



# KENTUCKY JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON **MENTAL HEALTH**

Kentucky Court of Justice

**ALTERNATIVE  
SENTENCING  
WORKER  
PROGRAM**

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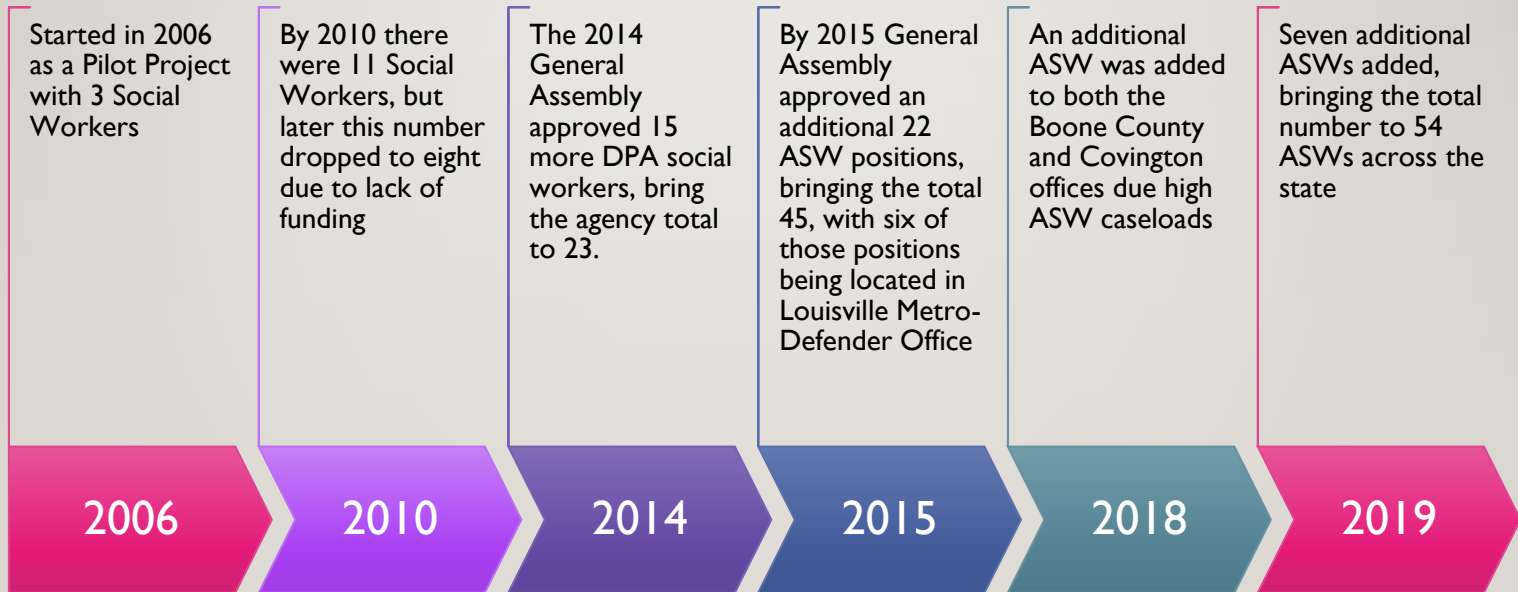
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**PUBLIC DEFENDERS**

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# ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING WORKER PROGRAM HISTORY

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# ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING WORKER PROGRAM AWARDS

- National Criminal Justice Association Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award, 2011
- Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and its' Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation named ASW Program as a Top 25 Innovation in Government, 2013.
- Jefferson B. Fordham State and Local Government Law Award for Law Office Accomplishment by the American Bar Association, 2017

## ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING WORKER

- Works as an agent of the defense attorney

(6) "Non-lawyer assistants" shall:

...(b) Be subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Rules of Evidence as they relate to client confidentiality, attorney-client communications, and attorney-client privilege.

