

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

August 26, 2022



Kansas

[Drug Court Program making significant strides despite its infancy](#)

1350 KMAN

In addition to the savings, the program is 75% funded by the Kansas Fights Addiction Act which diverts money to address substance abuse and helps ensure addiction services are provided from funds that were recovered by the attorney general pursuant to opioid litigation. The remaining 25% is funded by the municipality. There are multiple agencies involved in the program, all with a goal of setting participants up for success.

Massachusetts

[Mass. courts should be held accountable for the opiate crisis](#)

WGBH

U.S. Attorney Rachel Rollins filed a lawsuit against our trial courts because some judges in our drug courts were [prohibiting defendants from taking physician-prescribed medication](#) like Vivitrol and Suboxone, medications we know can significantly assist in recovery from substance use disorder. After the suit was filed, a new policy was implemented which bars drug court personnel from interfering with prescribed treatment plans.

But not everyone with a substance use disorder in our court system is heard by a drug court. Probationers who relapse are often taken into custody. It's expensive, it doesn't work, and it can make recovery harder. Recovering from an opioid addiction or alcohol use disorder isn't as simple as cutting back on caffeine; it is a very difficult and painful process that requires care and empathy.

Michigan

[County to seek input before deciding use for opioid settlement](#)

Alpena News

County commissioners have heard from multiple local agencies, including Catholic Human Services, Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health, District Health Department No. 4, the Alpena County Jail, and the 88th District Court drug court, all suggesting ways the county could use the money to fight drug addiction in Alpena.

Recovery advocates have suggested the money could fund transitional housing, a multi-tiered drug court, salaries for corrections officers so the jail can provide better



programming, recovery-specific medical care, body-worn technology that can stop overdoses, and other uses.

Until the money actually reaches the county, commissioners won't try to decide which idea would best serve the county.

North Carolina

[Editorial: Paying the Cost Of Opioid Abuse](#)

The Pilot

The Moore County Board of Commissioners last week began coming to terms with the more than \$6 million it will receive over the next 18 years from an opioid settlement. And that could grow as more settlement payouts begin getting figured out for distribution.

County Attorney Misty Leland gave commissioners two options to consider for the money. A first would allocate funding across a series of already-existing programs and strategies, along with the possibility of forming a drug-rehabilitation court.

Another option would [be to form] a steering committee of sorts with various stakeholders then direct the money toward areas addressing treatment and prevention of opioid addiction.

Commissioners ultimately opted to go with the first option which they agreed was more straightforward and would yield faster results.

North Carolina

[Forum covers progress, challenges of substance abuse in Southeastern NC](#)

Bladen Journal

Superior Court Judge Jason Disbrow weighed in, noting that “addiction stretches across gender, race, and political lines. There is no quick fix, and incarceration is not the final answer. Incarceration only means they are being detained; they are not being rehabilitated. 90% of the problems we see in court regarding alcohol and substance abuse arise because of a lack of treatment access. There needs to be a unity of resources. Partnerships are needed, and funding for treatment programs is critical.”