

**Q4 2020 (10/1/20-12/31/20)**

**TAD Quarterly Report to DOJ – Narrative for Dane County District Attorney’s Office *Opiate Diversion Program***

**Is the Project on Schedule?**

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate:** Yes

**Explanation:**

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O) Activities:** DPP-O continues to operate in accordance with the temporary DPP-O remote protocol created and shared in a previous reporting period. Numbers of admissions have remained steady compared the previous reporting period. DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors continue virtual case management meetings with participants via Zoom, and DPP-O continues to collaborate with Concentra to conduct drug testing for some DPP-O participants.

*2) Program Question: Describe the progress made by your TAD program(s) during this reporting period as outlined in your goals and objectives form submitted with your grant application. Please be sure to clearly identify each TAD program and provide a separate response for each program. Use your TAD Quarterly Data Report to help answer these questions.*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O) Response (below):**

Dane County District Attorney’s Office staffing for the program remains unchanged since the previous reporting period, and Janae Goodrich at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Population Health Institute (UWPHI) continues as the evaluation partner. No TAD Quarterly Data Report is available for use in our response.

**Goal 1:** *Reduce recidivism rates for nonviolent offenders in the program and increase public safety.*

Program implementation continues as planned. The DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors continue to implement all program activities as outlined in the grant application goals and objectives, with some adjustments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. DPP-O team members continue to monitor participant re-offense and document that information in the CORE Reporting System.

During the current reporting period, DPP-O continued to operate under modified operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (a copy of the modified protocol was submitted as an attachment in our 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report). DPP-O also continued to operate in accordance with the protocol developed for participant drug testing in collaboration with Concentra. The protocol allows for testing DPP-O participants who are approaching successful discharge (with the goal of confirming clean time during the last two months of the contract date); testing participants when there is a suspicion of use without participant disclosure; and, testing participants in other situations that the DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors deem necessary.

**Goal 2:** *Reduce prison and jail populations by diverting nonviolent offenders to community-based interventions.*

During the current reporting period, DPP-O team members continued discussions with Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) to advocate for eligible participants being referred and admitted to DPP-O in a timely manner. The Dane County Circuit Courts continue to operate on a limited basis during the COVID-19 pandemic, so referrals for post-charge cases have been delayed in several cases. The DPP-O team members and DDAs continue to work toward a solution for referring participants to DPP-O in a timely manner.

During the current reporting period, DPP-O team members continued developing a process for new participants to complete intake paperwork using an online system. The intake paperwork has historically been distributed and returned via postal mail or via a Deferred Prosecution Program (DPP) Office email. There have been delays in receiving intake paperwork from DPP-O participants, both via email and postal mail. It is expected that the online system and corresponding process for submitting the intake paperwork directly to the DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors will be implemented in the coming reporting period.

Finally, during this reporting period, the DPP-O team collaborated with staff at the Dane County Department of Human Services and WI DOJ to complete a budget modification to reallocate a portion of the unspent grant funds. DPP-O was approved to purchase and distribute much-needed incentives to DPP-O participants in December 2020.

Activities completed by the DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors and DPP Director during this reporting period are below:

09/29/20-10/01/20: Kendall attends the YWCA's Racial Justice Summit.

10/6/20: Kendall attends and participates in the Racial Equity and Inclusion Action Team Meeting with DA's office.

10/07/20: Kendall participates in YWCA's Racial Justice Summit Review meeting.

10/8/20: James attends Dane County DA sponsored Equity and Inclusion Small Group.

10/8/20: Melvin attends Racial Equity Social Justice Core meeting.

10/12/20: James meets with Sarah Johnson/Madison Public Health to discuss overdoses, and COVID Dane/MAARI/Overdose statistics.

10/12/20: James meets with Officer Albright as he reports winding down from his MARI duties and only following-through on MARI participants prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>.

