Intensive Treatment

	DWI Court	Regular Outpatient
Phase I	3 months	6 weeks
Program Hours	130 hours	63 hours
AA Meetings	26 meetings	12 meetings
Assignments	6 hours	3 hours
Total Hours	162 hours	78 hours
Phase II		
Aftercare	87 hours	52 hours
AA Meetings	52 meetings	52 meetings
Total Hours	139 hours	104 hours

Expected Outcomes for the County

- Increased public safety
- Reduced recidivism
- Potential reduction in jail days

Without the benefit of the DWI Court Program, multiple DWI defendants would typically serve:

- A probated sentence including 30 real days in jail as a condition:

54 participants x 30 days = 1,800 jail days saved

or

- A jail sentence as a final disposition resulting in approximately 80 real jail days:

54 participants x 80 days = 4,320 jail days saved

DWI Court Staffing Team

- **Presiding Judge, Elisabeth Earle**
- **County Attorney Prosecutor**
- **Defense Attorney**
- **Treatment Provider**
- **Adult Probation Court Services Manager**
- **Probation Officer**
- **Probation TAIP Assessment Staff**
- **Additionally, the Court is supported by the County Clerk's Office, Law Enforcement, and Court Administration**

Incentives for Participants

1. Suspension of jail time and CSR
2. Waiver of state mandated DWI education classes
3. Eligibility for Occupational Driver's License
4. Suspension of court-ordered fines
5. Reduction of reporting requirements as participant successfully progresses through phases
6. Opportunity to change one's life through intensive treatment, counseling, and support

NOTE:

Sanctions may be used, to include jail time, or removal from the program for non-compliance

Program Fees

- One time \$500 DWI Court program fee
- Co-payment for treatment based on ability to pay
- Probation supervision fees
- TAIP assessment fee
- Additional Court ordered fees
- Any surveillance tools ordered by the Court (EM, ignition interlock, etc.)

Program Developments

- October 2007 - Pilot program developed, limited to 40 participants. Probation agrees to fund participant treatment and a probation officer position internally, on a temporary basis, in anticipation of receiving Governor's Office Grant Award.
- April 2008 – First two participants enter the program
- July 2008 –
 - Governor's Office announces an indefinite delay in funding the grant
 - DWI Court Steering committee limits program participants pending grant funding

Program Developments

- February 2009 – Governor's Office grant awarded **5 months later than expected**. Award included \$213,698 for one probation officer and treatment for 50 participants.
- April 2009 –
 - DWI Court celebrates 1st Anniversary and 1st Graduation Ceremony
 - Due to late receipt of grant funding, DWI Court Steering Committee focuses efforts on program awareness and increasing participants
 - 2nd Governor's Office Grant proposal for DWI Court is submitted for FY10
- June 2009 – **54 participants** in program.

Program Developments

- October 2009 – Governor's Office grant awarded (\$210,315)
- March 2010- Additional grant proposal submitted to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) specifically to help fund treatment
- April 2010 – 3rd Governor's Office Grant proposal for DWI Court is submitted for FY11

Program Developments

- May 2010 -
 - Largest graduation ceremony, **19 Graduates**
 - Largest number of participants at any one time is **67**
- June 2010 - **47 graduates since inception**