



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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MEMORANDUM

TO: New Mexico Magistrate, Municipal, Metro, District Court Judges, and County DWI Programs

FROM: Joyce Johnson
Special Programs Bureau, Local DWI Grant Program

DATE: August 31, 2004

RE: Statutory Requirement to use the DFA approved screening program.

This memorandum with the attachments provided herein, will provide you with information to assist your court in complying with legislation passed in the 2004 Legislative Session requiring all courts to order convicted DWI offenders to participate in and complete the DFA approved screening program.

At this time, the approved screening program is the NEEDS, provided by ADE, Inc. The screening program encompasses the Client Tracking Program (CTP). All offender data collected from the screening survey and CTP is reported to the Department of Health/Office of Epidemiology (DOH/Epi) who serves as the repository of data for the LDWI Grant Program. Annually, DOH/Epi updates the status of DWI offenders in New Mexico. In order to derive a clear representation of tendencies and characteristics of DWI offenders around the state, court use of both the NEEDS and the CTP is imperative.

The protocol for each county DWI screening component is a local decision and established in conjunction with court systems, the Local DWI Council, the County Commission/City Council, and the Local DWI Coordinator. It is recommended that screening components be designed in collaboration with district, magistrate, metropolitan, and municipal courts.

For those courts that are already in compliance with the requirement, you will find updated program information in this packet. Enclosed for your use are the current Local DWI Grant Program Screening Guidelines. Within the document, you will find definitions, goals of screening, qualifications and descriptions of the screener position (administrative and clinical), screening process, fees for service and compliance tracking.

Also enclosed is a list of all DWI Coordinators for every county DWI program. Every DWI coordinator, screener and tracker is encouraged to meet with their local judge(s) to provide all of the necessary information to bring all courts into compliance.

The Department of Finance and Administration/Local DWI Grant Program together with ADE, Inc. is in the process of implementing the screening and client-tracking program online. Every county DWI screening program will be brought online and receive a training from ADE, Inc. When this happens, the DWI Coordinator for each County will invite their Judges to participate in this process.

For further assistance, please contact Ruby L. Rael by phone at (505) 827-4333 or email rrael@state.nm.us.

The mission of the Local DWI Grant Program is to reduce the incidence of DWI in New Mexico.