

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: May 29, 2020



Virginia

[VA Drug Courts fear “honeymoon stage” nears end](#)

WVVA

As the COVID-19 pandemic made face-to-face interactions nearly impossible, Drug Courts in Southwest Virginia adapted; moving primarily to telehealth visits and videoconferences – even offering a take-home oral swab drug screening.

“We have successfully transitioned in Pulaski, Montgomery, Floyd, and Giles [Counties] to holding court weekly over Webex,” said Lori Trail, Drug Court Coordinator for New River Valley Community Services. “That’s an increase from what we were doing in the courtroom; we had them coming bi-weekly.”

...

“Opioids is the primary one – not the only one – but they’re all attributing it to the same issue of stress going up and your emotional support network fraying at a tough time,” [Senator Tim] Kaine added. “So, I think the opioid issue is being exacerbated by the stress that we’re under.”