

Northern Hills Drug Court

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Northern Hills Drug Court Mission Statement

The Northern Hills Drug Court's mission is to increase community safety, foster healthy families, and proficiently utilize public funds. This will be accomplished by streamlining and coordinating services to felony offenders whose crimes are substantially related to the abuse or dependence upon a controlled substance with a primary consideration given to methamphetamine abuse or dependence. The Northern Hills Drug Court will increase long term abstinence by holding offenders accountable and ultimately reducing drug-related crimes.



The 1st Northern Hills Drug Court graduation. DJ Hanson, State Court Administrator, introduced program speakers.



REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

The Northern Hills Drug Court congratulates its first graduate. A graduation ceremony was held on September 12, 2008 in the Meade County Courthouse. "Tom", (name has been changed) prepared a heartfelt speech. He admitted to being a methamphetamine addict for almost half of his 40-plus years. Tom credited the drug court program with its intensive supervision, regular drug testing and treatment requirements for his success in maintaining a drug/alcohol free lifestyle. Tom's plans for the future are to use the tools he has been given to continue living his life free of drugs and alcohol. In concluding his speech, Tom thanked the judge who sentenced him to NH Drug Court, Judge Eckrich, and said, "When you sentenced me, I gave you my word that I would successfully complete this program, and at the very least, I'm a man of my word."

It has been an honor to work with such an individual as "Tom". He has been an effective leader and role model for the other participants. We wish him well.

Congratulations to Mike—new Drug Court Coordinator and Joe—new Drug Court CSO

Northern Hills Drug Court has undergone some staff changes. Michael Pisciotta, CSO for NHDC has accepted the coordinator position. Mike brings years of experience working in the criminal justice field and has already proven to be a very capable director for the drug court program.

NHDC welcomes Joe Gutierrez who has accepted the CSO position. Joe also brings years of criminal justice experience to the drug court team and is a well-known and active member of the Sturgis community.

- One participant graduated from the program
- Three participants are in Phase IV
- Three participants are in Phase III
- Five are in Phase I
- Our participant in college earned a 4.0 GPA from the summer semester
- Two participants are currently in jail serving their sentences. One is on work release.
- One participant is a fulltime student. Five maintain fulltime employment. Two of the participants are performing community service.
- We are anticipating two graduates from the program on November 25th, and another graduation is planned for early January.

The Northern Hills Drug Court Team is proud of our participants' accomplishments.



For the reporting quarter, July 1 through September 30, 2008:

- 282 drug tests given to 13 participants
- 100% of the tests were negative for all substances
- 276 contacts with 13 participants in the community
- 1,426 phone contacts with 13 participants
- 85% of the participants are employed, are students or are performing community service
- 1 participants failed to obey the program rules and was sent to prison
- 232 office visits
- 4 sanctions for rule violations
- 3 sanctions involved incarceration

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TEAM MEMBERS

Jesse Sondreal	Mike Pisciotta
Bruce Hubbard	Joe Gutierrez
Ron Merwin	Mary Wood-Fossen
Judge Michelle Percy	Mari Galles