

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

July 30, 2021



New York

[The opioid epidemic meets the COVID pandemic](#)

Ithaca.com

Navigating a pandemic isn't easy for anyone, but it's proven to be exceptionally difficult for those battling addiction and those helping them. Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services (CARS) offers outpatient addiction treatment and opioid treatment program services at their State Street location in Ithaca.

The outpatient program offers in-person and telehealth individual and small group addiction counseling, as well as medication assisted treatment. The opioid treatment program provides onsite medication assisted treatment dosing (methadone primarily, as well as suboxone) and addiction counseling services. CARS also runs a 60-bed men's residential rehabilitation facility in Trumansburg. That facility has an onsite nursing department, addiction, mental health, vocational and recreational counseling, and is a 24/7 facility.

New York

[Cornell research partnership helps families fighting opioids](#)

WSYR

We at Cornell and the Cornell Cooperative Extension are working in partnership with family drug treatment courts to look at how interventions to support parents and children who are struggling with opioid misuse are affecting families and child outcomes. *Laura Tach – Associate Professor, Cornell*

It's a full-family plan the local [Family Treatment Court](#) uses. With an emphasis on family and parenting skills, it's working.

Oregon

[Washington County Greenlights One-Stop Recovery Center for Substance Use](#)

Lund Report

Also included in planning work groups were people who have experienced substance use disorder and treatment in the county, such as [treatment housing services manager, Steven] Youngs . Before becoming a housing manager at Bridges to Change, Youngs entered recovery through Washington County's drug court.



He attended monthly meetings where he participated in the planning process with about 180 other community members and stakeholders.

He said the county listened to his feedback.

“I can see pieces of my input throughout the proposal,” he said.

West Virginia

[WV city, drug distributors trade final words in landmark opioid trial](#)

Reuters

Lawyers for a West Virginia city and county hard hit by the opioid crisis began wrapping up their case in a \$2.5 billion trial on Tuesday arguing major drug distributors flooded the region with the addictive pills, while a defense lawyer put the blame on doctors.

In closing arguments at the end of a landmark three-month trial, the lawyers for Huntington and Cabell County told U.S. District Judge David Faber in Charleston that evidence showed the region’s crisis was caused by McKesson Corp ([MCK.N](#)), AmerisourceBergen Corp ([ABC.N](#)), and Cardinal Health Inc ([CAH.N](#)).

Paul Farrell, who represents the county, said the sheer volume of drugs the defendants sold, more than 81 million pills in a region with fewer than 100,000 people, “demonstrates a failure to maintain effective control to prevent diversion.”

West Virginia

[They’d battled addiction together. Then lockdowns became a ‘recipe for death.’](#)

Washington Post

But long before the nation began to assess the staggering toll of opioids during the pandemic, [Rachel] Lambert and others in her corner of West Virginia understood what was happening.

In May of 2020, the same week [Jimmy] Horton died, Tim Czaja [director of the Berkeley Day Report Center] was imploring officials in Berkeley County, WV, to reopen the government-run treatment center he oversees for recovering drug users in court diversion programs. Over the two months that the center was closed to in-person services under the governor’s orders, Czaja watched four of his clients fatally overdose and dozens drop out of treatment.

“Addiction makes you want to be alone. A large part of recovery is establishing a face-to-face connection — in person, not on a video,” Czaja, later said in an interview. “For the large majority of this population, in my opinion, the covid restrictions — everything shutting down — is far more dangerous than covid.”