

Greg Sattizahn
State Court Administrator
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

October 26, 2024

Re: Alternative Care Grant Program Annual Performance Report for the Period 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024

Dear Greg:

I am pleased to provide the enclosed final performance report for Teen Challenge of the Dakotas' Alternative Care Grant from the State of South Dakota's Unified Judicial System for the 2023-24 Program Year. Teen Challenge of the Dakotas (TCD) is appreciative for the South Dakota Unified Judicial System's partnership that helps to reduce recidivism within our jails and prisons by addressing the life-controlling addictions that all too often lead men down the path of despair and destruction, which is not only harmful to themselves but is harmful to their families, communities and the state.

TCD's recovery model is proven effective for helping men regain control of their lives. We recently reduced the program duration from 16 to 14 months which has allowed us to maintain our strong programmatic focus while increasing retention and re-entry.

During the first 8 months of the program, the men are served through the four essential program components which include: Personal Studies, Group Studies, Work Study, and Individualized Mentoring. These components are designed to address the life-controlling issues that these men struggle with. The program concludes with a 6-month phase that prepares the men for re-entry into the community.

For the grant reporting period from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, a total of 43 men have been served by TCD's residential recovery program:

- A total of 16 men were actively participating in the program when the contract with the State began on July 1, 2023.
- Of the 43 men served by the program:
 - 6 graduated from the entire 14-month program;
 - 22 exited the program prior to completion; and
 - 15 remained enrolled at the end of the contract year.
- Consistent with the terms outlined in our ACG contract, each of the men served through the ACG contract are residents of South Dakota who have been referred to the program through the Unified Judicial System or D.O.C.

Concerning the 22 men who exited during the year, it should be noted that 10 of these men completed the first 8-months of the program and withdrew during the final 6-month re-entry phase. This is a very significant piece of noteworthy data. Although it's disappointing at some level, it's also of great benefit for these men to have advanced as far as they did and having learned as much to help them to experience a much better outcome and hope for their future.

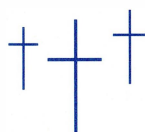
While our success is well-documented, it is the positive, inspiring changes that occur in the lives of our men that perhaps best reflect the impact of the program. As I have in past reports, I am again enclosing a testimonial from Tanner, a recent program graduate. As shown in the attached testimonial, Tanner was struggling with a drug addiction that left him in his own words "hopeless." During his time in the program, he has gained a new outlook on life and his future. Since his recent graduation from TCD, Tanner has returned to Sioux Falls and has a great job and whole new life ahead of him.

Greg, thank you for your continued support of Teen Challenge of the Dakotas.

Sincerely,



Mike Gilmartin
Executive Director



TANNER

TCD Testimony



Before Teen Challenge I didn't have many goals for my life. I knew I wanted a family eventually, and I wanted to be able to support myself financially. But I knew with the way I was living I couldn't attain my goals.

I was hopeless. Addicted to drugs. My family relationships were broken. I couldn't maintain a job, and I had zero positive influences in my life. I was selfishly getting high, careless and reckless.

I changed a lot being in Teen Challenge over the past 15 months. I've become more patient with others. More loving. Before I was extremely selfish, now I can truly say I have a heart for others. Now I can't do anything without thinking of how it affects others.

God has helped me restore my relationships with my family. I now have a stable financial account, and I can look forward to what God has planned for me: a stable job, a family, and furthering my education.