

**Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition**  
**Judicial Work Group**  
**Location: Bridge House**  
**June 20, 2014**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Vision:** New Orleans will be a safe, crime and drug-free, healthy community with a good quality of life for all of its citizens.

**Mission:** To develop and implement a comprehensive and sustainable strategic plan using prevention, treatment, and law enforcement to reduce the negative consequences of the use of illicit drugs and other drugs of abuse and abuse of alcohol in the Greater New Orleans area.

**Attendees:** Andree Mattix, (OPDA)  
Tracey Flemings-Davillier, (Judge, Criminal District Court)  
Ginger Parsons, (Orleans Public Defender Office) (gparsons@opdla.org)  
Terri Smith, (Action Against Addiction)  
Steven Lassalle, (N.O. Probation/Parole)  
(stevenlassalle@corrections.state.la.us)

On Conference Line: Stephanie Haynes, GNODDRC  
Seton Jenkins, GNODDRC

Andree Mattix called the meeting to order and requested that the new members discuss the work their organizations were doing. Steven Lassalle started the meeting off with a discussion of Act 389 which allowed for offenders who were not eligible for Diversion or Drug Court to receive services funded by the DOC. Metropolitan had signed up to provide services, but then backed out. There is currently no one in the program because there is no contract with a service provider in our area. The possibility of working with Odyssey House or CADA was brought up.

Steven also brought up the point that there are many programs available in the city, but isn't sure how to get clients in. The group discussed that what is needed is one place or program where clients can receive and take care of everything they need. He also discussed the success they have had with providers coming to the Probation and Parole office to introduce people to their programs. There are 3 or 4 programs such as the Urban League that have been coming to Steven's office a few days a week to assist clients.

Judge Tracey Davillier noticed that there is a lack of programs in the city for young adults, 17-19 year olds, a particularly difficult age group to work with.

Steven spoke about the possibility of teaching young adults skills and trades that would allow them to obtain employment. This is especially true for those who are unable or unwilling to acquire their GED.

The attendees agreed upon the importance of role models and learning about respect and money in primary schools. The idea is trying to reach the youngest kids in order to prevent them from entering the system.

Ginger Parsons discussed the work the social workers and client advocates are doing at the Orleans Parish Public Defenders Office. She stated all clients who have a public defender are eligible to receive services including referrals and transportation to substance abuse programs.

She and Andree discussed how the Diversion counselors as well as some probation officers have worked together with them.

Andree Mattix and Terri Smith discussed the idea that was brought up shortly after the judicial group formed that there be a shared system of information. This computer system would allow access to files on client history and programs that client has completed or is enrolled in, in order to save time. The HIPPA concerns were again discussed.

Building off of Andree's idea, Judge Davillier voiced that instead of creating another online system, a current system could be updated to fulfill that idea.

Steven discussed the new case management system coming to his office in October. This system could potentially be used by the DA's office as well as the Courts.

The public policy statement for Municipal Court was discussed and the attendees were interested in knowing how many marijuana offenders are re-offenders. Terri Smith will be looking at mapping to see how best to approach the question of how many clients in the systems/programs are the same clients.

Andree announced that the DA's office has taken back control of misdemeanor case diversion in Municipal court but that city offenses will still be handled by Municipal Court's Diversion.

Judge Davillier asked that the diversion return forms be edited to explain the reason for the defendants return. We discussed the potential concerns but Andree agreed to see if there was a way to address it.

Attendees discussed the need for a program similar to that of the Day Reporting Program, which is funded by DOC. The focus needs to be on pre-trial/Diversion clients who are lower risk because they are more likely willing to learn and accept change.

Judge Davillier explained that the criminal justice system is confined and working with what they have. She expressed the need for more for pre-trial services to assist clients while they await trial.

Andree again reminded everyone she needs someone to co-chair the group and to please consider helping. Also everyone is welcome to invite participants to join the group.

The next meeting will be held **July 25, 2014** at **3:00pm** at Bridge House.