

Identifying Appropriate
Participants for Each Problem
Solving Court
in
Cass County, MI

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1. High Risk

- The likelihood that an offender will not succeed on standard supervision - will continue to engage in the same pattern of behavior that got them into trouble in the first place.
- Refers to a relatively poorer prognosis for success in traditional rehabilitation services.
- Most accurately referred to as *prognostic risk* (Marlowe, 2009, 2012).
- See handout of Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) Risk Summary

2. High Need

- “Clinical” need is determined by assessment that identifies participant as Moderate-High Substance Use Disorder (DSM-V).
- “Criminogenic” needs are identified as recommendations from the risk assessment, i.e. Parenting skill building, criminal thinking classes, anger management classes, employability skills, time and money management skills, independent living skills...

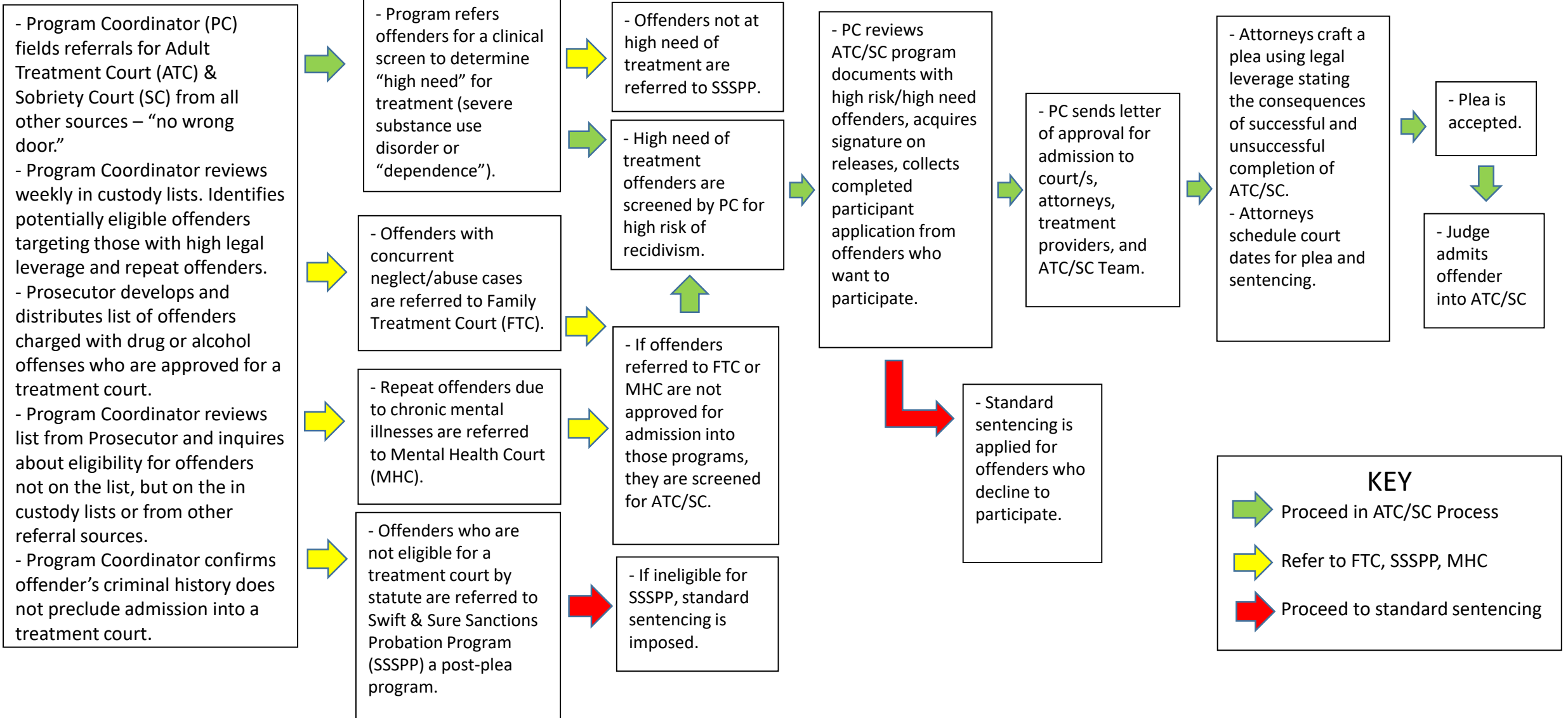
Why High Risk/High Need?

- Drug courts that focus their efforts on these individuals—referred to as *high-risk/high-need* offenders—reduce crime approximately **twice as much** as those serving less serious offenders (Marlowe, 2012).
- Serving high-risk/high-need offenders returns approximately 50 percent greater cost-benefits to their communities (Marlowe, 2012).

Avoiding “Suitability” Determinations

- Often based on the team members’ subjective impressions about an offender’s motivation for change or preparedness for treatment. (Marlowe, 2012).
- Research indicates that such suitability determinations have no impact on drug court graduation rates or post-program recidivism (Carey & Perkins, 2008; Marlowe, 2012).
- Because they have the potential to systematically exclude eligible individuals from drug court for reasons that are empirically invalid, “suitability” practices should ordinarily be avoided (Marlowe, 2012).
- Instead, in most instances, rely on outcomes of risk and need assessments.

Adult Treatment Court & Sobriety Court Screening & Referral Process



Standard Drug Court Track Components:

- Status calendar, i.e. weekly, bi-weekly, monthly
- Substance abuse treatment – Intensity, frequency and duration to be effective
- Pro-social habilitation – Tackling Criminal & Addictive Thinking
- Adaptive habilitation – Skill building, i.e. Sober parenting, time and money management, education, employment skills...
- Focus consequences on treatment and supervision v. punitive intent
- Prescribed medication when clinically indicated – Future hopes.

Successful & Unsuccessful Completers

- Successful:
 - Completed requirements of each phase of program, i.e. Parenting skill building, criminal thinking classes, anger management classes, employability skills, time and money management skills, independent living skills...
 - Specified period of sobriety
- Unsuccessful:
 - Not amenable to treatment – all available evidence based resources have been exhausted.
 - Danger to public

Questions, Answers, & Discussion