

I was asked to provide some information regarding the Williamson County CSCD's involvement with and the reliance upon Lifesteps. Lifesteps has been a working partner with this Department since I came to work here in 1979. At that time it was called the Williamson County Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. At the present time, they perform a very valuable service for the Williamson County DWI/Drug Court by performing assessments on incoming participants. Additionally, they attend weekly staff meetings (with the DWI/Drug Court team) and they meet weekly with offenders in the DWI/Drug Court program. They are an important part of the DWI/Drug Court. If they were not involved in the program, this Department would be forced to hire additional staff to perform their functions. Lastly, Lifesteps also performs substance abuse assessments on offenders on probation. Once they are placed on probation, an offender has to undergo an assessment to determine what sort of treatment needs they may have. I do not have the staff to conduct these assessments. These assessments would have to be conducted by a private entity who may also operate a treatment program. Because they could conclude that the offender needs treatment (and could be referred to their program), I believe a conflict of interest would exist. To me, it is extremely important that Lifesteps continue to be able to perform these important functions to assist this Department.

Marty Griffith  
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Williamson County CSCD