

Blackfeet Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court Project



Participant Handbook

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Created and Adapted from the Turtle Mountain Healing to Wellness Court Handbook.

Introduction

Welcome to the Blackfeet Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court. The BJH2WC provides intensive counselling and treatment programs for youth ages 12-21 years old, who have entered the Blackfeet Tribal Court system with an offense or violation of or related to alcohol or drug related substance abuse problems. The BJH2WC was designed to offer an alternative to the standard criminal justice system (Jail or Fines) and to help participants make life changing decisions that both keep them out of the criminal system in the future and empower them to become positive and contributing members of the Blackfeet Tribe/Community.

This handbook provides an overview of the BJH2WC operation and services as a general guide to graduating successfully from the BJH2WC. The BJH2WC program is based on the understanding that people can and do change their lives for the better – if they really want to and if they get the help they need. If you want to take control of your life, the BJH2WC team, along with other community leaders, programs, and our elders are here to help. The project staff understands that change does not happen overnight, and that it takes time to reach wellness especially when you have lost your way with drugs or alcohol. We will help you find your road through the project’s step by step process with the potential to help positively change areas of your life.

The first step you must take is signing the participant contract along with your parents/guardians. By signing you are making a commitment to participate actively, fully, and honestly in this program. Along with an elder or another appropriate community member, we will be there beside you. You will not be alone through this entire process, and can look forward to an entire team of positive, caring, and supportive people to help guide you through your journey of healing to wellness.

The next step is to follow through with this commitment by working with the BJH2WC Team, your therapist, counselor, elder/mentor, and others who are here to help you succeed. Your success in the program is entirely within your control, but the BJH2WC Program will provide you with the tools and support that you need to get you there.

The program has four “Phases.” The program is similar to grade levels in school, with each phase building on what you have learned in the last phase. Also, as part of this program, you will be provided with the opportunity to learn more about the Blackfeet history, culture, and language. You will also be instructed to participate in cultural activities. In the end, when you graduate from the BJH2WC program, we will hold a graduation ceremony for you, your family, and your friends to celebrate your well-earned accomplishment.

Blackfeet Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court Participant Handbook

Target Population

The Blackfeet Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court Project will target youth ages 12-18 years old, charged with drug/alcohol related offenses, who are a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe, and fall within the jurisdiction of the Blackfeet Tribal Family Court.

Healing to Wellness Cultural Approach

The Blackfeet Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court incorporates the Blackfeet tribal culture through the Blackfeet Star Stories, the language, History, and the lessons of cultural elders/leaders. The purpose of this cultural component is to expose all participants to the Blackfeet culture and identity. Juveniles who have a strong cultural identity have a decreased vulnerability to risk factors for substance abuse and are more likely to benefit from protective factors than those who do not have a strong connection to their culture. Completion of the program will enhance your stake in Blackfeet culture and way of life resulting in improvements in life choices and capacity to maintain a state of holistic well-being.

Acquiring cultural knowledge will also give you connections to your identity and culture in order to help you better understand yourself and your environment. All participants will be introduced to some or all of the basics of:

- Blackfeet Language
- Blackfeet creation stories and lessons
- Blackfoot prayer-Smudging, sweatlodge, painting, fasting/spiritual customs and transfers
- Introduction to the different societies and their functions.
- Traditional Blackfeet Rights of Passage
- Traditional gender roles of the Blackfeet
- Name ceremonies and why names have significance to our identity
- Traditional Horsemanship
- Significance of art work to Blackfeet and Art Therapy
- Digital storytelling

The Blackfeet Healing to Wellness Court also recognizes today's mental health and /or alcohol and drug use cannot be addressed without looking at their interrelation with spirituality, feelings, thoughts or actions of human beings. To further help participants examine their lives in a holistic way, the Blackfeet Healing to Wellness Court utilizes the teachings of our ancestors and that we are connected to the universe through our energies. We must be in harmony with all the beings of the earth and the skies by balancing the negative and positive energy of the world. Our staff will provide all participants with an elder to teach them the significance of balancing your energy through smudging and prayer.