10/13/20: DPP-O Team Meeting - Melvin, James and Kendall meet with Janae Goodrich/UW Population Health Institute to discuss CORE-related issues, referrals to DPP-O, client response during COVID, etc.

10/20/20: Deferred Prosecution Unit staff meeting.

10/21/20: Melvin attends TAD Subcommittee meeting.

10/21/20: James presents Opioids/Opiates to State of Wisconsin DOR via Zoom.

10/22/20: Kendall participates in YWCA's Racial Justice Summit Review meeting.

10/28/20-10/30/20: Kendall attends the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Conference.

11/02/20: Kendall participates in a meeting with the DPP Director to review the yearly audit report.

11/4/20: DPU staff meeting.

11/4/20: Melvin and Kendall attend a live presentation/conversation with author Dr. Ibram X. Kendi hosted by Madison College.

11/10/20: Melvin attends Dane County Supervisor Annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop.

11/11/20: Melvin presents to the Dane County Fines & Fees Subcommittee via Zoom.

11/16/20: Melvin attends African American Opioid Coalition meeting.

11/17/20: DPP-O Team Meeting - Melvin, James and Kendall meet with Janae Goodrich/UW Population Health Institute to discuss CORE-related issues, referrals to DPP-O, client response during COVID, etc.

11/19/20: Kendall attends Drug Endangered Child meeting, presented by Rock County Family Treatment Courts.

11/30/20: James meets new MAARI Officer (Officer Braunschweig) to discuss DPP-O criteria as it relates to MAARI.

12/1/20: Melvin attends the TAD Subcommittee Work Group working on Wisconsin Diversion Standards.

12/2/20: James meets Officer Braunschweig to address both MAARI failures and MAARI ineligible.

12/4/20: DPP-O team meets to discuss TAD budget and James prepares Needs and Incentives During COVID document.

12/4/20: Kendall attends a three-hour Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) Suicide Intervention Training.

12/7/20: James meets with Sarah Johnson/Madison Public Health, regarding Overdose Fatality Review.

12/10/20: Melvin attends TAD Subcommittee meeting

12/14/20: Melvin attends African American Opioid Coalition meeting.

12/15/20: DPP-O Team Meeting - Melvin, James and Kendall meet with Janae Goodrich/UW Population Health Institute to discuss CORE-related issues, referrals to DPP-O, client response during COVID, etc.

12/16/20: DPU staff meeting and Kendall co-hosts the Opioid Overdose Education Training presentation with Vivant Health.

12/18/20: Melvin attends End Gun Violence meeting.

12/18/20: Melvin attends Criminal Justice Council Behavioral Health Subcommittee.

12/18/20: James and Kendall prepare incentive distribution protocols.

12/28/20-12/30/20: Kendall completes participant incentive purchasing, distributing and documenting

12/28/20: Melvin attends Gun Violence PSA meeting.

**Goal 3:** *Enhance program to more closely conform to National Pretrial Performance Standards and the Wisconsin Pre-Charge Diversion Standards.*

Based on the results of the 2019 annual assessment of DPP-O alignment with the Wisconsin Pre-Charge Diversion Standards, the DPP-O team continues to prioritize Pre-Charge Diversion Standard 4.4 related to eligibility of individuals being assessed and referrals being made as soon as possible. The DPP-O team continues to closely monitor the speed of processing between referral and DPP-O admission. At monthly meetings, the DPP-O team and the UWPHI Evaluator discuss the referral process, identify current issues and discuss areas for improvement. DPP-O team members then follow-up to discuss and resolve any barriers/issues identified.

The DPP-O team and UW Evaluator plan to conduct the 2020 annual analysis of DPP-O alignment with the Wisconsin Pre-Charge Diversion Standards in the coming reporting period. The TAD Subcommittee is currently reviewing and revising these standards, and we await the finalized standards to conduct our annual assessment.

