

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

August 4, 2023



National

[Problem-solving court staff preferences for educational videos about medications for opioid use disorder](#)

Substance Use & Misuse

Background

Previous studies found court staff often harbor misconceptions about MOUD and could benefit from MOUD education. Tailoring education to the intended audience is an educational best practice. We sought to identify content and style preferences for two MOUD education videos: 1) an introduction to MOUD and, 2) MOUD myths/misconceptions.

Methods

We recruited 40 Florida problem-solving court staff. Using semi-structured interviews, invited document/script edits, and qualitative surveys, we collected data at each of four video development stages. We used template analysis for qualitative data.

Results

Court staff desired the following content: OUD as a chronic brain condition and MOUD as an effective response; MOUD risks and benefits; how MOUD is accessed; and the appropriate role of court staff with MOUD decisions. Style preferences were no juvenile/cutesy animation; relatable characters/environments; simple concept illustration; individualizing the learning experience; and combinations of scientific animated videos and successful stakeholder interviews.

Louisiana

[Drug court opioid settlement could net Jeff Davis millions](#)

American Press

Locally, [District Attorney Lauren Heinen] would like to see the funds used to implement a drug court program which would provide treatment, therapy, monitoring and supervision for non-violent drug offenders. “I have an understanding of what some of that programming could look like,” Heinen said. “I have already had an opportunity to try to figure out ways for this money to be used and not wasted in terms of getting services to people who have been a victim of opioid addictions or have been in a relationship with somebody who was in an opioid addiction. Local law enforcement and judicial officials have been interested in a drug court for some time,” she said.

Missouri

[Moniteau Treasurer assembles opioid settlement committee](#)

California Democrat

The committee is looking to establish its scholarship program this coming school year. [County Treasurer Sarah Jones] said with limited resources, the committee has to think outside the box. This includes diverting funds for more in-depth training for law enforcement — how to approach someone high on opioids or how to recognize them. Jones did say the county does have a “drug court,” a drug treatment program for individuals under court supervision, however, no one is currently enrolled in the program.

Pennsylvania

[PA counties face uncertainty as they grapple with how to spend opioid settlement funds](#)

Spotlight PA

The Lancaster County district attorney’s office — which oversees the drug task force — indicated officials are considering changes.

“You should ... be aware that the request is being looked at and amended to focus on our role in Treatment Courts, education, used drop-off medication sites, and other goals set forth in Exhibit E,” Sean McBryan a spokesperson for the office wrote on July 26 in response to Spotlight PA questions. “The request is not finalized, however.”

The drug task force primarily focuses on “mid- to upper-level drug dealers in Lancaster County,” but members also “assist local police departments with street-level drug dealing when requested,” [according to its website](#). It currently receives funding from the state attorney general’s office, the county, and local municipalities, and by seizing property related to alleged drug crimes, according to the district attorney’s office and county meeting minutes.