Cultural knowledge will also serve as a protective factor for participants and promotes personal and community resiliency. Protective factors are conditions or attributes (skills, strengths, resources, supports and/or coping strategies) in individuals, families, communities or the larger society that help people deal more effectively with stressful events, mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities.

Admission Guidelines

Eligibility includes targeted populations that meet each of the following criteria:

- a. Must be an enrolled member or a descendant of a federally recognized tribe, meeting the jurisdictional definition of Indian.
- b. Must be between the ages of 12 to 21.
- c. Committed a non-violent crime;
- d. Participant must admit to the Court the underlying charges or actions against him/her prior to acceptance to the program.
- e. Offense was drug or alcohol related, or drug or alcohol is the underlying factor; such as:
 - Possession and/or use of prohibited drugs;
 - Breaking and Entering/Home Invasion;
 - Vandalism;
 - Trespass;
 - Theft;
 - Disorderly Conduct;
 - MIP;
 - Dangerous or reckless driving; and
 - Any other offense where drugs or alcohol is the primary underlying factor
- f. History of drug or alcohol use;
- g. Ability to comprehend and comply with the BJH2WC requirements

Exceptions to rules regarding jurisdiction or requirements concerning potential clients without criminal charges can be made by team vote if a candidate voluntarily admits himself/herself to the BJH2WC Program.

Violent Participant Prohibition

The BJH2WC program receives federal-funding and must comply with the Violent Participant requirement. Due to congressional mandate, federally-funded Wellness Courts cannot accept cases involving a violent participant, described as a person who either:

(1) is charged with or convicted of an offense that is punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one year, during the course of which offense or conduct--

(A) the person carried, possessed, or used a firearm or dangerous weapon;

(B) there occurred the death of or serious bodily injury to any person; or

(C) there occurred the use of force against the person of another, without regard to whether any of the circumstances described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is an element of the offense or conduct of which or for which the person is charged or convicted; or

- (2) Has 1 or more prior convictions for a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm.

Eligibility is also determined by a screening process that is defined and described in the program admission guidelines. Those individuals who screen as eligible for the program must be accepted by majority vote of the JH2WC team. They may be referred by law enforcement, the Tribal Prosecutor, probation office, court staff, judge, foreign court, or a combination of these agencies, and may require a vote by the Healing to Wellness Court team.

Entry Process

Entry in the BJH2WC program may be initiated through:

Pre-Entry Procedures

1. The Prosecutor/Presenting Officer will review all referrals of applicants; referred due to criminal activity, considering the case and criminal history to determine whether the applicant meets the requirements for participation in BJH2WC. If it is determined that the applicant is eligible, the Prosecutor will file a Notice of Wellness Court Eligibility and any agreements, motions and orders of the Court that are necessary to ask the Blackfeet Tribal Court to defer the sentence of the Participant upon completion of the BJH2WC.

Initial Entry Procedures

1. Before your first hearing, the BJHWC Defender or your personal attorney will meet with you to discuss your rights and options, conditions, and possible outcomes of participating successfully or unsuccessfully in the program. Then the Blackfeet Family Court will schedule a hearing upon motion of the JH2WC Presenting Officer to accept or reject the terms of the entry agreement, and upon proof that you were fully advised of your rights and options, conditions and possible outcomes. After the Prosecutor/Presenting officer recommends that your case be deferred (delayed) to the BJHWC, The Blackfeet Family Court will begin transferring your case to the BJH2WC.
2. The Court will order the terms of the agreement and refer it to the BJHWC Clerk to schedule your first hearing before the BJH2WC.
3. At your first appearance, the Court will notify you of your eligibility to participate in the BJHWC, and you will have the opportunity to accept or reject the terms of the agreement at that time.
 - a. The terms of the agreement will require you (the participant) and your parents/guardians to agree to fully comply with any and all requirements of the BJH2WC by signing the confidential contract.
4. You (participant) will appear before the BJHWC Judge and will be required to agree and sign the Confidential Contract in order to participate in the BJH2WC. Then you will be introduced to the JH2W Team, and an appointment with the

BJH2WC Coordinator and Probation Officer to begin your journey in the Program will be scheduled.