Because one of the primary program enhancements through TAD funding is the addition of evaluation support for DPP-O, the UWPHI Evaluator and program staff communicated regularly and met as a team monthly during the current quarter to discuss program staffing, program activity, program improvement, program data and data systems, and reporting requirements.

During this reporting period, James Sauer (DPP-O Senior Substance Abuse Counselor) continued discussions with Madison Police Officers assigned to the Madison Addiction Recovery Initiative (MARI) and the newly implemented Madison Area Addiction Recovery Initiative (MAARI). Discussions with Officer Albright and Officer Braunschweig included discussions of DA's Office processes,

collaboration/sharing of information related to MARI/MAARI failures and those ineligible for MAARI, and discussions of continued communication and collaboration between MAARI and DPP-O team members.

During this reporting period, DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors also began distributing a brief participant satisfaction survey to DPP-O discharges. The goal of this satisfaction survey is to gather feedback from participants who are discharged from DPP-O. One individual discharged from DPP-O has completed the survey to date, and the survey will be sent to all DPP-O discharges in the future. Results of the survey will be summarized by the UWPHI Evaluator on a quarterly basis and results will be used for the purposes of program improvement.

DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors continue to enter all of the clients who are not in the “eValueate” system into CORE. We continue to await the transfer of “eValueate” data into CORE for accurate analysis of program trends. We plan to do an outcomes analysis of DPP-O during 2021, and we are hopeful to be able to complete this analysis using a complete dataset of participants in “eValueate” and CORE.

The DPP Director also continued to attend the TAD Subcommittee meetings and meetings about the Wisconsin Diversion Standards. The DPP Director will continue to attend the Subcommittee meetings and other related meetings scheduled in the future.

Finally, we continue to submit copies of our quarterly reports to the Dane County Criminal Justice Council (CJC), and a member of the Dane County District Attorney’s Office continues to attend all CJC meetings.

**Goal 4:** *Develop and test pretrial screening tool for opiate abusers.*

DPP-O team members continue to implement the modified version of the program’s Supplemental Opiate Assessment Questionnaire (SOAQ). All new program participants have completed this modified tool at program admission since 9/1/2017. Program staff continue to securely transmit scanned copies of the completed tool to UWPHI in compliance with the UW Cybersecurity Protocol. The UWPHI Evaluator logs, cleans, codes, and enters the SOAQ data on an ongoing basis to update the electronic dataset of screens as they are collected from new admissions. DPP-O continues to await the transfer of historical “eValueate” data into CORE for analysis of trends and analysis of the SOAQ and DPP-O data.

*2) Describe the progress made by your TAD program(s) during this reporting period (i.e. events, trainings, meetings, community outreach activities, etc.)*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** As previously mentioned, James Sauer (DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselor) continued discussions with the Madison Police Department Officers assigned to MARI and the newly implemented MAARI. Discussions included information about DPP-O and DA’s Office processes, the status of MARI and MAARI, and continued collaboration and information sharing between MAARI and DPP-O. Also, during this reporting period, James Sauer continued to participate in the Dane County Overdose Fatality Review and met with Sarah Johnson at Public Health Madison & Dane County who oversees this Review Committee. James Sauer also conducted a presentation to WI DOR about Opiates/Opioids and attended several racial equity-focused events. In addition to James’ efforts, Kendall Ross (DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselor) also attended several trainings and events this reporting period, including the Annual Mental Health and Substance Use Conference, several racial equity-focused events, and a training on suicide intervention. Melvin Juette

(DPP Director) continued to participate on the TAD Subcommittee, the TAD Subcommittee workgroup addressing the Wisconsin Diversion Standards, the Racial Equity Social Justice CORE committee, and the African American Opioid Coalition.

