

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

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Indiana

[Courts Try to Stay One Step Ahead of Shifting Drug Epidemic](#)

WIBC

Indiana courts trying to get a handle on the opioid epidemic are trying to make adjustments to keep up with a moving target.

Chief Justice Loretta Rush says the focus needs to be on evidence-based treatment for addiction. But she cautions what worked for meth isn't necessarily the same as what's best for opioids, and today's solution may not be the best treatment for the next fast-rising drug.

Rush says the Supreme Court has issued cards with treatment information to local judges to help them keep track of what treatments have the best record of success.

Rush has hosted two judicial summits in Indianapolis, one state and one national, to brainstorm opioid solutions.

Maryland

[With overdose deaths rising, Anne Arundel long-term treatment centers risk closing as coronavirus drives patient volume down](#)

Capital Gazette

And while overdoses are up in Anne Arundel County this year, the usual pathways to long-term care have been obstructed by the pandemic.

Courthouses were closed for weeks, severing the referral progress for incarcerated patients awaiting treatment. Some walk-in patients fearful of contracting COVID-19 or uninterested in isolating upon arrival leave rehab early. Others are denied entry when a resident tests positive for COVID-19, sending the facility into a two-week lockdown.

Now, they're facing steep financial shortfalls because of it, putting the programs at risk for closure. Without Medicaid reimbursements or federal and state funding, treatment centers straining under large deficits like Gaudenzia and Hope House say they will have to close some of their centers soon.

"It's an existential crisis for us," said Peter D'Souza, executive director of Hope House Treatment Center, a nonprofit addiction treatment center in Crownsville and Laurel. "If we have to close, we have to close. That's not the issue. The issue for me is — who is there afterward to deal with all the other deaths that are happening due to the opioid crisis?"

Ohio

[Sheriff recognized for county's work with drug abusers](#)

The Vindicator

Mahoning County Sheriff Jerry Greene admits he wasn't always supportive of people with drug addiction, but Judge John Durkin, who runs the county drug court, helped him see things differently.

"I've been in this line of work about 30 years now," Greene told the county commissioners Thursday while being presented with a statewide award for the programs he has undertaken to help substance abusers who come in contact with his officers and the jail.

"I've really evolved. The whole thing really started with Judge Durkin and the drug court 20-some years ago, where I used to make fun of them, 'What are you doing with these people? They deserve to be in jail. What's wrong with you?'"