5. The Probation Officer and Coordinator will collect any charging documents, criminal records, police reports, and will meet with you within one week after your acceptance into the program. This meeting will be to collect information about your enrollment, education, job history, drug and alcohol use and treatment history, mental health history, place of residence, and personal and family information. The Probation Officer and/or Coordinator will verify all reported information.
6. The JH2W Team will meet to create a Personalized Healing to Wellness Plan for you based on the information you give to the Coordinator and Probation Officer. The Healing to Wellness Plan will be based on the team's recommendations, your abilities, and the availability of the resources in order to create a plan that will be reasonable for you. The Healing to Wellness Plan will be finalized and presented to the JH2W Team by the Probation Officer within the first month of participation in the program and you will then begin the Phases of the program. You are required to attend your own hearings and hear ALL other participant court hearings (Unless the judge releases you early).

How Does Blackfeet Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court Work?

The JH2W team includes; the judge, program coordinator, probation officer (juvenile), prosecutor/presenting officer, law enforcement representatives, treatment providers(Crystal Creek Lodge, Northern Winds Recovery Center, Southern Piegan Health Clinic), Manpower representative, behavioral health representative, and an educational representative. After acceptance into the BJH2WC Program, you will sign an agreement outlining your responsibilities in the program, and receive a "Checklist," which details what you need to accomplish before your next BJH2WC appearance. When you appear for BJH2WC, you will need to provide proof of compliance with the items on your list. The Coordinator, Probation Officer, and/or other Staff Member will also check compliance with all requirements before the hearing. **Please let any team member know about any problems you have in completing your list before your hearing.** There are **4 phases** to the BJH2WC Program.

Participant Phases

Yellow Phase: Phase 1: Orientation and Stabilization (Minimum 4 Weeks)

The focus of Phase 1 is to allow you to become stabilized by abstaining from drug and alcohol use, develop accountability to others, and begin to implement a plan toward recovery. In Phase 1, you will begin treatment and take steps to recognize how your alcohol and drug use affects not only yourself but also others in your life. A comprehensive treatment plan will be developed for you and you will begin participation in your treatment plan. You will be tested **frequently** for use of drugs and alcohol and you will be expected to be an active participant in drug and alcohol counseling.

The requirements of Phase I are:

- a. Attend BJH2WC Sessions once per week.
- b. Meet immediately with the Coordinator to discuss preferred providers, complete all scheduled initial assessment appointments, follow up appointments, and work with the Probation officer to complete your Individualized Healing to Wellness plan to be approved by the team.
- c. Check in with your Probation Officer daily and as requested
- d. Have a physical medical examination/checkup done within the first month of entry.
- e. You will comply by an 8:00pm to 7:30am curfew unless you are granted an extension by the team. You must request a curfew extension at least 24 hours in advance.
- f. Attend school, GED/HiSet classes, or an approved education program and maintain good attendance and grades. You will bring your attendance records and grade reports to the Coordinator every Friday.
- g. Attend treatment programs, recovery groups, counseling sessions, spiritual/cultural gatherings, meetings, recreational gatherings, social events, or other events as directed.
- h. Complete a minimum of two (2) hours of a documented and approved alcohol and drug free recreational activity per week.
- i. You will bring a copy of your checklist verification form to the coordinator or another team member every Tuesday and no later than 12:00pm (NOON).
- j. Submit to random and scheduled alcohol/drug testing and home checks as directed.
- k. Will not use, possess, or enable the use of any alcohol, drug, or other intoxicating substances. You will provide your Probation officer a list of all prescribed and over the counter medications within 72 hours of receiving the medication. If you are enrolled in a medical assisted treatment prescription program, the program must follow federal guidelines and be approved by the team.
- l. Will complete and comply with any and all sanctions including but not limited to community service, house arrest, curfew, jail time, and increase meetings with probation or court appearances.

