MARICOPA COUNTY DRUG COURT ALUMNI GROUP

Veronica Alvarado, Probation Officer- Maricopa County Adult Probation
Diana Barela, Probation Officer- Maricopa County Adult Probation
Scott Stoffel, Probation Officer- Maricopa County Adult Probation
Curtis Dorris, Drug Court Alumni Group- Board President
The Drug Court Alumni Group

Says Thank You!
How We Created Our Drug Court Alumni Group

MARICOPA COUNTY DRUG COURT
The purpose of an association is to foster a spirit of loyalty and to promote the general welfare of your organization. Alumni associations exist to support the parent organization’s goals, and to strengthen the ties between alumni, the community, and the parent organization.
Welcome
Why We Created an Alumni Group
Steps We Took To Create Our Alumni Group
Benefits of an Alumni Group
Video of Alumni Events
Alumni Board President
Alumni Engagement
Events
Challenges
The Future of Our Alumni Group
What’s Missing

- The Need for an Alumni Program Within Our Drug Court Program.
  - Lack of aftercare for clients exiting the program
  - Lack of continued access to a network of sober people
  - A way to offer accountability to clients after completion of the program
  - Instill confidence in personal success
  - Ms. Garcia Story
Steps We Took to Create Our Alumni Group

- Created a Purpose
  - The Alumni Group is for Drug Court graduates who have the desire to assist, support and promote current Drug Court clients and graduates in achieving success and living sober lives by promoting the recovery lifestyle through mentoring and fellowship.
  - To create another component for people who are interested in making lasting positive change.
Steps We Took to Create Our Alumni Group

- Recruited an Interest Group
  - Contacted past, present and upcoming graduates
  - Other alumni organization participants
  - Drug Court Team
    - Probation Officers
    - Counselors
    - Court/Attorneys
    - Drug Court Management Team
Steps We Took to Create Our Alumni Group

- Letter of Interest
  - Created a data base of Drug Court clients contact information
  - Sent letter to potential participants
Consent to Future Contact from the
Adult Probation Department
Maricopa County

YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO COMPLETE THIS FORM

I, _________________________________, CR#_______________________________,
(Please print name)

consent to the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department contacting me after
completion of the Drug Court Program. The information I submit is confidential and
will be used for program evaluation purposes only.

_____________________________          _________________________________
Signature                                                                           Date

________________________________________________________________________
Address

________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip

________________________________________________________________________
Telephone Number                                                E-mail Address

I am interested in being contacted regarding the Maricopa County Drug Court Alumni
Association.

☐ Yes       ☐ No
The Drug Court Alumni group is a group of past and a select few current members of Maricopa County’s Drug Court program. The Alumni group is a way for past participants to stay connected to the recovery community and continue to foster relationships made while participating in the program. We hope to organize social events, have motivational speakers and provide benefits and services to help Alumni members to maintain a connection to the program, fellow participants and their sobriety in a fun and exciting manner. We hope to meet monthly and discuss current topics, services and offer support to new and fellow members. In addition, we hope to have alumni members be mentors to current Drug Court participants and speak at Court, orientation and counseling groups.

Please join us to discuss and plan fun and exciting activities and adventures for the coming months. We would like to plan events such softball, basketball, hiking, and BBQ’s. Please contact us if you have any questions.

DATE:
Wednesday
May 22, 2013

TIME:
6:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:
Black Canyon Building
2445 W. Indianola
Phoenix, AZ.

