



## **A DWI Court Program for the Harris County Criminal Courts at Law**

### **Mission Statement**

SOBER Court is designed to increase public safety and reduce long-term cost to the criminal justice system and the community through intense supervision utilizing a multi-disciplinary, team effort. The goal is to break the cycle of addiction and reduce repeat DWI offenses with treatment and rehabilitation of participants through a process of accountability, frequent drug testing, education, substance abuse treatment, sanctions and incentives designed to promote long-term sobriety, accountability and productive lifestyles.

### **Goals**

SOBER Court has the following primary goals:

1. Promote and enforce abstinence
2. Reduce recidivism rates
3. Hold alcohol/drug-dependent offenders accountable for their criminal conduct
4. Provide real and effective rehabilitation for criminal offenders

### **Methods for Achieving Goals**

#### ***Goal 1 – Promote and enforce abstinence***

- Mandate intensive substance abuse treatment and close judicial supervision of all participants, with appropriate sanctions and incentives based on performance. Close judicial supervision is premised upon a stable and consistent relationship between the participant and the designated SOBER Court Judge and team.

#### ***Goal 2 – Reduce recidivism rates***

- Follow recognized methods and procedures, which have been empirically shown to reduce recidivism.

#### ***Goal 3 – Hold alcohol/drug-dependent offenders accountable***

- Mandate bi-monthly court appearances and at least weekly contact with a designated community supervision case manager (hereinafter referred to as CM).
- Impose immediate sanctions for non-compliance, including minor violations.
- Terminate participants who commit serious violations or repeatedly commit minor violations.

#### ***Goal 4 - Provide real and effective rehabilitation for criminal offenders***

- Mandate intensive and comprehensive treatment for all participants.
- Provide referrals and incentives to other social services.