

National TASC

TASC: HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
AND THE IMPACT ON THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

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NATIONAL TASC: THE WORK BEGINS

Early 1970's

TASC began during the 1970s as a criminal justice effort in response to the rising tide of substance-involved offenders revolving through the criminal justice system, developing mechanisms to utilize the treatment system to meet criminal justice goals..

During the Richard Nixon era, the country had a heroin epidemic with no plan to deal with it. At the same time, there was new understanding of the relationship between drugs and crime.

- Research on the relationship between drugs and crime. Research by John Ball & Dave Nurco on heroin and drug related crime in Baltimore.
- The White House-established Special Action Office for Drug Prevention (SAODAP), which over time evolved to being ONDCP...John Dean, Job McGruder & Dr. Robert Dupont.
- Discussions of how to link treatment and the judicial process –interrupting the relationship between drugs and property crimes– were held by SAODAP, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), and the National Institute of Mental Health's division of Narcotic Addiction and Drug Abuse (DNADA).
- The result was a federal initiative, funded under the Drug Abuse office and the Treatment Act of 1972– Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC).

TASC Concepts 3 Assumptions

- There was a big heroin problem in our major metropolitan centers.
- That drug addiction is coupled with a cycle of crime, arrest, incarceration release and continued addiction.
- That the frequency of contact between addicts and the CJS provided viable opportunities to intervene in this cycle

THE INITIAL TASC PLAN-COLLABORATION

UNDERSTANDING THE TREATMENT SYSTEM AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS

The TASC Plan

- Get treatment and Justice policy makers in the same room for the first time.
- Develop a structured linkage that worked for the justice system and the treatment system (screening, assessments, case management, monitoring and reporting)
- Offer treatment with accountability

The Result

- Six Programs- 3 funded by NIDA and 3 by LEAA Wilmington, Philadelphia, New York, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Marion County.
- Originally implemented as Pretrial diversion/Heroin only
- *First conference* was a meeting at the White House with justice, treatment liasons, researchers, and the directors of the first six programs.
- 1973 - 13 programs; 1975 – 20 programs, 1982 - 130 programs.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS

- 1982: The Administration cut TASC funding, but there had been local and state wide initiatives started in Illinois, Florida, Pennsylvania.
- TASC Directors continued to lobby Congress directly with some success.
- Then in 1986 the justice department and ONDCP took notice that there were still 100 programs still operational.
- Justice contracted with NASADAD and a group of Directors met in Washington to document why TASC was working.
- The result was the critical elements, training materials, research monographs, demonstration projects – the basis for all modern TASC programs.

THE TASC MODEL FOUNDATION: CRITICAL ELEMENTS

■ Systems Coordination Elements

Implementing systems coordination elements helps provide the overarching support from the justice, treatment, and other social services systems necessary to manage substance involved persons from the justice system effectively.

- **Element 1:** A process to coordinate justice, treatment and other systems.
- **Element 2:** Procedures for providing information and cross-training to justice, treatment and other systems.

■ Organizational Elements

The organizational elements, taken together, build the structural foundation necessary for TASC programs to provide client services as well as support for the larger systems.

- **Element 3:** A broad base of support from the justice system with a formal system for effective communication.
- **Element 4:** A broad base of support by the treatment and other social services community.
- **Element 5:** Organizational integrity.
- **Element 6:** Policies and procedures for regular staff training.
- **Element 7:** A management information system with a program evaluation design.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

■ Operational Elements

Operational elements delineate the minimum set of client activities that are performed by the TASC organization on an ongoing basis.

- **Element 8:** Clearly defined client eligibility criteria.
- **Element 9:** Performance of client-centered case management.
- **Element 10:** Screening procedures for identification of TASC candidates within the justice system.
- **Element 11:** Documented procedures for assessment and referral.
- **Element 12:** Policies, procedures and protocols for monitoring alcohol and drug use through chemical testing.
- **Element 13:** Competency with diverse populations.