

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

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Illinois

[Woman recovering from opioid addiction sues to get methadone treatment in DuPage County Jail](#)
Chicago Tribune

The sheriff's office [told the Tribune](#) in 2018 that the jail did not provide medication-assisted addiction treatment for inmates other than pregnant women — cutting them off can harm the fetus — and a spokeswoman this week did not respond when asked if that policy has changed.

She did say that people who come to the jail addicted to opioids “are individually evaluated by our medical staff,” and county lawyers said in a court filing it would be premature to promise Finnigan a course of treatment before that happens.

But Finnigan and her attorneys say there's every reason to believe she will be denied. They made a formal request last month but were rebuffed, they said, and the court documents include an alleged Facebook message exchange between Finnigan and Mendrick in which the sheriff said the jail offers “full detox” and psychological services, but was silent when asked about medication.

Massachusetts

[Opioid Task Force garners grant to promote racial equity in treatment](#)
Greenfield Recorder

A two-year \$99,974 grant that the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region has received from the State Attorney General's Office will support recovery programs and behavioral health services for people who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

The Opioid Task Force will use the grant to implement its “Cultural Humility in Post-Opioid Overdose Follow-Up Services Project” in Franklin County and the North Quabbin area. The program is part of the Community Opportunity, Network, Navigation, Exploration and Connection Team (CONNECT) Initiative, which received a \$1 million grant in October of 2020 to launch. In November, the Opioid Task Force received an additional three-year grant for \$600,000 to support its new 24/7 overdose rapid response team.

Franklin County Register of Probate and Opioid Task Force Co-Chair John Merrigan said the grant will provide resources it needs to fulfill a vision that late Chief Justice of Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ralph Gants had for the state.

“He advocated tirelessly for justice for all; this includes health equity,” Merrigan said. “These funds will ensure that everyone has access to life-saving opioid treatment and recovery services, especially people of color.”

Ohio

[New ‘Safe Baby Court Program’ aims to help drug-dependent babies](#)

WOWK

The old saying “it takes a village to help raise a child” is now being taken literally in Portsmouth, Ohio when caring for drug-dependent infants.

Cities like Portsmouth have been hit hard by the opioid crisis. Fortunately, there are resources available to those who are currently struggling or have struggled in the past with addiction.

The city is now expanding these services to allow people to step in and help those who were born drug dependent.