Changing Your Paradigm:
Building Stronger Drug Court Teams

Arizona Problem Solving Courts Conference
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What is a Paradigm?

- A philosophical and theoretical framework of scientific school or discipline within which theories, laws and generalization and the experiments performed in support of them are formulated; broadly : a philosophical or theoretical framework of any kind.

-Merriam-Webster Dictionary, (m-w.com)
What is a Paradigm?

• For our purposes a paradigm is the framework we use to filter information
How do we each develop our information filter?

- Personal Life experience
- Professional Training
- Professional Experience
Drug Court Teams

- Are you aware of how you filter information?
- How do team members filter information differently?
Exercise 1: Identifying your professional paradigm

• As a group of professionals discuss and develop a mission statement.
Expanding Your Framework

- Change your paradigm by changing your profession.

- Move to a table with a mission statement and job title different from your own.
Scenario 1: Importance of Staffings

- You are the judge in charge of the Drug Court Team.
- You think staffings are too long.
- You unilaterally cancel staffings and require members to submit information in writing in advance.
- Using your new mission statement, list your top concern about this new procedure.
Scenario 2: Narcotic Pain Medication

- The participant has been in the drug court program for nine months.
- Since being in the program, he has completed Intensive Outpatient classes, complete Halfway House Program, and attends social support meetings on a regular basis.
- In the last two weeks, the defendant has tested positive twice for oxycodone.
- Participant explained he had a valid prescription.
- Using your new mission statement, what is your top concern about this participant?
Scenario 3
Diluted U/A’s

- The participant has been in the program for 6 months.
- She has completed Halfway House Program, Inpatient treatment, Intensive Outpatient, 3 social support meetings a week and is currently in counseling one day a week.
- She has had 7 diluted U/A’s.
- She claims the diluted tests are being caused by an unknown medical condition.
- Using your new mission statement, what is your top concern about this participant?
- What is your recommendation.
“Realization of these [rehabilitation] goals requires a **team approach**, including cooperation and collaboration of the judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation authorities, other corrections personnel, law enforcement, pretrial services agencies, TASC programs, evaluators, an array of local service providers, and the greater community.”
Key Component #9

“Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.”
Discussion