*3) List all numbers and activities of your TAD program(s) during this reporting period. Please include the 1) Current program numbers, 2) referrals, admissions, graduations and terminations, 3) program capacity.*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** There are currently 25 active participants in DPP-O and DPP-O has admitted 31 participants during this calendar year. Numbers of admissions have remained steady in this reporting period, compared to the previous reporting period. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting impacts on the court system have impacted referrals to DPP-O. The processing of court cases has been limited for much of the year, and we continue to await the time when the courts and DA’s office staff can process a large amount of backlogged cases. We admitted a total of 31 participants during this calendar year, which is slightly less than our goal of 40 admissions during this calendar year. Though DPP-O and DA’s Office staff made many efforts to address barriers to timely admission to DPP-O, referrals and admissions were impacted by reduced court operations and the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 54 participants were active in DPP-O during 2020, including admissions from 2019 who participated during 2020.

During this COVID-19 time, DPP-O has a maximum capacity of 40 participants at any given time. We are currently at approximately 73% of full capacity (with 25 currently active cases). We expect this number to increase in 2021 as we continue to receive several referrals.

	<b>Number During Year 4 Quarter 4</b>	<b>Total Number CY 2020</b>
Referral Received	14	61
Pre-assess/Intake	8	30
Awaiting Plea	0	2
Not Accepted	1	8
Pending	7	27
Defendant Refusal	1	2
Admitted	8	31
Referred to AOD Treatment	8	31
Active in DPP-O During Quarter/Year	38	54
Discharged	13	29
Successful Completion	10	20
Termination	3	9
Deceased	0	0

*4) Program Question: Describe any changes made to your program this reporting period (e.g. referral process, phase structure, treatment offered, etc.)*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** As previously mentioned, DPP-O continues to operate under the temporary DPP-O remote protocol developed in a previous reporting period. DPP-O also continues to operate in accordance with the temporary drug testing protocol that allows drug testing for some DPP-O participants in collaboration with Concentra. No additional modifications have been made to DPP-O during this reporting period.

*5) Program Question: Please indicate if you have experienced any changes in your TAD program staff during this reporting period (e.g. budgeted staff, team members, positions listed on the TAD grant, etc.)*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** There have been no changes in TAD program staff during this reporting period. Kendall Ross (DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselor) continues to serve as the TAD staff member for DPP-O and is a valued member of the DPP-O team.

*6) Program Question: Describe any challenges your program has experienced in terms of interagency coordination and collaboration during this reporting period (e.g. lack of stakeholder attendance and/or engagement, etc.)*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** No challenges related to interagency coordination and collaboration have occurred during this reporting period. As previously mentioned, collaboration among the Dane County TAD-funded entities is ongoing.

*7) Financial Question: Is your program on track to spend the budgeted amount for this reporting period? Do you anticipate that funds will be fully expended by the project period end date? If no, please explain...*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** We have identified unspent funds in the 2020 budget due to conferences held virtually, staff furloughs, and other unspent funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The DPP Director worked with WI DOJ and Dane County Department of Health Services staff to reallocate a portion of these funds to purchase much needed participant incentives.

*8) Financial Question: Please indicate if your fiscal department has issues or questions regarding the financial reporting requirements for the TAD Grants and could use assistance in this area.*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** No assistance requested at this time.

*9) After reviewing your program data, what trends have you identified in your program (e.g. patterns or changes in referrals, admissions, discharges by type, etc.)?*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** To date, we have entered all of our clients who are not in the “eValue” system into CORE. This includes a total of 105 participants, including 24 currently active participants, one inactive participant, three participants who were determined to be ineligible, two participants who declined participation, 52 participants who successfully completed program services, one participant who voluntarily withdrew, and 22 participants who were terminated from the program. Data that we have entered into WI DOJ’s “eValue” system continues to be unavailable for analysis of trends. However, the UWPHI Evaluator created a summary of “eValue” and CORE data for DPP-O participants admitted July 1, 2013-December 31, 2019 earlier in 2020. The summary will be used as a baseline of DPP-O implementation, and the UWPHI Evaluator will continue to conduct analyses to identify trends as the “eValue” data is transferred to the CORE Reporting System.

