

San Juan County Alternative Sentencing Division

Providing Hope ~ Promoting Opportunity

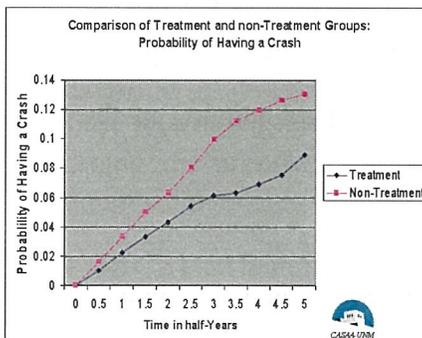
BACKGROUND: In 1991, The San Juan County DWI Solutions Committee was formed to evaluate potential interventions aimed at reducing DWI and to make recommendations to the San Juan County Commission. After collecting data from various states and visiting different programs, the committee recommended a model incorporating a mix of incarceration, treatment, and aftercare. Several public meetings were held, attended by hundreds of community residents, to solicit input concerning the proposed concept. The result was the San Juan 28-Day Jail-Based Treatment Center.



EMPIRICAL SUPPORT – PUBLISHED RESEARCH:



- *American Journal of Public Health* (2002)
- *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* (2004)
- *Traffic Injury Prevention* (2005)
- *Accident Analysis and Prevention* (2006)
- *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* (2007)



A MODEL PROGRAM: The San Juan County DWI Incarceration, Treatment, and Aftercare Program has a distinction unique among statewide DWI programs in that it has been the subject of empirical research for more than seven years. The University of New Mexico Education/Prevention and Research Division, Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Addictions (UNM-CASAA) has published findings in numerous peer-reviewed journals and traffic safety publications. Findings have been very encouraging in the arena of alcohol/DWI programming and support the efficacy of the San Juan County DWI Center. Most notably, UNM-CASAA found “*the 17% effect size is twice what other DWI prevention programs show when studied.*”

The Methamphetamine Pilot Project concept was introduced to the Governor in January of 2006 by a **bi-partisan group** of local legislators, county elected officials, and County staff. The plan was to develop a pilot methamphetamine treatment strategy based on the significant success of the San Juan County DWI Detention, Treatment, & Aftercare Program.

Working within the structure of the fledgling San Juan Safe Communities Initiative, the Methamphetamine Pilot Project processed the first group of clients into the program on **November 1, 2006**

ANECDOTAL SUPPORT: Anonymous quality assurance questionnaires are collected when clients graduate from the 28-day program. Below are sample comments from the surveys received:

- "...you all made a new start for my future."
- "My overall experience in DWI treatment was rewarding because I've learned a great deal about myself and my dangerous behavior which is drinking and driving. I have also learned coping skills and other skills."
- "I feel very blessed to receive this treatment."
- "I learned a lot here about myself and I'm willing to avoid alcohol one day at a time."
- "I thank the treatment center, counselors, C.O.s, and staff for the excellent work they've provided me with the talks and counseling time definitely not wasted. Thank you."
- "Have a great respect for the people here. They have the heart of Christ."
- "I learned that alcohol is not for me. I need to make a change in my life. I am glad that I got some help, I need it. I thank the staff."
- "It was rewarding to me because I learned a lot about how to stay away from alcohol. I see alcohol in a whole different light now and I'm very determined to stop drinking. I think it's time for a change in my life now."
- "I was really mad when I came here but I realized that you can change your life around and learned a lot at this DWI treatment. I will continue to do good and be more responsible with myself and kids."
- "This was a wake-up call in my life. I know I need to make changes and start moving in the right direction."

A recent letter from a former client:

Dear Judge Liese:

I want to thank you for being a strict judge. I was arrested for DWI in August of last year and my BAC was reported as 0.15. I retained [REDACTED] as my attorney and it was our plan to try and avoid doing 28 days that you often require at the local facility.

I am so grateful that I am going through this program and I'm thoroughly impressed at the quality of the program that the DWI Detention Center has to offer. I feel that, if I hadn't gone through this program, I would have celebrated the victory of avoiding incarceration and nothing would have ever changed with regard to my drinking.

The changes I have made and am making have very likely saved my life, and I just wanted to encourage you to continue to require the 28 day program of the DWI offenders that appear before your court. People think that they don't want or don't need to go through such a program, but, in my case, it was a godsend.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]