Contact
Diana Barela
602-245-0124
Scott Stoffel
602-619-3211
Steps We Took to Create Our Alumni Group

- Recruitment
  - Nominations for elected seats
  - Election of officers
  - Formalized job duties and responsibilities
  - Set group goals
  - Created Mission Statement
Mission Statement

To provide an environment to Drug Court clients, graduates and families to encourage lasting sobriety through participation in sober events, meetings and activities.
Defendants are exposed to sober events to encourage prosocial activity

Changes client’s perception of the Drug Court team

It offers a place to interact with others in recovery

Provides participants a place to encourage and offer peer support to others who are not as established in their sobriety

Supports a sober lifestyle while in the program and after completion
Benefits

- Provides a mentoring program for participants.
- Opportunity for families to show support in the client’s sobriety.
- Provides opportunity for clients to complete service work.
Active Addiction

Drug Court participant February 2009-August 2011

Residential treatment

- Ebony House residential treatment Alumni group
- Aftercare

Drug Court Alumni Group
Alumni Engagement

- Early Involvement

- Consistent Presence
  - Alumni is part of on-going recovery plan
  - Active involvement at all stages of the program

- Build Meaningful Relationships

- Make it Fun
Events

- Types of Events
- How Events are Chosen
- Community Networking
- Promoting Events
Types of Events

- Picnics
- Bowling
- Softball Games
- Panel Discussions
- Guest Speakers
- Sponsored Families
Events

How Events Are Chosen

Cost

Location

Time
Events

- Community Networking-Utilizing Shared Resources
  - Treatment agencies
  - Churches
  - Sober Living Houses
  - Food Banks
Promoting Events

- Flyers
  - Court
  - Office appointments
  - Area Probation offices
  - Counseling agencies
- E-mail
- Mail
- Mass texts
- Social media
ALUMNI GROUP

Picnic in the Park

Join us in creating the first Drug Court Alumni Group mural!

Saturday, April 2, 2016
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Potluck followed by games and events at Eastlake Park at 1549 E. Jefferson St. (southwest corner of 16th St. and Jefferson) light rail stop.

Join us for a day of fun and food (hotdogs and hamburgers.) Family and friends are always welcome!

For meeting information, contact:
Diana Barela 602-245-0124
Scott Stoffel 602-619-3211
Veronica Alvarado 602-619-2949

New members are always welcome!
Budget

- Donations
- Fundraising
  - Carwashes
  - Raffles
    - 50/50
    - Televisions
  - Shared resources-combined efforts with community agencies such as sports equipment and food
Things to Consider

- Liability
  - Certificates of insurance
  - City permits

- Venue
  - Appropriateness
  - Safety concerns
Determine Leadership
- Alumni Led with Board Members
- Probation Officer Led
- Election of Officers
- President/Vice President/Treasurer
  - Assigned duties
- Clear Agenda for Meetings
Members
- Probation Officers
- Board members
- Graduates

Advocates
- Judge
- Counselors
- Family involvement
Formal Agenda
- Plan each meeting
- Who leads the meetings
- Minutes
- Planned community events
- What should it include
  - Food
  - Fun
  - Entertainment
Challenges

- Consistent attendance/Retention
- Labor Force
- Financing
- Buy in from management/other staff
- Workload
- Connectivity between Drug Court participants and Alumni staff
- Finding centralized locations
- Transportation
Challenges

Participation
- Mandatory attendance?

Consistent attendance
- Continued outreach?

Retention of graduates
- Meaningful participation?
Challenges

Manpower for events
Probation Officers
Counselors
Attorneys
Graduates
Current Participants

• Provide community service credit?
Challenges

Workload
- Flex time?

Buy-in from management team
- Allocate personnel hours?
Challenges

Financing
Fundraising?
501(C)3?

Affiliation with the Courts
Limits fundraising abilities?
Challenges

Connectivity between Drug Court participants and Alumni staff

• Fostering Relationships?
Challenges

Transportation

• Bus passes?

• More localized events?
Future?

- Professional Sporting Events (securing tickets as a group)
- Monthly News Letter
- Social Media Pages
- Resource Center
  - Employment
  - Counseling
  - Family assistance services
- Fitness Activities
  - Hiking clubs
  - Sports leagues
    - Softball
    - Basketball
Charitable Events

- Assisting with food pantries/food baskets
- Assisting homeless shelters
- Community enrichment projects
QUESTIONS?
Contact Information

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Scott Stoffel  E-mail: Stoffels@apd.maricopa.gov  phone: 602-619-3211

Curtis Dorris  E-mail: Curtisdorris@Gmail.com