



ASK-THE-EXPERT SESSION

ASK-THE-EXPERT SESSION

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

RESEARCH & REPORTS

ARTICLES

RESOURCE

CRISIS RESPONSE IN RURAL AREAS

Date: August 21, 2023
Time: 2PM - 3:30PM ET
[» Register Here](#)

Hosted by The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and the U.S Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Small and rural jurisdictions across the country often face distinct challenges that make it difficult to implement the types of crisis response programs that larger and urban areas have. Join us for an ask-the-expert session focused on the unique experiences of people working on crisis response in rural areas. We'll be joined by Beya Thayer, MSW and colleagues from Yavapai County, Arizona. These experts will give a brief overview of the work they're doing in Arizona to respond to people experiencing a behavioral health crisis. This will be followed by time for attendees to ask questions and engage in discussion. Registration is required to attend this event.

Speakers:

- Deirdra Assey, Senior Policy Analyst, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center (moderator)
- Beya Thayer, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Services & the Yavapai Justice & Mental Health Coalition (speaker)



RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Rural communities face unique challenges that impact their ability to deliver fair and equitable justice. Despite these challenges, rural communities rely on their many strengths to address the needs of their residents.

The National Center for State Courts, in partnership with Rulo Strategies, launched the [Rural Justice Collaborative \(RJC\)](#) to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlight the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems.

The work under the RJC is supported by a cross-sector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council guides and identifies innovative programs and practices.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

DEADLINE EXTENDED: PLANNING INITIATIVE TO BUILD BRIDGES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT OPTIONS IN THE NATION'S JAILS

This 9-month planning initiative, led by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will help communities develop a comprehensive continuum of care targeting individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) in jails and increase access to treatment in custody and with community-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT) providers upon release. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to get people who are incarcerated in local jails the care they need to treat their OUD, reduce the risk of overdose and overdose death, reduce recidivism, and increase engagement in evidence-based OUD treatment. Up to 15 communities will be selected to participate in the planning initiative and applications are due September 1, 2023. Full details of this opportunity—including mandatory planning team members, optional team members, project coordination, and selection criteria—can be found at [here](#).

FOSTER CARE CLOSET SERVES RURAL NEBRASKA WITH NEW BUS

Children in foster care typically have little to no clothing, and the items they have are often the wrong size or season. Children in foster care are similar to any other child, prefer certain styles, and want to fit in. The Lincoln-based [Foster Care Closet mobile service](#) in rural Nebraska is designed to do just that. The Foster Care Closet partners with wholesale vendors to purchase on-trend clothing in large quantities at a lower cost. They keep clothing on hand for newborns to age 19. After helping hundreds of children in and around Lincoln, the goal is to expand to serve the rest of the state.



ONE RURAL COMMUNITY'S CREATIVE WAY TO COMBAT OPIOID OVERDOSES: NARCAN VENDING MACHINES

It's a vending machine like any other. You walk up and feed some payment into the machine, but instead of a candy bar or an ice-cold soda, this vending machine at the Butler County Health Department in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, dispenses boxes of Narcan. Stigma, cost, education, and transportation can all be additional barriers to Narcan access, which is where the vending machine comes in. People can vend as many boxes of Narcan as they need; there's no limit, and it's completely free.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

ONE CRISIS OR TWO PROBLEMS? DISENTANGLING RURAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE RURAL ATTORNEY SHORTAGE

There is a substantial body of literature across disciplines and for diverse audiences that looks at access to justice in rural communities and geographies. And while there are good reasons to want more lawyers in rural communities, more lawyers may not be the most effective or impactful solution to the rural access to justice crisis. This review of rural access to justice systematically considers every facet of rural access to justice and aims to think more critically about the need for attorneys in rural communities.

RURAL HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030: NEW DECADE, NEW CHALLENGES

Rural Healthy People is a companion piece to the federal Healthy People initiative released once a decade to identify rural America's most important Healthy People priorities, as identified by rural stakeholders. The researchers asked 1,475 healthcare professionals, government officials, researchers, and others working to improve health and quality of life in rural communities about their views on the 62 Healthy People 2030 priorities. The analysis finds that for the first time across three decades of Rural Healthy People, a greater proportion of respondents selected "Mental Health and Mental Disorders" and "Addiction" as Healthy People priorities for rural America.

ARTICLES

ONCE-RESISTANT RURAL COURT OFFICIALS BEGIN TO EMBRACE MEDICATIONS TO TREAT ADDICTION

A decade ago, a study found that barely half of drug treatment courts offered medication treatment. Those who didn't cited uncertainty about its efficacy noted political, judicial, and administrative opposition. But research in the years since has persuaded many of the most insistent abstinence-only advocates. This article explores how a judge in Tennessee was able to trade an abstinence-only, lock-'em-up approach for one that offers a full range of paths to recovery.

'IF YOU'RE NOT BREATHING, YOU'RE NOT GETTING INTO RECOVERY'

In a small-town parking lot in the mountains of North Carolina, a quiet campaign seeks to help drug users avoid overdoses, disease, and misery. Such harm-reduction programs are facing a backlash, despite research saying they save lives and increase the odds of recovery.

PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS FILL GAPS IN RURAL MICHIGAN MENTAL HEALTH CARE

The need for more mental health professionals is no secret, especially for children and adolescents. Even before the pandemic, the Citizens Research Council of Michigan had reported that about 38 percent of Michiganders (and 80 percent of those with substance use disorders) were not receiving the mental health care they needed. Psychiatric fellows and residents are helping meet that need. The program is part of [MIDOCs](#), a state-funded program that aims to recruit, train and retain providers to increase access to care in Michigan's rural and urban underserved communities. Residents are recruited from four Michigan medical schools. After serving two years of full-time clinical practice at an approved service site, the residents may receive up to \$75,000 in student loan repayment.

RESOURCE

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING SUBSTANCE WITHDRAWAL IN JAILS: A TOOL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS, AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

To help jails and communities establish or enhance policies and procedures that appropriately address withdrawal, as well as support custody and healthcare staff in carrying out their responsibilities, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) have developed Guidelines for Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails: A Tool for Local Government Officials, Jail Administrators, Correctional Officers, and Health Care Professionals.

This document was developed under cooperative agreement number SJI-23-P-026 from the State Justice Institute. The points of view expressed are those of the author(s), and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the State Justice Institute.