



STEER, a regional DUI Court located in Billings, Yellowstone County, Montana, was established six years ago to serve participants with high criminogenic risk factors, a predisposition to reoffend, and previous unsuccessful attempts at rehabilitation. STEER serves high-risk/high-need adults with a felony DUI or any felony offense with a nexus to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In addition, misdemeanor DUI offenders with aggravating factors such as high BACs, crashes, or children in the vehicle are considered.

Montana, the fourth largest state geographically, but forty-fourth in terms of population, makes it an idyllic place. Unfortunately, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Mental Health, Montana is one of the top 10 states for rates in multiple drug-use categories. Compounding this problem, many Montanans live in rural areas, making it a challenge to access treatment and legal services without excessive travel.

The STEER Court team is a multidisciplinary team that consists of a District Judge, a Court Coordinator, a Case Manager, a Prosecutor, a Defense Attorney, Treatment Staff, Probation and Parole, and also has strong law enforcement presence: Billings Police Department, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Department, and Montana Highway Patrol.

STEER made application to NCDC to serve as an Academy Court, because we enjoy hands-on education and the opportunity to share the success of a DUI Court as an alternative proven stage for serving alcohol and drug impaired drivers.

STEER utilizes technology in the form of a 24/7 web-based case management system with drug testing results, alerts, and progress notes immediately uploaded in real-time. Cutting edge drug and alcohol testing modalities are frequently utilized to provide accountability. Through Video Teleconferencing, tablets, smart phone apps, STEER delivers treatment, compliance monitoring and supervision to participants that travel for work or live in rural areas in Montana.

STEER offers a full-continuum of Mental Health/Trauma and ASAM matched Chemical Dependency Treatment including, Medically Monitored Detox, Residential, Day Treatment, Intensive Outpatient, and Aftercare and Relapse Prevention services; Gender-specific and culturally appropriate treatment is preferred. Medicated Assisted Therapy – MAT, monitored by a physician who specializes in addiction treatment, Yoga/Kinesiotherapy and Art Therapy are accessible to help treat co-occurring disorders such as PTSD. Support services including alternative transportation, sober housing, parenting classes, and vocational rehabilitation are provided. STEER also offers a store on-site with clothing, toiletries and bicycles.