Advancement to Red Phase II will be determined by your participation and accomplishments during Phase I. Before you can proceed to Red Phase II, you must have met all of the following criteria:

1. Have a minimum of 4 weeks without any sanctions for violation of your BJH2WC Orders and;
2. You must be recommended for advancement by the team and;
3. You must write a letter to the judge explaining why you are ready to move to Red Phase II;

Red Phase: Phase II: Stabilization and Treatment Phase (Minimum 4 Weeks)

The focus of Phase II is to maintain focus on treatment and recognize responsibility to yourself and others. You will be required to continue all requirements of the Yellow Phase such as: appear in court as directed, give regular UA's, attend counseling meetings, attend school etc. with the following exceptions and additions:

- a. Attend BH2WC Court Sessions once per week.

- b. Submit to random, and scheduled alcohol/drug testing (at least three per week) or upon request of Staffing Committee member, law enforcement, or family services representative.
- c. Complete a minimum of six (4) hours of a documented and approved alcohol and drug free recreational activity per week.
- d. Participant will check in with Probation officer every other day. Will also agree to random home checks on weekends and evenings.
- e. Attend and be on time to all weekly cultural lessons/activities.
- f. Abide by 8:30pm-7:30am curfew unless granted an extension by the team. Participant must request a curfew extension at least 24 hours in advance.
- g. Enroll and attend after-school tutoring at least two (2) hours per week. Participants will bring probation officer proof of attendance signed off by tutor with school attendance record every Friday.
- h. You will bring a copy of your checklist verification form to the coordinator or another team member every Tuesday and no later than 12:00pm (NOON).
- i. Meet with Probation Officer and/or Coordinator to obtain a cultural advisor and drug/alcohol sponsor and will actively work with advisor/sponsor for establishing a support system. Please see list of approved sponsors/advisors.
- j. Participant will work with the Probation Officer to actively find and maintain stable living arrangements if they do not already have.

Promotion to Black Phase III will be determined by your participation and task accomplishment during Phase II. Before you can proceed to Phase III, you must have met all of the following criteria:

1. Have a minimum of four weeks without any sanctions for violation of your BJH2WC Orders and;
2. Possible recommendations from your mentor/elder and a recommendation to advance by the JH2W Team.
3. You must write a letter to the judge explaining why you are ready to move to Black Phase III.

Black Phase: Phase III: Maintenance & Treatment Phase)

The focus of Phase III is continued recovery and responsibility to self and others. This is a time that is known to be difficult for recovering addicts. Remember that during any phase of the BJH2WC Program, you can request specific goals to be included in your treatment plan. This may be an appropriate time to consider long-term educational and vocational goals. The focus of this phase is maintaining recovery, completing treatment, developing an aftercare plan, maintaining accountability, and preparing for your future through your education and/or a job training program. You are required to maintain and continue all requirements of the Yellow and Red Phase with the following additions and exceptions.

- a. Attend BH2WC Court Sessions bi-weekly.
- b. Check in with Probation Officer once (1) per week.

- c. Submit to random, and scheduled alcohol/drug testing (at least three per week) or upon request of Staffing Committee member, law enforcement, or family services representative.
- d. Abide by 9:00pm weekday curfew and a 10:00pm weekend curfew unless granted an extension by the team. Participant must request a curfew extension at least 24 hours in advance.
- e. Participant will complete a minimum of six (6) hours of a documented and approved alcohol and drug free recreational activity per week.
- f. Attend and be on time to all weekly cultural lessons/activities.
- g. Participant will complete a minimum of three documented chemical dependency support sessions or groups each week.
- h. You will bring a copy of your checklist verification form to the coordinator or another team member every Tuesday and no later than 12:00pm (NOON).
- i. Participant will be employed or in an educational program with good attendance.
- j. Participant will work with the Probation Officer to identify a Wrap Around Team of individuals who he/she considers supportive and this group will meet with the JH2W Team at a Court hearing to begin support. Wrap-Around Team may be made up of the Participant, Family members, Sponsor, positive support people, Spiritual/Cultural advisor and others as determined by the Participant.
- k. Participant will work with Team to develop a safety plan.
- l. To complete this phase requires a minimum of four (4) consecutive weeks of sobriety and program compliance.

