

AllRise

**Treatment
Court Institute**

The Methods for Ensuring Equitable Access and Inclusion

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines

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Module Objectives



- Describe the appropriate JDTC target population.
- Discuss the research and science behind risk/needs and how to use such assessments to identify appropriate clients.
- Review valid, culturally responsive drug/alcohol screening tools.
- Develop standard eligibility criteria that result in equity of access for all youth.
- Develop procedure to exit youth that don't meet criteria.

Selecting The Right Youth

GUIDELINE 2.1

Eligibility criteria should include the following:

- Youth with a substance use disorder
- Youth who are 14 years old or older
- Youth who have a moderate to high risk of reoffending.

GUIDELINE 2.2

Assess all program participants for the risk of reoffending using a validated instrument.

Selecting The Right Youth

GUIDELINE 2.3

Screen all program participants for substance use using validated, culturally responsive assessments.

GUIDELINE 2.4

If potential program participants do not have a substance use disorder and are not assessed as moderate to high risk for reoffending, they should be diverted from the JDTC process.

Review of Research

- Youth with a substance use disorder — mild, moderate, or severe — have higher rates for successfully completing JDTCs than those who use drugs or alcohol but do not have a substance use disorder.
- Youth who do not meet this level of use disorder may be less likely to complete the JDTC program.
- Youth had better outcomes in terms of reduced substance use when objective program eligibility criteria existed and the youth had problematic substance use and delinquency issues.

Review of Research

- Older youth have higher success rates than younger youth due to increased motivation and maturity.
- The most effective JDTC programs use a validated risk/needs assessment tool.
- Screen youth for more in-depth needs areas such as housing, schooling, family support.



Guideline 2.1: Eligibility Criteria

Youth who are 14 years old or older

Youth with substance use disorder

Youth assessed as moderate to high risk
for recidivism.

Note: If federally funded, JDTC cannot
accept violent/sexual offenses.

Substance Use Disorder



Substance Use Disorder

A chronic, brain-based disorder leading to a maladaptive pattern of clinically significant impairment or distress for at least 12 months.

