

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: June 19, 2020



Maryland

[Maryland Judiciary shares stories of success amid COVID-19 in honor of National Drug Court Month](#)

Maryland Judiciary

In 2019, the Baltimore City District Court DTC celebrated its 25th anniversary. The program was Maryland's pioneer problem-solving court.

The DTC was founded in 1994 as a comprehensive court-supervised and voluntary treatment-based program for substance users charged with misdemeanor and concurrent jurisdiction felonies in the District Court. Since then, more than 1,400 people have participated in 54 graduations. The program's mission is to serve the community and increase public safety by integrating a coordinated treatment response for those with substance use disorders.

Last year, the DTC was restructured to perform in accordance with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' best practices guidelines to better serve a community plagued by the opioid epidemic. The program's new motto is "Choose to Live."

Ohio

[Hamilton County's mental health court: Battling addiction, mental health issues during a pandemic](#)

Cincinnati Enquirer

One of these calls was to Maura Kiger. Kiger, who has major depressive disorder and has battled opioid addiction, entered felony mental health court with her three sons in foster care and was pregnant with a child she was in the process of placing permanently with another family.

Like any new MHC admission, one of Kiger's first tasks was to write a letter to the judge outlining her goals for herself in the program. Kiger's list started with getting her kids back. It also included finding housing, obtaining a driver's license, and graduating treatment.

She's graduating.

Ohio

[Clermont County couple gets 6 kids back after homelessness, drug addiction](#)

ABC6

On Thursday, the couple completed their biggest milestone yet. On a Zoom call for family to watch, they graduated from Family Recovery Court.

“We wanted to at least be in front of Judge [James] Shriver and physically thank him for, you know, starting that program and being there all the way through,” said Schubert.