

CHANGING
OFFENDER
BEHAVIOR
through
REHABILITATION
and
ACCOUNTABILITY



Tuscarawas County COBRA Court

a program of the

**Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas,
General Trial Division**

Court address:

101 East High Avenue, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

Community Corrections Program address:

125 East High Avenue, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

I. Introduction

In what direction is your life currently headed?

Get back on the right path with the Tuscarawas County Changing Offender Behavior through Rehabilitation and Accountability Court (COBRA) Program, and let it help you on your journey to long-term sobriety.

You can chart a new course, which includes:

- A clean and sober lifestyle;
- A family life with close relationships;
- Friends who care about **you**...not what you can do for them;
- A job, so you can take care of yourself and your family;
- An education, to present you with better employment opportunities;
- An overall healthier lifestyle; and
- Resources to help you reach and discover your full potential.

What resource does the COBRA Program Provide?

- Substance abuse treatment designed specifically for you;
- Referral to medical, mental health, and social service providers;
- Assistance in obtaining your GED;
- Relationships with people who care about you, including the judge, probation staff, your Treatment Team members, your boss and many others, and they all work with you to get the most out of treatment and life; and
- Incentives to recognize your accomplishments and hard work.

If you want a future that **YOU** choose, the first step is to commit yourself to changing for the better. The COBRA offers you this opportunity.

You do the work, and we offer the resources to help you do it.

A. What is the COBRA Program?

The COBRA Program is offered to up to 30 persons who qualify for specialized drug treatment programming while on community control supervision. Persons eligible for community control who qualify for the COBRA program will be supervised by The COBRA Court Judge and will meet with the Judge on a frequent basis, along with other program participants, to discuss and evaluate their progress, participation and achievements.

B. Why does the Court have the COBRA Program?

The Court understands substance use plays a large role in many crimes and impacts many lives. The Court wants to deal with the underlying cause of some of the crimes committed in this county by connecting persons who have committed crimes directly or indirectly related to their substance use with needed treatment and other life services. In doing this, the Court hopes to help people make a permanent and positive change in their lives to prevent further criminal activity and court involvement.

C. How is the COBRA Program different from regular community control or probation?

The COBRA Program offers a participant a way to have a different kind of life, a life of freedom from drugs and/or alcohol and a life with the prospect of hope and promise.

Potential participants are urged to consult with their attorney, family members, and other supportive persons in their lives before they commit to the program.

The primary differences in the COBRA Program and regular community control supervision is the amount of contact between the participant and probation and treatment staff, as well as the ongoing, one-on-one interaction with the COBRA Judge at regularly scheduled review hearings.

All COBRA participants are evaluated for drug, alcohol and any mental health condition that might interfere with a person's ability to participate in the program. The results of these and other evaluations are taken into account when determining what conditions of supervision will be required and how the participant will be supervised.

D. Basic Requirements

A participant is required to sign a release of information/waiver of confidentiality to permit the following persons to exchange information regarding their attendance, progress, participation and prognosis in the COBRA Program and associated treatment activities:

- The COBRA Court Judge, Chief Probation Officer/Assistant Chief Probation Officer, other court staff and COBRA Team members;
- All medical, dental, and mental healthcare treatment providers;
- The counselor conducting their initial and/or subsequent evaluations;
- Treatment agency case manager(s);
- Twelve-Step program sponsor; and
- Family members.

A participant may revoke any release of information; however, it will result in their immediate termination from the COBRA Program with subsequent legal consequences.

A participant is expected to adhere to the following:

- Abstain from alcohol and drug use;
- Attend status review hearing;
- Attend appointments with treatment providers and/or case managers;
- Attend appointments with probation officer;
- Comply with the program requirements;
- Submit to frequent, random and observed alcohol and drug screens;
- Comply with sanctions for infractions;
- Obtain/maintain employment;
- Obtain GED if applicable;
- Secure stable housing;
- Engage in a sober support community (A.A., N.A.); and
- No further violations of the law.

II. Eligibility

The Tuscarawas County COBRA Court will screen offenders for eligibility using the following criteria:

- Any Community Control eligible case where alcohol and/or drug use was directly or indirectly related to the offense;
- The offender must be a resident of Tuscarawas County;
- The offender must be assessed and diagnosed as chemically dependent by an approved alcohol and drug treatment provider;
- The offender is determined to be high/moderate to very high risk in the substance abuse domain utilizing the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS); and
- The offender must be mentally competent and have the developmental capacity to adhere to the participation requirements.

Admission to the program is **Voluntary**.

The Tuscarawas County COBRA Program will not deny an offender admission to the program based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, citizenship, marital status, veteran's status, or any disability.

The applicant understands even if they are legally and clinically eligible, they do not have a **Right** to participate in the COBRA Program. The COBRA Judge has

the discretion to decide the admission into and termination from the COBRA Program in accordance with the written criteria for the specialized docket.

Potential participants are ineligible if any of the following exist:

- The offender is charged with an offense for which a prison term is mandatory;
- The offender is actively working as a police informant;
- The offender is mentally incompetent and/or has a mental health disorder which would prevent or interfere with successful completion of the program;
- The offender is an integral part of a distribution or manufacturing network or actively engaged in crimes to benefit a gang; and/or
- The offender resides outside of Tuscarawas County.