Defining Drug Courts: The Ten Key Components

Key Component #1
Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

Key Component #2
Using a nonadversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

Key Component #3
Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.

Key Component #4
Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

Key Component #5
Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

Key Component #6
A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.

Key Component #7
Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.

Key Component #8
Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
Key Component #9

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

Key Component #10

Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.

The Complete Defining Drug Courts: Ten Key Components document can be obtained at www.NADCP.org