*10) Data Question: Do you have any data-related concerns or need assistance with the CORE Reporting System? If yes, please explain...*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** In this reporting period, the UWPHI Evaluator and DPP-O team members completed the quarterly CORE data cleaning processes. During this process, the

UWPHI Evaluator manually reviews all active CORE records and sends any identified issues to the DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors. Upon receipt of this information, DPP-O Counselors make necessary changes and any CORE-related questions are sent to WI DOJ staff.

The UWPHI Evaluator continued to collaborate with WI DOJ staff to inquire about the transfer/conversion of existing program data from the “eEvaluate” system to the CORE Reporting System. While DOJ indicated that the “eEvaluate” data would be transferred to CORE during July or August 2018, we still await transfer of these data more than two years later.

The UWPHI Evaluator and DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselors continued to report issues/malfunctions with the CORE System to WI DOJ staff. WI DOJ staff have resolved some of these requests, but other requests remain unaddressed. In early January 2020, James Sauer (DPP-O Substance Abuse Counselor) and Janae Goodrich (UWPHI Evaluator) met with Derek Veitenheimer and Alesha Brown in the WI DOJ Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis (BJIA). After the meeting, the DPP-O team sent a summary of the discussion and requests for CORE improvement to the WI DOJ BJIA staff. Some issues identified during this meeting have not yet been resolved, but the UWPHI Evaluator will continue collaboration with WI DOJ BJIA staff to ensure these updates are made.

As we continue to enter our current participants into CORE, and when our historical “eEvaluate” data is transferred to CORE, these data will be reviewed at least quarterly by the team to assess data quality and any trends identified will be summarized and discussed by the program team. Results will be utilized for continuous quality improvement and to make mid-course corrections as necessary. The enhanced technical support around data collection, presentation, quality monitoring, and using the data for program evaluation and improvement will align the program more closely with WI Pre-Charge Diversion Standards 3.5 and 3.6.

*11) Technical Assistance: Describe any technical assistance, training or additional resource needs that your treatment court team and program would find beneficial.*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** No technical assistance needed at this time.

*12) Site Visit/TA Conducted: Have you had a site visit or received TA in the last 12 months? If so, please describe at least one aspect of the visit that was helpful. Please discuss any changes to the program you may have made as a result of the feedback you received.*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** A report from the WI DOJ site visit that was held in November 2019 was received by DPP-O team members in late March 2020. DPP-O team members reviewed the report and the associated recommendations. As a result of the recommendations, the DPP-O team members added a confidentiality statement to the DPP-O protocol materials. The confidentiality statement and updated DPP-O protocol was shared with WI DOJ staff in April 2020.

During this reporting period, the DPP Director worked with WI DOJ staff to complete a budget modification. The DPP Director received access to the necessary WI DOJ grant systems and WI DOJ approved the budget modification request in December 2020.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 Additional Questions**

*1) Please describe the impact grant funds have had on your communities.\**

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** TAD grant funds have enabled us to serve 150 individuals in the first four years of grant funding. During these four years, 80 individuals successfully completed DPP-O, resulting in dismissal of charges, charges not filed, and averted incarceration. These efforts have reduced overdose deaths, reduced hospitalizations, kept many from incarceration, and greatly reduced opioid-related crimes. As a result of this program structure, the community has been made aware, and further educated as to how defendants of opioid-related incidences and crimes may receive options to resolve criminal activity in lieu of jail and make lasting life changes.

*2) Describe progress over the past year related to the provision of services. Identify any barriers to achieving goals and objectives that the program has encountered, and how have they been addressed?*

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** COVID-19 protocols, essentially instituted by mid-March 2020, drastically altered the means and methods by which our program fulfilled program expectations. This began with the Deferred Prosecution staff being sent home indefinitely with very little instruction nor protocol. As a result, DPP-O staff went into action. A Temporary Client Protocol was developed which included continued weekly meetings via phone or Zoom, weekly check-ins based on the phone color call-in line, continued expectation of completing assignments, maintaining the requirement of entering counseling or treatment services when possible to do so, and continuing other personalized contract expectations. It took about six additional weeks before we were able to institute a drug testing protocol, utilizing the services of Concentra in Madison. We also utilized the drug testing conducted by the dosing clinics for those participants on MAT. Though a less than perfect solution, it did bring back a level of accountability.

