



Community Mediation Maryland Conflict Management Training Evaluation Summary

The Context: Choice Research Associates was an independent evaluator for the Baltimore City Health Department/bSAS/SAMHSA/BJA Baltimore City District Drug Treatment Court (DTC) Enhancement project. The project provided ancillary services to new and/or existing DTC clients including Buprenorphine IOP/OP Treatment; Halfway House (long-term substance abuse treatment); transitional housing; Health Insurance Focused Case Management and Community Mediation Maryland recovery mediation and/or Conflict Resolution Training. This summary provides the findings of the impact of Community Mediation Maryland Conflict Resolution Training on three recidivism outcomes of arrest, conviction, incarceration.

Referrals: There were 814 individuals engaged in the DTC program from October 2010 through March 2014. The treatment group consisted of the 329 individuals who received a referral, were compared to 485 DTC participants who did not (the “control” group). The 329 DTC participants were provided between 1 and 5 referrals. Of those, 67 individuals participated in the Conflict Resolution Training.

The Program: Conflict Management Training consists of two 3-hour training sessions within a week of each other. These interactive sessions allow participants to explore their experiences and choices in conflict and build new skills for collaborative conflict resolution. One month later, participants attend a 2-hour follow up training to review the skills and refine their use.

The Analysis: The impact of one or more enhanced services on three measures of recidivism -- re-arrest, reconviction, and re-incarceration was explored by comparing the treatment and control group using Logistic and Cox Regression. The analysis included measures to control for relevant factors which could otherwise explain the results, including demographic factors of the DTC participant, and summated measures from criminal history records from the State of Maryland Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).

Findings: Key findings of this study indicate that participation in conflict resolution training reduced the likelihood of arrest, conviction, and sentence of incarceration of 1 or more days post-admittance to DTC or post-service provision after controlling for key factors (e.g., days since admittance to DTC, age, gender, length of criminal career (in days) and history of drug charges). Specifically, compared to those who do not participate in conflict resolution training:

- ❖ The probability that conflict training participants will be arrested is reduced by 29%;
- ❖ The probability of conviction is reduced by 16%; and
- ❖ The probability of being sentenced to incarceration for 1 or more days is reduced by 14%.

A second key finding is that the Cox Regression survival analysis reveals that those who participated in conflict resolution training also lasted a longer period of time (or “survived”) without an arrest and without an arrest leading to a conviction than those who did not participate in conflict resolution training.

Limitations: While overall these results are promising, given that this is based on one geographic location (Baltimore City) and with a relatively small treatment sample size, it would be helpful to replicate these findings in the future.