

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

October 28, 2022



National

[Barriers to drug treatment in police diversion programs and drug courts: A qualitative analysis.](#)

American Journal of Orthopsychiatry

Police diversion programs and drug treatment courts showed intraprogram variation in the structure of their programs in the three states and in different counties within the states. Structural barriers to successfully linking people who use drugs (PWUD) to treatment included a lack of resources, for example, a limited number of treatment facilities available, difficulties in funding mandated treatment, particularly in Wisconsin where Medicaid expansion has not occurred, and PWUDs' need for additional services such as housing. Many police officers, judges, and others within drug treatment court, including drug treatment specialists, hold stigmatizing attitudes toward medications to treat opioid use disorder (MOUD) and are unlikely to recommend or actively refer to MOUD treatment. Drug courts and police diversion programs offer a welcome shift from prior emphases on criminalization of drug use. However, for such programs to be effective, more resources must be dedicated to their success.

National

[Female Opioid Court Participants' Narratives of Siloed Medical, Legal, and Social Service Sector Interactions to Inform Future Integrated Interventions](#)

Journal of Correctional Health Care

A gap exists regarding how to design gender-specific interventions for women charged with opioid use disorder (OUD)-related crimes. National recent efforts include opioid courts. Treatment courts present opportunities for earlier intervention for women under judicial supervision. We interviewed 31 female participants in the first known opioid court so they could inform cross-sector integrated approaches to address their needs. Data reveal the complexity of participants' involvement with myriad cross-sector organizations, given the duality of their roles as simultaneous lifetime victims and as OUD-related perpetrators. Participants have difficulty trusting systems intended to help them due to systematic failures to prevent or address abuse and neglect over their lifetimes. The opioid crisis cannot be solved without an understanding of early missed intervention opportunities and a cross-sector approach.

Hawai'i

[Judiciary Convenes Hawaii's First Statewide Adult Drug Court Conference](#)

Hawai'i State Judiciary

The Judiciary convened Hawaii's first-ever Statewide Adult Drug Court Conference, August 31 to September 1. Specialty court staff and partners from across the islands found it to be a valuable opportunity to engage with national experts discussing the latest research on treatment court best practices.

Thanks to funding from a federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant awarded to the First Circuit Drug Court program in 2020, a team of Judiciary staff was able to bring speakers from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) 2022 Annual Conference, "RISE22," to present their findings and recommendations. The grant also provided the means for 33 treatment court personnel from Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Hawaii island to attend as part of their continuing professional education and training.

The State Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division served as event co-sponsor, allocating funds for conference facilities at the Ala Moana Hotel and meals for the attendees.

Nebraska

[Justice & Behavioral Health Conference 2022: A Shared Vision with Problem-Solving Courts](#)

Nebraska Judiciary

Approximately 950 probation, community corrections, behavioral health, and problem-solving court professionals came together September 28-30 in LaVista for the 2022 Justice and Behavioral Health Conference: A Shared Vision with Problem-Solving Courts. This was the second statewide event of its kind, presented in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health, Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center, and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson opened the conference with comments regarding the "It's a Matter of Life or Meth" campaign, the opioid settlement committee, and coalition-related efforts. Dr. Douglas Marlowe, senior scientific consultant for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, spoke about the lessons learned from drug courts and how they can be applied to the greater justice system. Dr. Kevin McCauley, founder of the Institute for Addiction Study, discussed the intersection of stress, trauma, and addiction. Author and comedian Jess Pettitt provided guidance and insight into having conversations that matter. The conference was closed by David Sheff, author of "Beautiful Boy" and advocate on the US Drug Crisis, Prevention, and Treatment of Addiction, who shared his family's experience in a talk regarding how every story of addiction is the story of a family.

Virginia

[Local drug court now in operation](#)

Martinsville Bulletin

Martinsville and Henry County now have a functioning local drug court.

Judge G. Carter Greer noted to the City Council at a regular meeting Tuesday night that he thought it was the first time he had ever addressed the members in Council Chambers, located just across the hall from his courtroom.

The new drug court is held “in Henry County Circuit Court because there are two court rooms there,” Greer said.

City Attorney Eric Monday said the city would be receiving its share of opioid settlement money through the Attorney General’s Office; and while some of the money is expected to go into the General Fund for the city, at least 50% of the proceeds must be used toward drug abatement, and the new drug court would meet that qualification.

West Virginia

[Justice applauds four Cabell County drug court graduates](#)

Herald-Dispatch

Cabell County Circuit Judge Gregory L. Howard said the program is intended to be completed in a year’s time, but the process varies for everyone...Howard said that when people do not believe that recovery programs can change lives, he thinks of [drug court graduate Adam] Fowler.