Promotion to Phase IV will be determined by your participation and task accomplishments during Phase III. Before you can proceed to the White Phase IV, you must have met all of the following criteria:

1. Have a minimum of four weeks without sanctions for violations and;
2. You must write a letter to the judge explaining why you are ready to move to Phase IV and your letter must include a detailed plan for maintaining sobriety during Phase IV and after graduation from the program.

White Phase: Phase IV: Continued Care/Aftercare (4 Weeks)

The focus of White Phase IV will be on moving you toward self-regulation, independence, relapse prevention and maintaining a fulfilling, clean and sober life. Emphasis will be on educational, social, and vocational support as needed, as well as community involvement.

You must comply with all requirements of prior phases with the following exceptions and additions:

- a. Participant will appear at BJH2WC Sessions once per month or as directed.
- b. Abide by 10:00pm weekday and 11:00pm weekend curfew unless granted an extension by the team. Participant must request a curfew extension at least 24 hours in advance.
- c. Participant will complete a minimum of one documented chemical dependency support session per week.
- d. Participant will complete at least six (6) hours of documented alcohol-and- drug-free recreational activities per week.

- e. Submit to random, and scheduled alcohol/drug testing (at least three per week) or upon request of Staffing Committee member, law enforcement, or family services representative.
- f. Attend and be on time to all weekly cultural lessons/activities.
- g. Participant will meet with the Team Members to formulate a Healthy Living/Goals Plan.
- h. Participant will be required to do an exit interview with the JH2W Team prior to graduation.
- i. This phase requires a minimum of four (4) consecutive weeks of sobriety and program compliance to complete.

To graduate from the program, you must have:

1. Maintained sobriety for at least 4 months
2. Have completed your treatment plan
3. In Good Standing in school or higher education program.
4. Be compliant with all terms of probation, and;
5. You must write a letter to the judge detailing why you should graduate from the program and detailing a plan for continued sobriety, self-sufficiency, and wellness.
6. You must complete an exit interview with the BJH2WC Coordinator prior to release from the program.

The JH2W team will make graduation decisions based upon majority vote, **with final approval from the judge.**

Graduation from the White Phase IV is a major accomplishment and cause for celebration! We will host a graduation ceremony for you and your family and friends to honor your achievement. You will also have the opportunity to receive a Blackfeet name by your elder.

Graduation from the BJH2WC means that you have succeeded in fulfilling all program requirements. This completes your probation and ends court appearances. **Your case will be closed, and the charges and fines against you will be dismissed.** Graduates will be encouraged to mentor new program participants and share their Healing to Wellness stories with others.

Client Agreement

You and your parent/guardian shall read and voluntarily sign the Confidential Contract, Participant Intake Form, and the Release of Information Form. Failure to agree to the terms within these documents can result in being ineligible for the BJH2WC Program.

Sanctions and Incentives

The BJW2WC Program uses a variety of rewards to recognize and reinforce progress, and also a variety of sanctions to address noncompliance. Behavior that results in a reward or a sanction will be addressed at your BJH2WC hearings. Since sanctions are most effective when applied immediately, participants who have violated the terms **of the confidential contract** will be required to report in person at the next scheduled hearing to accept the resulting sanction.

A. The JH2W Team has adopted and incorporated the following sanction point system to track accrual of program termination points and points will be applied according to the following chart.

