

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: April 10, 2020



Massachusetts

[Veterans treatment court adapts during COVID-19](#)

Daily Hampshire Gazette

Taking the bench last Wednesday afternoon, Judge Laurie MacLeod still saw the faces of veterans enrolled in the treatment court over which she presides — though this time, it was a little different than usual.

Instead of each participant of the Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court being there in person, they all checked in via Zoom videoconferencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although courthouses across the state have been ordered closed to the public with some exceptions, technology has allowed this specialty court — which aims to reduce recidivism among veterans struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues — to continue.

“Community is very important to anybody who is going through recovery,” MacLeod said. “Any extra isolation that’s imposed upon them, which obviously is imposed by this health crisis, can really put them in a vulnerable place.”

Tennessee

[The Road to Recovery](#)

Livingston Enterprise

Addiction can affect anyone. Regardless of race, religion, age, gender or social class, addiction affects more people than we could imagine. Not just the [substance abuser] themselves, but also their family and the community surrounding them—and their recovery is just as effective.

Lowell Ambs, 30 of Rickman, shared his story of addiction as well as his recovery that he was able to obtain through the help of the Overton County Drug Recovery Court System.

Ambs was just 11 years of age when his addiction began, first beginning with methamphetamine.

“I was living in Michigan at the time and methamphetamine was the popular drug, unlike here it is pharmaceuticals and opioids,” he said. “The draw for me at that age was that I could stay up all weekend, ride my bike with my buddies, and we could stay up all night and do just about whatever we wanted.”