The Symptoms

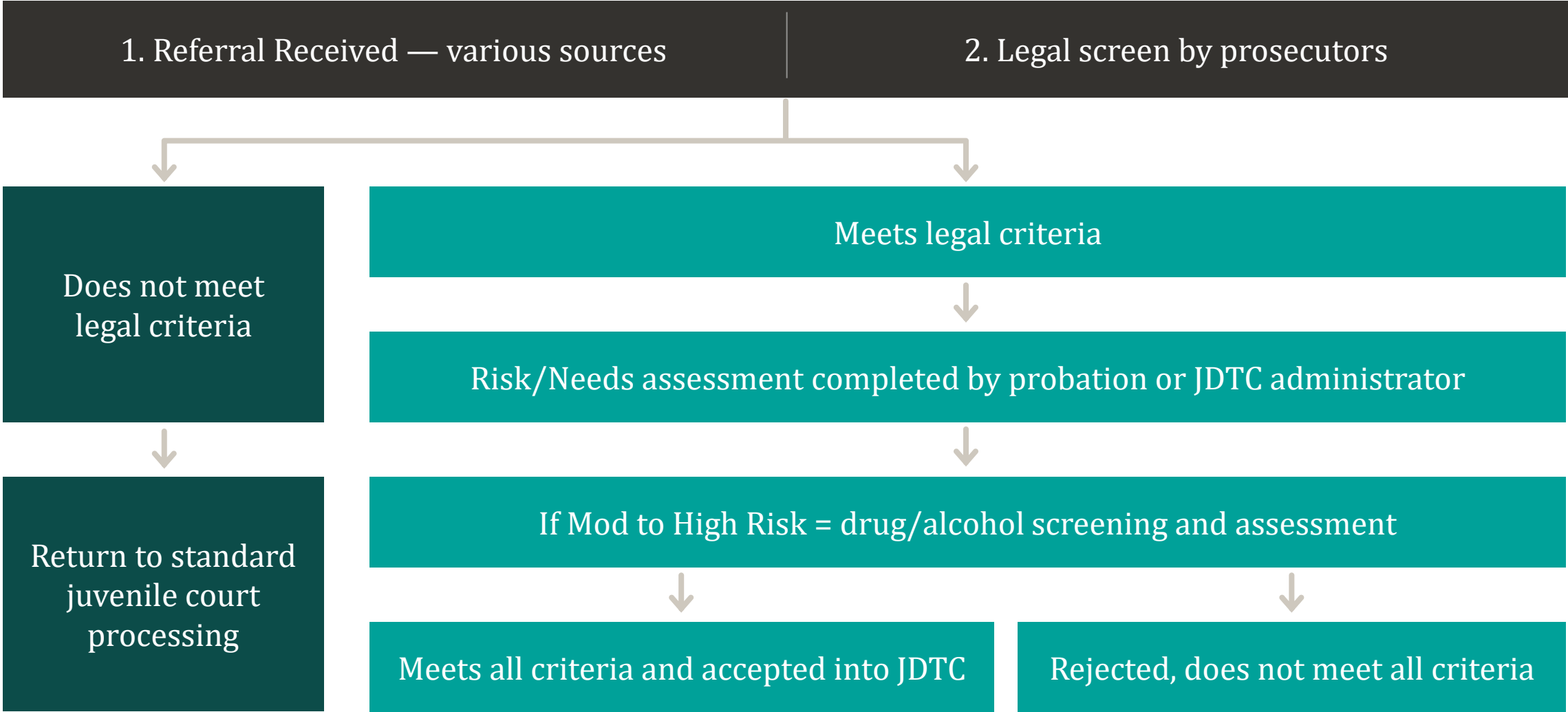


Failed Attempts
to Control
or Stop &
Persistent
Desire or
Cravings

Excessive Time
Spent & Social
Impairment

Continued Use
Despite
Consequences

Increased
Tolerance,
Increased Use,
Withdrawal





Initial Referral and Legal Screen

Once you have developed — or changed — your current target population to reflect the target of 14 to 17 years of age, the JDTC should establish a procedure for referrals to get to court.

Create a quick “fact sheet” of the JDTC target population and referral process to share with stakeholders

Guideline 2.2: Validated Risk Assessment



- Per the **GUIDELINES**, “Before providing treatment, the most effective juvenile justice programs use validated risk assessment instruments to assess risk for each participant” — Howell and Lipsey, 2012.
- Risk refers to the likelihood of reoffending
- Use a validated risk assessment instrument

Guideline 2.2: Validated Risk Assessment



RISK SCREENING & ASSESSMENT TOOL EXAMPLES:

- Youth Level of Services/Case Management Inventory — YLS/CMI
- Youth Level of Services/Case Management Inventory — Screening Version - YLS/CMI-SV
- Positive Achievement Change Tool - PACT

Guideline 2.3: Validated Need Assessment



CLINICAL NEED BRIEF SCREENERS:

- Adolescent Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory — SASSI-A2
- GAIN — Short Screener
- CRAFTT

Guideline 2.3: Validated Need Assessment



CLINICAL NEED FULL ASSESSMENTS:

- Global Appraisal of Individual Need — GAIN
- Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children — IV
- Teen Addiction Severity Index — T-ASI
- Comprehensive Addiction severity Index for Adolescents — CASI-A
- Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Involvement Scale



Guideline 2.4: Diverting Low Risk Youth & Those Without SUD

- Juvenile Drug Treatment Court programming should target moderate to high risk youth with SUD — high need.
- Divert low risk youth — **DO NOT** treat in the JDTC.
- Can actually increase recidivism and crime severity



Guideline 2.5: Equity of Access and Proper Screening

- Eligibility and court practices should translate to equal access for all groups of youth
- Equivalent retention
- Disaggregate data
- Conduct self-assessment of cultural practices and understanding

Practice Implications



- Who can lead this effort?
- Collect and analyze data on your current target population
 - Average age?
 - Risk level?
 - Substance abuse/use outcomes on screeners?
 - Analyze data to look at entrance rates/risk level/screening for equivalent outcomes of all youth.
- What are the strengths of the team in following the Guidelines related to teams?
- What improvements are needed?
- Timeline for changes?

Role Play Exercise



Equity Role Play Script: Eligibility vs Suitability Criteria and Being Strength-Based

- Role play with members of the Juvenile Wellness Court (JWC) Acceptance Committee: Public Defender/PD (volunteer), Treatment Provider (volunteer), Probation Supervisor (volunteer), Prosecutor/DA (volunteer)

Role Play about JJ

- Instructions:
 1. Turn to 1 or 2 other individuals sitting near you to form a small discussion group.
 2. Introduce yourself.
 3. Take turns sharing your ideas/responses to each of the questions below.
 - a. *In what ways did the committee's discussion of accepting JJ **align with best practices**?*
 - b. *What points were made that showed a concern for **equity** of access?*
 4. Have one person in your group volunteer to report out on your discussion

Role Play Exercise



Equity Role Play Script: Eligibility vs Suitability Criteria and Being Strength-Based

- Role play with members of the Juvenile Wellness Court (JWC) Acceptance Committee: Public Defender/PD (volunteer), Treatment Provider (volunteer), Probation Supervisor (volunteer), Prosecutor/DA (volunteer)

Role Play about EM

- Instructions:
 1. Find 1 or 2 individuals sitting near you (who are different from the individuals you talked to about JJ) to form a small discussion group.
 2. Introduce yourself.
 3. Take turns sharing your ideas/responses to each of the questions below.
 - a. *What factors did you hear any committee member note **that did not align with** best practices?*
 - b. *Which of these might **be barriers to equity** of access? How were they countered to **reduce or eliminate barriers**?*
 4. Have one person in your group volunteer to report out on your discussion.

Summary and Questions



- Revise/revisit your eligibility criteria.
- Ensure that you have a risk assessment tool, substance abuse/mental health screener, and that results drive acceptance and case planning.
- Disaggregate and analyze your data to ensure youth and families are matched with appropriate and responsive programming.

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