

# STOP Sanction-Treatment-Opportunity-Progress

## A brief history:

STOP was established in August 1991 to provide timely and appropriate treatment to those charged with drug possession. STOP was a collaborative effort between Judge Harl Haas, DA Mike Schrunck, MPD and InAct (treatment provider).

Since 1991, much research has been done on the effectiveness of drug courts and the NADCP (National Association of Drug Court Professionals) has developed best practice standards for their operation.

In 2017, STOP rededicated itself to adhering to the NADCP best practice standards by hiring a coordinator to guide program operation and policy discussions. STOP added probation officers to the courtroom, peer mentors to help connect participants to services and community supports and a dedicated case manager to assist in communication and coordination with other service providers.

*Treatment First* was implemented in early 2017 and was expected to have a positive impact on the significantly disproportionate number of persons of color being referred to, and inserted into, the criminal justice system for drug possession offenses. Those who plead into Treatment First and complete the recommended treatment can have felony possession charges reduced to a misdemeanor and misdemeanor cases dismissed. As an overarching initiative, Treatment First assesses the risk/need level of those with eligible possession charges, to determine the appropriate level of supervision and treatment. Defendants are placed in a quadrant based on their risk/need level and expected to complete the recommended supervision and treatment associated with that quadrant.

- STOP court serves those assessed as High risk/High need. Highly structured program lasting a minimum of 12 months
- DCJ supervises those assessed as High risk/Low need, referring to treatment based on a clinical assessment. Eligible for early dismissal after 9 months if compliant.
- DCJ supervises those assessed as Low risk/High needs and case manages their participation in treatment. Eligible for early dismissal after 9 months if compliant.
- Those assessed as Low risk/Low need are given a 12 month probation and can earn early dismissal after 6 months.

## STOP Court:

The STOP program provides immediate connections to recovery mentors, treatment, mental health screening and medication assisted treatment. In line with the best practice standards put forth by NADCP and the state of Oregon, STOP court uses a collaborative team consisting of the DDA, Defense, treatment provider, Judge, coordinator, probation and others to provide access and motivation for participants to attend treatment. All team members are present in pre-court staffing of cases and during the status hearing. STOP uses a variety of responses to participant behavior to encourage consistent engagement in supervision and treatment. Each response is based on the participants assessed need, ability and resources.

