

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

August 18, 2023



National

[Allocation of federal funding to address the opioid overdose crisis in the criminal legal system](#)

Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment

We collected data from publicly available government databases (N = 22) to identify federal funding targeting opioid use disorder in criminal legal system-involved populations. Descriptive analyses examined the extent to which funding allocated per person in the criminal legal system-involved population was associated with funding need proxied by a composite measure of opioid mortality and drug-related arrests. We created a generosity measure and dissimilarity index to assess the degree to which funding matched need across states.

Results

More than 590 million dollars were allocated across 517 grants by 10 federal agencies in FY 2019. About half of states received less than \$100.00 dollars per capita in the state criminal legal system-involved population. Funding generosity ranged from 0 % to 504.2 % with more than half of states (52.9 %, n = 27) receiving fewer dollars per opioid problem than the US average. Further, a dissimilarity index indicated that about 34.2 % of funding (~\$202.3 million) would have to be reallocated to distribute funding more evenly across states.

Michigan

[Berrien County commissioners discuss medication assisted treatment program](#)

Leader Publications

[Berrien County Undersheriff Chuck Heit] is proposing to spend \$180,000 from the county's opioid settlement funds to pilot the project at the jail next year. The county is scheduled to get more than \$4 million in total from settlements with drug companies and retail chains over the next 18 years.

[County Commissioner Dave Vorrath] noted that the administration committee has recommended approval of the pilot program. The Medication Assisted Treatment program has been used in other parts of the state to help inmates with an opioid addiction recover while in jail.



North Carolina

[County's first drug court moving closer to reality](#)

Hendersonville Lightning

Henderson County's first drug court is moving closer to hearing cases involving people struggling with addiction as leaders begin spending funds set aside from opioid settlements.

"We are actually at the place ready to move forward for the first cases in the near future," Henderson County Manager John Mitchell told the Board of Commissioners during its monthly meeting on Wednesday. Henderson County will receive \$16 million over 18 years from the state as its part of national opioid settlements. Commissioners heard an update during the meeting from a consultant and county health department staff member who have been working on finding ways to use the opioid settlement money to address the crisis in Henderson County. The money will be used for the criminal diversion court in drug-related cases, substance abuse prevention, early intervention, and recovery services.

Ohio

[County drug court ceasing operations](#)

Star Beacon

A pair of Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas judges have announced that the Ashtabula County Drug Court and Mental Health Court will be ceasing operations by the end of the year.

According to a press release signed by Common Pleas Court judges Thomas Harris and Marianne Sezon, the judges decided to discontinue the courts due to difficulties with administering the court which the press release blames on the Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office not participating in the program for the last two years.

"The Court must maintain fairness when it takes part in the Specialized Dockets Treatment Team meetings, and the continuous absence of the Prosecutor's Office makes it more than difficult for the Court to receive valuable information necessary to determine acceptance or rejection of participants into the program, as well as monitoring participants," the press release states.

That lack of participation makes proceeding with the court extremely difficult, according to the release.

Wisconsin

[Outagamie County treatment courts not a 'get-out-of-jail-free' card; they replace punishment with rehabilitation](#)

Post-Crescent

Mental Health Court is just one model of a slew of treatment courts [across the state](#).

Outagamie County also has a veterans treatment court and a drug and alcohol treatment court separated into two tracks, one for OWIs (Operating While Intoxicated) and one more focused on drug addictions. The county will start a family recovery treatment court in September.

Brown County offers the same types of treatment courts, with some slight variations on criteria, in addition to a juvenile treatment court for people ages 17 to 21 and a heroin/opioid treatment court — which was the first of its kind in the nation when it was implemented in 2015, said Brown County Criminal Justice Services manager Mark Vanden Hoogen.