All non-lawyer assistants hired by the department who are independently licensed or certified shall practice under the attorney-client privilege, irrespective of other obligations or duties arising with their independent licenses or certifications. Nothing in this subsection shall authorize the disclosure of confidential information to non-lawyer assistants within the department who are not performing duties at the direction of an attorney;

KRS 31.100(6)

# DPA'S ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING WORKERS

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## ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING WORKER

- Works as an agent of the defense attorney
- Conducts comprehensive assessments/social history
- Makes referrals
- Collaborates with clients to create individualized Alternative Sentencing Plans
- Builds rapport and gains clients' active decisions to participate
- Individualized paths to recovery
- Provides crisis intervention strategies

- Educates families
- Collects data
- Conducts baseline and 12 month follow up interviews
- Facilitates collaboration between agencies
- Creates and updates community resource guides
- Provides more detailed information about community resources, services, and programs
- Uses Evidence-Based Motivational Interviewing

## ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING WORKER



# MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING

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Evidence-Based

Used in Substance Abuse, Mental Health, & Physical Health treatment

Increases treatment engagement

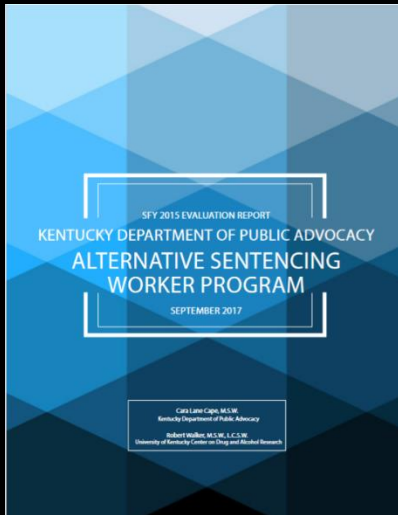
Improves treatment compliance

Used for adolescents and adults

Effective with diverse cultures

Versatile, scientific approach

# **\$3.76 RETURN FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTMENT IN DPA'S ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING WORKER PROGRAM**



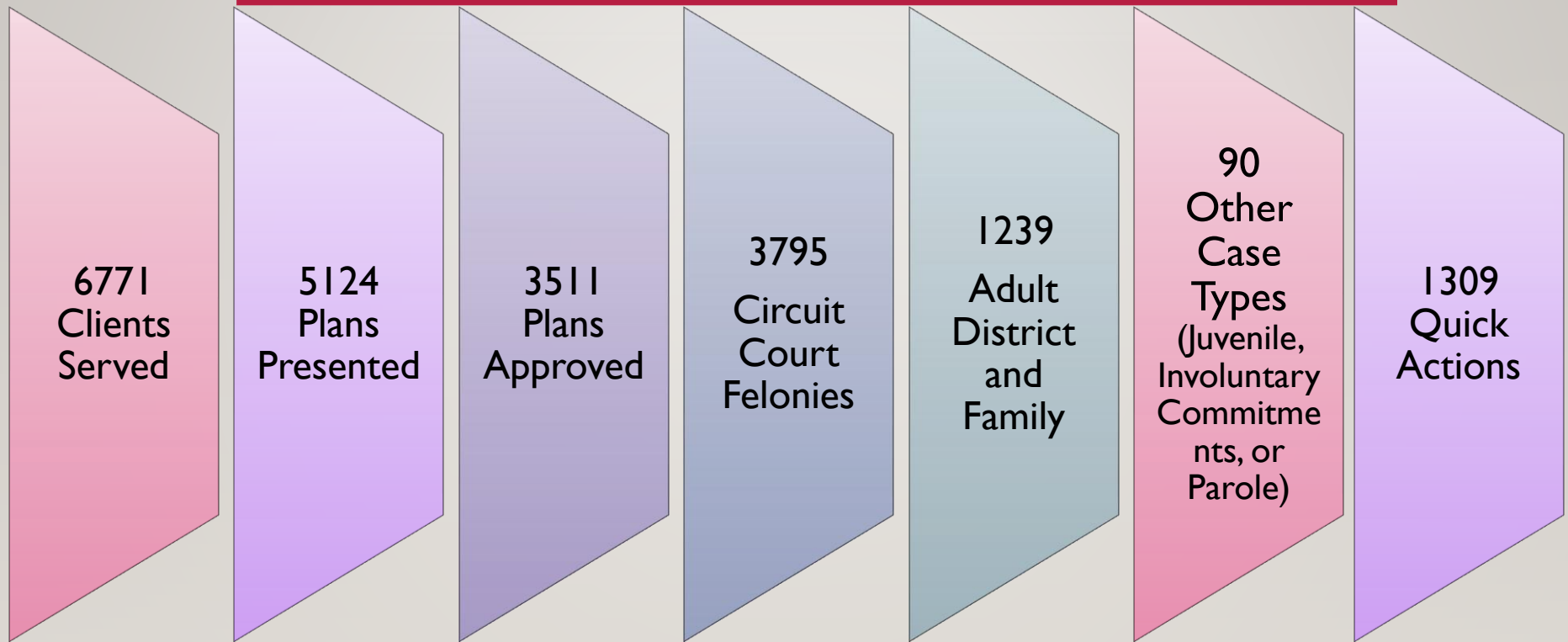
## **SFY 2015 Evaluation Report Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy Alternative Sentencing Worker Program**

