



Second Chance

An Indicated Intervention for High Risk Secondary Students



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- *Response to leadership seeking solutions*
 - 154+ substance abuse related discipline referrals
 - 10 Days mandatory suspension
 - 45 Days long-term, ISS
- *No indications of improved student outcomes*
- *Significant correlation between long-term suspension and diminished outcomes.*

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An Indicated Intervention for High Risk Students Universal-Selective-Indicated



A program designed to:

- Provide *1st offender, minor offense* students & parents an alternative
- Keep students in the classroom
- Reduce recidivism
- Provide life-skills training – internal/external asset development
- Increase access/motivation to appropriate treatment services

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Community Context:

The program has been implemented in

Columbia/Waterloo Illinois

Jefferson City

Rockwood

These communities are very different yet each has significant risk for adolescent substance abuse:



THREE COMMUNITIES SIMILAR OUTCOMES!!



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District Dynamics

Number of Students K-12

- 22K
- 12K
- 3K/each

Number of High Schools

- 4
- 2
- 1 per community





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Program model:

Different for each school district

Both Rockwood and JC

Exchange for 45 days in long-term suspension

- Complete a 6 part, life skills education
- Mandatory parent involvement in all 6 classes
- Fulfillment =
 - completion of exit interview
 - Including moderator assessment
- Students complete series evaluation
- Parents complete series evaluation



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Program model options

- Pass two randomly timed drug screens
- Complete 20 hours of purposeful community service

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Each school has a different consequence for not completing the 6 classes.





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The 6-Part Series: Topic Themes

Session 1: Managing Expectations

Session 2: Social Trends, Stress and Pressures

Session 3: Stress Management

Session 4: Taking *Active* Responsibility

Session 5: Assumptions and Communication

Session 6: Drugs & Abuse





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Program Requirements:

1. Administrator champion
2. Student-parent-administrator contract
3. Location/space/schedule
4. Evaluation plan and tool sets
5. Curriculum and support materials
6. District controlled drug screen resource
7. Meaningful community service resources
8. Funding- moderator, materials, drug-screens



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Program Requirements: **The Series Moderator**

- Relatable for audience
“Who are these people?!”
- Knows substance abuse, youth and family dynamics
- Can handle angry/defensive posturing in the classroom- can't be intimidated or diverted off topic





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Outcomes:

Y2:

- 52 students/families chose *Second Chance*
- 44 students completed the 6-part series & passed drug test
- 5 failed a drug test
- 3 dropped from the program

Y3:

- 94 Substance abuse referrals
- 15 for alcohol, 79 for drugs (primarily pot)
- 68 qualified for Second Chance
- 49 completed series & passed drug test
- 11 failed a drug test
- 3 dropped from the program
- 5 were continued into the next school year.



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Outcomes:

Recidivism

4/52 students from Y1 to Y2

Community Based Interventions

1/3 of the students/families enrolled in *Second Chance* sought help from community based resources within one year of completing the classes

Academic Improvement – anecdotal...





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Outcomes:

Community:

- Reductions in community harm, e.g. associated crime
- Reduced number of “disenfranchised” youth
- Increased likelihood for high school completion and post-high school success
- Long term: contributions to reductions in future substance abuse rates





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Program Evaluation

(\$ and *long-term change*)

Second Chance was a significant “at scale” policy and practice change

1. Details of substance abuse offense leading to program involvement: alcohol vs. drugs & type
2. **Big picture numbers:** annual total substance abuse offenses, recidivism vs. first offenses, disaggregate by school, grade and demographics
3. Student level academic data for program participants to allow before and after assessment





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Program Evaluation (cont.)

4. Program completion data: attendance, participation, drug screens, service hours, disaggregate by school, class and demographics
5. Participant evaluations- value of the program, what was learned, what's changed, quality of life indicators
6. Post-program help seeking for students/families
7. 6-month follow-up with participants
8. New school-community partnerships





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Questions?



Thank you!!!