B. Point System Chart

ACTIVITY/VIOLATION	POINTS
Unexcused absence from Court appearance	5
Lying to JH2W Staffing Team or Judge	5
Failure to or refusal to submit to a drug/alcohol test when directed	5
Failed drug or alcohol test	1 to 5
Use of unauthorized medication or intoxicating substance	5
Cheating on a drug/alcohol test	5
Use of medication without proper notification to Probation Officer	5
Charged with New Offense	5 to 100
Failure to contact Probation Officer or Coordinator as directed	1 to 5
Failure to complete Treatment assignments	1 to 5
Missed Treatment or other court-ordered appointment- unexcused	1 to 5
Repeated tardiness to court or other court-ordered activities	1 to 5
Failure to complete community service in designated time	1 to 5
Curfew violation/House arrest violation	1 to 5
Inappropriate, disruptive or disrespectful behavior	1 to 5
Violation of program rules	1 to 5
Extremely inappropriate behavior or getting a new serious offense	100

Participant rewards may include:

- a. Encouragement and praise from the BJH2WC Judge;
- b. Applause and praise by the JH2W Team in hearing;
- c. Ceremonies or certificates of progress;
- d. Decreased frequencies for court appearances;
- e. Decreased drug and alcohol testing;
- f. Overriding imposed drug court sanctions when appropriate, and at the direction of the judge;
- g. Restoration of lost privileges;
- h. Gifts from the BJH2WC Court;
- i. Other rewards as determined by team.

Participant sanctions may include:

- a. Warnings and admonishments by the BJH2WC Judge in open court;
- b. Increased frequency in court appearances;
- c. Increased frequency of groups or meetings;
- d. Increased frequency of drug testing;
- e. Supervised or Unsupervised Community Service;
- f. Increased supervision by Tribal Probation;
- g. A halt in weekly progress through the program. (phase freeze);
- h. Move back one or more phases;

- i. Escalating periods of jail confinement;
- j. Termination from BJH2WC and referral to the Tribal Prosecutor for re-sentencing; and/or,
- k. Other sanctions determined by team.

Chemical Free Home

All clients enrolled in the BJH2WC Program will reside in a chemical/alcohol free residence. Everyone that lives in the client residence must agree to random home visits by a member of the **JH2W Team** to assure that this is complied with.

Non-compliance with this agreement can be grounds for denial or removal from the BJH2WC Program and/or removal from the client's place of residence by Blackfeet Family Services.

Drug and Alcohol Screening

Drug and Alcohol screenings are a major component of the BJH2WC Program. The screenings are used to determine substance use and to monitor the participant's progress. Screenings are conducted on a frequent and random basis. The participant will be drug-screened throughout the entire program as mandated by each phase. It is the responsibility of the participant to seek clarification of guidelines that are not fully understood. Testing will be at a scheduled time as well as on a **random basis** and may occur **any day of the week**. Results of drug screens will be reported to the court and maintained in the participant's file.

For the protection of the participant, use of any schedule 1 & 2 drug prescriptions, must be brought to staff for review and approval along with verification by the prescribing doctor. Prior to receiving a prescription, it is the responsibility of the participant to inform the physician of the participant's involvement in the program. All medications will not be automatically approved.

Sponsorship Participation

All participants will be required to obtain sponsorship in AA/NA and provide the name and contact information of their sponsor as required by the BJH2WC. Sponsors will be required to give periodic updates on the participant's progress through the Twelve Step Program throughout the BJH2WC program. **Sponsors are encouraged to attend the court hearings, especially hearings that include phase advancement ceremonies.**

A sponsor must have two years of continuous sobriety and have a working knowledge of the twelve steps. It is preferred that sponsors have completed the twelve steps in their personal program.

Participants are also required to select and meet weekly with a cultural elder/advisor/mentor from the approved list. If you wish to request your own elder/mentor/advisor be added to the list, they will need to provide request in writing to the BJH2WC and have approval by majority vote of the team.

Counseling

Program staff will coordinate with local Licensed Addiction Counselors or Substance Abuse Counselors to administer treatment plans. All staff involved will cooperate to insure clients complete the Healing to Wellness Plan as well as receive any additional therapy that is recommended by Treatment Program Staff.

The Crystal Creek Lodge Treatment Center, Northern Winds Recovery Center, and School Health Clinic staff are the primary counselors for any and all clients in the BJH2WC program. Therefore, all requests by the client and/or previous counselor/agency to continue counseling will not be approved.