As is known and previously stated, the Dane County Circuit Court for all intents and purposes ceased all court activity for a long period of time. This brought most action in the District Attorney's Office to a halt. DPP-O staff began to very closely track names of potential participants, keeping data on court dates for post-charge individuals. At the same time, staff would follow up very quickly on all names of potential pre-charge individuals. Staff finely tuned a system of being able to get names of potential pre-charge individuals with the help of an ADA and a Paralegal. In this way, we could move the process along much quicker. Though our referrals and admissions were fewer overall, our pre-charge admissions increased from previous years. Over time, the court resumed partial activity, and a small number of post-charge participants did enter pleas and were referred to DPP-O.

Following a series of trainings related to equity and inclusion, the DPP-O staff implemented a process for easing the program sanction responses for participants experiencing much hardship. This offered staff the increased flexibility in the issuance of sanctions and what the sanctions consisted of. This process served a dual purpose: on the one hand, it expanded our allowance for violations in the broader spectrum of recognizing inequity, and secondly, it better addressed the extreme limitations imposed on us, and our participants due to COVID rules, boundaries, and losses. Overall, this was a better set of choices in offering more leeway, therefore extending the DPP-O relationships and keeping participants connected. Staff recognized that terminating and sending participants back to court during this time could lead to negative outcomes. Even though some participants experienced relapses, this became the preferred choice over overdose and death. In light of these considerations, DPP-O staff looked more toward longer participant stays, extending contracts to continue to address violations, yet doing our best to maintain connection in this extreme circumstance.

Before COVID, when seeing participants in the office setting, the reviewing and signing of forms was just a given part of the process. During COVID, and in keeping with the expectations of CORE reporting, DPP-



O staff became aware of the lag time of getting necessary signed paperwork returned in a timely manner. Intake packets containing the needed information for CORE were routinely mailed and emailed to potential participants. Phone call and email promptings were sent but did little to lessen the return time of these forms, creating longer wait times for intakes and admissions. As a result, DPP-O staff have been working closely with the IT staff within the DA's Office to create a system located on the Deferred Prosecution webpage, whereby the immediate needed forms will be loaded onto the webpage, therefore allowing for potential participants to fill out and click to submit, sending the forms directly to DPP-O staff. The process has been developed, and implementation will occur in the coming reporting period. For those participants who simply do not have phone or electronic capability of replying this way, hardcopy forms are sent via postal mail.

Additionally, DPP-O staff began working with the new MAARI-assigned Police Officer. During initial meetings, Officer Braunschweig was educated about the DPP-O program structure, including the different protocols with pre- and post-charge referrals, as well as the workings and expectations within the DA's Office. Secondly, it was decided to separate the reporting to DPP-O of MAARI failures from those who were MAARI ineligible. The tracking of MAARI failures had been taking place along with the previous MARI-assigned Officer, and we decided to continue that tracking of names and criminal histories as it continues to sort out those individuals that would not be eligible for the structure of DPP-O. We then added a new tracking system of names of those who are MAARI ineligible, seeing over time if there would be any difference in DPP-O referrals from that list.

Finally, as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 was full of financial hardship for our participants, and the struggle was very evident during weekly conversations. When learning that DPP-O would be experiencing a year-end surplus in budget amounts, we went into action by applying for, and receiving, a DPP-O TAD Budget Modification. We had a surplus of funds in the 2019 year and were not afforded this opportunity. Though we were not able to receive the full 2020 surplus, a disappointing and confusing disposition, the Deferred Prosecution Director did enter into a negotiation with Dane County and WI DOJ personnel to obtain a portion of the surplus. The intention of this request was to purchase incentives for DPP-O participants at this years' end to address their continued hard work and involvement in the most challenging of times imaginable. With the portion of the surplus received, our staff did purchase incentives and distributed them, in full, by years-end.