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Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol Research**



# SFY 2024 ASW CASES



\* Does not include Louisville's Data

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	Overall
Office	% of Caseload Met	% of Caseload Met	% of Caseload Met	% of Caseload Met	% of Caseload Met	% of Caseload Met	% of Caseload Met	% of Caseload Met	Avg Per Office
Bell County Office	80%	83%	56%	84%	47%	90%	129%	141%	89%
Boone County Office	106%	204%	129%	151%	75%	151%	136%	125%	135%
Bowling Green Office - North	140%	201%	129%	126%	84%	107%	334%	293%	177%
Bowling Green Office - South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	204%	204%
Boyd County Office	90%	107%	136%	163%	110%	154%	194%	237%	149%
Bullitt County Office	83%	91%	109%	93%	96%	94%	166%	89%	103%
Columbia Office	128%	156%	183%	151%	143%	121%	143%	113%	142%
Covington Office	106%	168%	227%	183%	211%	172%	159%	114%	168%
Cynthiana Office	77%	116%	70%	163%	103%	120%	135%	113%	112%
Danville Office	186%	153%	170%	157%	114%	145%	204%	239%	171%
Elizabethtown Office	166%	163%	159%	160%	129%	125%	139%	147%	148%
Frankfort Office	120%	130%	113%	84%	46%	90%	107%	127%	102%
Georgetown Office	-	124%	157%	134%	137%	180%	189%	177%	157%
Glasgow Office	59%	69%	71%	56%	119%	231%	200%	280%	135%
Harlan Office	67%	69%	73%	47%	46%	34%	64%	66%	58%
Hazard Office	101%	154%	129%	84%	106%	131%	157%	129%	124%
Henderson Office	94%	103%	75%	53%	84%	95%	124%	156%	98%
Hopkinsville Office	74%	91%	87%	76%	87%	100%	200%	177%	112%
LaGrange Trial Office	62%	90%	100%	83%	66%	91%	101%	119%	89%
Lexington Office - North	104%	157%	109%	79%	111%	87%	194%	111%	119%
Lexington Office - South	133%	116%	64%	81%	132%	128%	121%	114%	111%
London Office	139%	147%	119%	86%	139%	117%	110%	224%	135%
Madisonville Office	116%	156%	173%	200%	321%	249%	274%	220%	214%
Maysville Office	89%	147%	143%	106%	79%	89%	96%	124%	109%
Morehead Office	103%	105%	93%	131%	99%	110%	76%	-	102%
Murray Office	104%	213%	150%	110%	99%	119%	120%	189%	138%
Newport Office	104%	99%	76%	130%	139%	121%	173%	139%	123%
Nicholasville Office	83%	49%	71%	51%	52%	200%	191%	170%	108%
Owensboro Office	169%	166%	232%	167%	196%	191%	170%	198%	186%
Paducah Office	280%	379%	234%	353%	267%	258%	276%	240%	286%
Pikeville Office	129%	134%	114%	110%	150%	101%	154%	166%	132%
Prestonsburg Office	124%	120%	130%	94%	109%	103%	100%	113%	112%
Princeton Office	-	63%	87%	129%	117%	179%	159%	117%	121%
Richmond Office	94%	187%	163%	214%	209%	176%	149%	160%	169%
Shelbyville Office	-	100%	77%	66%	58%	203%	164%	196%	123%
Somerset Office	163%	213%	194%	169%	121%	157%	199%	214%	179%
Stanton Office	89%	124%	176%	130%	80%	101%	282%	330%	164%
Totals for DPA Offices	114%	137%	127%	124%	119%	137%	164%	169%	136%