Self-Help Meeting Attendance

Clients are expected to attend **self-help meetings/support groups** throughout the BJH2WC Program. Clients should attend all meetings on separate days through the week so that support contact is spread throughout that week. If a client attends more than one meeting per day it will be considered as extra credit when the team considers client recommendations.

Education

All clients must provide documentation confirming regular attendance at a school or trade program. If enrolled in school clients are expected to maintain at least a “C” average and provide grades and attendance at the end of each week to your probation officer.

Clients without a high school diploma will be required to enroll in GED classes and complete all tasks assigned by the GED instructor during their enrollment in the BJH2WC program.

Curfew

Various curfew times will be in effect throughout the BJH2WC Program for all participants until the JH2W Team decides otherwise. Exceptions will be made for conflicts in your schedule with 24 hour notice to the Probation Officer. **Permission may be granted by a court team member in the event of an emergency.** The participant will be notified if the curfew is changed.

If the client is found breaking curfew by Law Enforcement, clients understand they may be screened for drugs and alcohol by Law Enforcement or a JH2W Team Member. Law enforcement will notify the Coordinator and the matter will be reviewed at the next Court Hearing.

Off Reservation Travel

If clients wish to leave the reservation, participants should:

- a. Obtain a “Request to Travel” form from your Probation Officer and complete it at least one week prior to leaving. All requests must be approved and signed by judge before travel will be granted.
- b. In case of an emergency that requires the participant to leave the reservation, the client will contact Probation to get approval. In the event that Probation cannot be contacted, client will contact a JH2W member. Documentation of the emergency shall be submitted to Probation upon return.

- c. Upon return, the participant shall take a drug screen. In some cases when clients may be gone for a period of more than three days, they may be required to wear a drug screen patch and/or submit to a daily drug screen in order to continually monitor sobriety.

If the proper procedure is not followed, permission will not be granted except in the case of an emergency.

Casino Prohibition

All Clients are prohibited from frequenting any Gaming Operations/Facilities (Casino). If a client works at a gaming facility then exceptions can be made by the Judge. Clients may be able to attend special events on a casino property if they secure proper permission from the JH2W Team prior to event. Violations of this policy will result in JH2W team approved sanctions.

Attendance

Each client will be required to attend all scheduled hearings, program and counseling appointments, program sessions, and self-help meetings (AA) unless they are properly excused by the Probation Officer. Clients must notify the court of the possible absence at least twenty four (24) hours in advance and receive approval. Failure to notify the court of absence will result in a team selected sanction.

Punctuality

Clients are expected to attend all court hearings prepared and on time. All regularly scheduled BJH2WC Meetings/Hearings take place on Wednesdays throughout the year at 3:30 pm unless they are re-scheduled by the Court Administrator. If meetings or hearings are rescheduled, clients will be notified as soon as re-scheduling decision is made. If a client expects to be late when attending a scheduled hearing they must call and notify the Coordinator or other appropriate court staff. **If a client is late and does not notify court about possible tardiness** this violation will result in a sanction selected by the team.

Emergency Hearing

As necessary, the BJH2WC will have emergency hearings when the participant is noncompliant with the program. The Probation Officer or the Presenting Officer **will report serious non-compliance to the Judge**. These hearings are immediate when the Judge deems necessary to proceed with a hearing when the participant action or activity is seriously non-compliant and when immediate sanctions and/or detention needs to be imposed. The Judge leads the hearings and may impose sanctions with or without the team consent only in emergency situations.

Fines, Fees, and Court Costs

Fines and Fees are determined by the Judge on a case-by-case basis depending on a participant's infractions and needed services.

Disqualification/Termination Criteria

The goal of the BH2WC is the successful completion of all Phases to work toward graduation. However, from time to time, a Participant may be unable or unwilling to complete the program and it may become necessary to terminate the Participant from the Program.

Voluntary Termination- A Participant may elect to be terminated from the Program at any time. The BJH2WC shall determine that the decision is voluntary, intelligently and knowingly made prior to granting the request. Upon such determination the case will be referred back to the Blackfeet Tribal/Family Court, reporting that the Defendant failed to complete and violated the conditions of the agreement, recommending sentencing and/or revocation of the agreement.