*3) Please provide a short and specific story about an individual or group served by your project and the resulting improvement in that individual's/group's situation.\**

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** When “Molly” was first referred to DPP-O through the Dane County District Attorney's Office, she was sent as a pre-charge case. During the first couple weeks of trying to make contact, it was evident that Molly was not ready to give up her use of heroin and methamphetamine and she was sent back to court for formal charging. Several weeks later, Molly came back to DPP-O as a post-charge case. Molly had recently had her second overdose where she fell face first on a cement floor and chipped her two front teeth. Molly's mother did CPR until the paramedics came to bring her back to life with two doses of Narcan. Molly entered the DPP-O Counselor's office for her intake with an attitude and a posture of disinterest. Her intake went well, and she was able to reach a comfortable enough level to discuss her in-depth use history and the fear she had for herself with her most recent overdose.

After her first positive UA, Molly proceeded to have all negative UAs for the remainder of her programming. The conversations each week became more expansive as the trust grew deeper. Molly

ended up discussing a deep trauma in her youth, which she kept hidden for years. This resulted in her PTSD and depression which was linked to other medical conditions, which contributed to her drug use, resulting in other medical complications. Molly obtained a Counselor through a local clinic who helped process this trauma and subsequent mental health issues. Molly was promoted from a part-time to full-time employee at work and was given the employee of the month honor and a substantial raise. Molly began to make healthier connections with non-using friends and started dating a young man who she fell in love with and who appeared to be a very good influence on her healthy choices. Molly continued to uncover her medical issues, receiving the needed medications and alternative methods of working through those issues. Molly even requested to have weekly UAs when she was not required to do so, to increase her accountability.

Molly completed the DPP-O program three months early due to her incredible progress. Molly is now living with her fiancé and looking forward to becoming a stepmother. Molly has over a year of sobriety and is working on her pre-requisites to apply for nursing school, which has long been her dream. Molly is an incredible success story that demonstrates the impact that DPP-O has on motivation, accountability and each individual reaching their highest potential through our program.

*4) Are there any other activities, challenges, or successes that you would like to address or tell us about?\**

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** Though 2020 was a trying time for our staff and participants, we are proud of what we accomplished this year. We worked very hard to quickly adjust to the ever-changing landscape and to support our participants in the best way possible. At no time did DPP-O halt operations, we simply adjusted to the new challenges. We are proud to say that our participants experienced zero overdose deaths during this trying year, and 69% of our 2020 discharges (20/29) successfully completed DPP-O. We nearly met our annual (non-COVID) admissions target even though we experienced significant barriers in limited court operations, limited DA's Office capacity, etc. During 2020 Quarters 2-4, we had at least 33 active participants, with more active in Quarter 4. We also continued our community outreach and education efforts, while remaining closely connected to our many existing community connections. During this time, we also stayed committed to improving the equity of our program, and we continued our commitment to data collection, evaluation, and continuous program improvement.

*5) With the advantage of hindsight, what would you do differently in implementing this project? \**

**Deferred Prosecution Program – Opiate (DPP-O):** In terms of the structure of the operational program, no specific changes are recommended. The suggested changes relate to the referral process. At one time, the DA's Office operated with a drug-intake team. This team consisted of ADAs and Paralegals who regularly reviewed drug cases and separated the Opioid-related cases as much as possible. This included both pre- and post-charge cases. If the DA's Office were to revisit this model, the process could be smoother and faster than it currently is. For pre-charge cases, contacts with the defendant could be initiated at this juncture. Post-charge cases would be flagged with notations for Drug Court Screenings so as to speed that step in the process. The goal would be to reduce the referral time.