SAN FRANCISCO COLLABORATIVE COURTS

The San Francisco Achievement Collaborative Court (SF-ACT)

With few parallels nationwide, SF-ACT is an innovative juvenile drug court treatment program, a partnership among the San Francisco Superior Court, San Francisco Unified School District, the Juvenile Probation Department, the Department of Children, Youth and Families, the Department of Public Health, the Office of the District Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc., and Catholic Charities CYO. The program is located at the Civic Center Secondary School, 727 Golden Gate Avenue.

SF-ACT focuses resources on rehabilitation, collaborative team decision-making, an emphasis on therapy and recovery, and a commitment from youth and their families to undergo an intensive outpatient treatment program designed to end the cycle of substance abuse and delinquent behavior.

Why a juvenile drug court?

The problems associated with alcohol and drug dependent juveniles are well-known: school failure, trauma, and high rates of re-arrest; fragmented approaches to treatment; and a lack of resources to respond rapidly to conditions that might interrupt the process of recovery.

SF-ACT recognizes the powerful influence of substance use or abuse on youth and family behavior. Recovery is vital to community safety and the ability of our youth to live safe, healthy and productive lives. SF-ACT leverages key aspects of the program to promote youth and family accountability in the recovery process.

- Intensive involvement of the judge and probation officer supervision to support goals of rehabilitation and recovery
- Weekly court meetings of SF-ACT to evaluate progress and to make recommendations to the judge about each participant
- A non-adversarial, collaborative, integrated approach to supervision & treatment
- Recognition, reward and positive reinforcement for progress
- Imposition of graduated sanctions as motivators to improve compliance with the requirements of probation and treatment progress

Who is eligible for participation?

- Youth ages 14-18 and their families or caregivers
- Ongoing issues with substance use
- Significant emotional and behavioral risks
- Multiple unsuccessful interventions
- At risk for out-of-home placement
- Ability to participate in program and treatment activities

What are the treatment components?

- 3-12 months, 5 days per week during and after-school
- Portable, shelter or home-based services
- Highly structured and multiple phases to develop readiness for change and recovery - thinking, feeling and behaving – skills
- Individualized treatment plans
- Attending 1:1 cognitive behavioral therapy, skills groups, individual family and multi-family group therapy
- Peer support network and recovery coaching
- Random UA testing and contingency management
- Health education and services through the Wellness Center

Who can make referrals for screening?

Referrals may come from a number of sources including judges, probation officers, defense counsel, the District Attorney's Office, a parent, a treatment provider or from other sources who believe that who youth meet the program's eligibility criteria would benefit from participation.

To learn more or to make a referral

Contact Rita Perez, Clinical Director of SF AIIM Higher, JJC Administration Bldg., Room 225
phone: 415- 753-7806 or e-mail: rita.perez@sfdph.org

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