Involuntary Termination- A Participant may be involuntarily terminated from the Program by a majority vote of the JH2W Team in which a minimum of five (5) are present. The Participant will be terminated based on acquiring 100 sanction points indicating refusal to comply with necessary program requirements, engaging in conduct extremely inappropriate to others, or being arrested or convicted for a separate offense of relevant severity while in the program.

Graduation Requirements

Graduation will occur after successful completion of the program. The Client must complete all requirements of the program. A feast will be prepared in the client's honor and a certificate of completion will be awarded at the conclusion. A Naming Ceremony will also be conducted by the clients selected elder/mentor if the client would like a Blackfeet name. Prior to release from probation the client must complete an exit interview with the Coordinator.

Client Records

The Coordinator shall establish and maintain both a paper filing system and a computer database to track information for all individuals who are processed by the wellness court (before, during and after participation). **Information will be used to monitor program effectiveness, to make improvements, and to demonstrate improvements or success to acquire additional funding.** The forms and computer data base shall be designed to collect and report on the following information:

- a. Name, age, birth date, sex, tribe, community, last grade completed, and the names of schools of the participant;
- b. Whether the participant has children, Children's name and age;
- c. School or Employer Information
- d. Clients specific charges and a brief description of the incident that lead to program admission
- e. Dates of all court hearings and orders and types or orders;
- f. Date of admission, date of physicals, health issues upon admission;
- g. Documented Criminal History
- h. The specific treatment plan requirements for each participant (classes, counseling, groups, support groups, mentoring, physical activity, etc.);

- i. The specific beginning dates for each phase of treatment and phase graduation dates;
- j. Date of expulsion from the wellness court program;
- k. Date of re—admission to the wellness court program;
- l. Date of each alcohol and/or drug test and results;
- m. Dates of additional new charges, Dates of Arrest
- n. Dates of changes in employment;
- o. Number of babies born to participants alcohol and drug free; and
- p. Date and type of sanction issued and for what act or omission

Meetings

A regular JH2W Team meeting will be held. During weeks when a JH2W hearing is scheduled the team meeting will be held immediately prior to hearing. Special JH2W Team meetings may be held as needed.

Ethics and Confidentiality

The fundamental concern of the BJH2WC Program is addressing alcohol and substance abuse through treatment. Federal requirements and any tribal policies regarding confidentiality of client records must be considered. To properly address the confidentiality rights of participants, the JH2W team must incorporate confidentiality regulations into its policies and procedures. Confidentiality regarding substance abuse treatment is protected by United States Code and the Code of Federal regulations. Therefore, all treatment providers and team members are bound by confidentiality guidelines.

The JH2W team can share information regarding participants by obtaining written consent from each participant or through court order. Participants and their parents/guardians can sign a “Release of Confidential Information Form” where the participant gives his/her consent, in writing, allowing treatment providers and team members to share and disclose information regarding substance abuse issues.

Additionally, the purpose and conditions of the Release of Confidential Information Form should be explained to the participant by a member of the JH2W Team (coordinator, probation, prosecution). It is important for the participant to understand the duration of the consent and that consent may be revoked, but that revoking consent may affect his or her ability to remain in the BJH2WC Program. Because participants are involved in group counseling it is essential that they respect the confidentiality of other participants. They should agree not to disclose sensitive information discussed during sessions. This topic will be addressed in the Client Contract and the initial orientation. Also, measures must be taken by the team to ensure that information disclosed is relevant, reliable and limited to the scope of the program and that it takes place in a professional forum.

In the event that a BJH2WC staff member and a client should come in contact outside of a professional setting, communication should not take place unless initiated by the participant.

Finally, Tribal law and regulations do not protect any information about suspected child abuse or neglect from being reported under tribal law to appropriate state or local authorities. Other instances of mandated reporting are in case of emergency, or threats to harm self or others.