- Felony Probation
- Felony Probation Revocation
- Specialty Court Revocation
- Felony Shock Probation
- Pretrial Release for Circuit and District Court
- Juvenile Disposition Hearings
- Preliminary Parole Revocation Hearings
- Misdemeanor Probation or Conditional Discharge
- Misdemeanor Shock Probation
- Misdemeanor Probation or Conditional Discharge Revocations
- DJJ Supervised Placement Revocations
- Youthful Offender Cases
- 202A Cases

## ASW CASE PRIORITIES

# ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICACY ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING WORKER PROGRAM

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- Office Visits
- Assessment of Training Needs
- Monthly report submissions
- Approved plan audits monthly
- Coordination of Trainings for ASWs to ensure 12 hours of SUD training to comply with SB71
- Tracking of trainings for each ASW
- Facilitation of Training for Attorneys on How to Utilize ASWs Effectively
- Utilization of “qualified providers” provided by the Cabinet
- Independent outcome study with the Fletcher Group

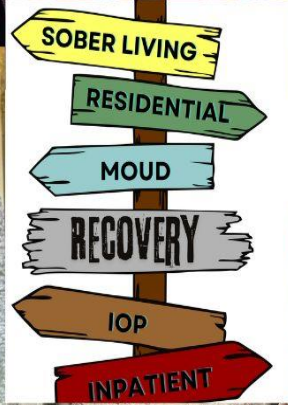




**"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."**  
—WILLIAM JAMES



**"Be the change that you wish to see in the world"**  
- Mahatma Gandhi



**BUILD A TEAM SO STRONG NO ONE CAN POINT OUT THE LEADER.**





## WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

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- DOC Transportation Pilot
- RKC/DOC Beds
- Kentucky Access to Recovery (KATR)
- Healing Communities Study
- Harm Reduction Narcan Project/Test strips
- Veteran's Justice Outreach
- Education Opportunity Center
- DOC Re-entry
- DOC Substance Abuse Program Contracts - Recovery Kentucky Programs
- Commonwealth Attorneys' Association
- National Center for State Courts - Study on Holistic Defense



# ASW HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

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- ASWs statewide have Narcan kits as well as Fentanyl and xylazine testing strips within their Trial Office.
- ASWs are able to identify high risk clients due to the extensive interviews conducted and rapport built with the client
- ASWs will distribute Narcan to those clients at high risk for overdose, educating client on resources within the community and providing a list of treatment providers
- Clients at high risk are clients released from jail refusing treatment or without a planned treatment option



# BARRIERS AND GAPS

- Transportation for District and presentencing Circuit clients to get to treatment and other services.
- Clients with Medicare finding treatment placements-These clients often have health related issues in addition to substance abuse disorder
- Sober Living after client's complete treatment  
Some clients wish to remain near their family/counties
- Mental Health Primary programs
- Mental Health residential programs



## QUESTIONS??

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### ***Dawn M. Gasser***

Alternative Sentencing Program

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