

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

September 10, 2021



### Indiana

#### [Allen County OWI court first in Indiana to be certified](#)

Fox 59

Participants entering the OVWI court are supervised by the Allen County Probation Department and other partnering local agencies. Problem-solving courts provide participants with various services — including medication-assisted treatment, substance-use disorder treatment, safe and sober housing, and cognitive-behavioral therapy programs — in hopes of lessening charges for those who are successful, according to the court.

[To date,] the court has had 107 participants.

### New Jersey

#### [Elected Officials Gather for Opioid Awareness Day with Ribbon Cutting and Vigil at New Flemington Treatment Services](#)

Tap News

In her tour with [assistant executive director John] Brady and [New Jersey Assemblyman Andrew] Zwicker, [Hunterdon County Commissioner Board Director Susan J.] Soloway spoke about “drug court” processes for young adults in New Jersey involved in minor crimes where drug use was involved.

“It’s a whole evolution as so many of the young offenders come back to express thanks for experiencing it, appearing in front of the judge and being held accountable,” she said. “I deal with many of the younger people who come back and have learned how they were on the wrong path.”

Brady noted that Flemington Treatment Services does have the ability to work closely with such a drug court, though the funding is not allocated, as Pinnacle/FTS can provide monthly reports for when a client must appear before a judge.

### New York

#### [Greene hit hard by opioids](#)

Hudson Valley 360

Drug treatment court is another potential way to reach people, [Laura Churchill, deputy director of Greene County Public Health] added. There has been a drug treatment court in the county for years, but next, the county is looking at a court specifically geared to opioid use to help guide people toward treatment for their addiction.

But the county also faces challenges in fighting the battle against drug addiction, she said.

“We don’t have a recovery outreach center in Greene County,” she said. “Stigma — when people feel that they’re being judged, they will not seek services, and that’s a huge, huge barrier in this county.”

The county does not have a detox facility or methadone treatment program.

“We don’t even have pain management, so somebody with legitimate pain who needs narcotics, we don’t have that service in Greene County, so people sometimes use illicit substances when they are in pain,” Churchill said.

### Tennessee

#### [Recovery Court Speaker, Grads Offer Messages of Hope](#)

Greenville Sun

“The opposite of addiction is connection,” [community navigator with the Ballard Health Strong Futures program Lea Anne] Spradlen said. “I want to spread a message of hope because recovery has done so much for my life.”

Spradlen also works with General Sessions Court Judge Kenneth Bailey Jr. three times a week to help mothers and fathers appearing in court get the treatment they need.

“I am so proud of her. She comes from a wonderful family here in Greene County. I appreciate she is willing to share her story,” Bailey said.

### Texas

#### [An Opioid Epidemic Within a Pandemic](#)

Austin Chronicle

Adding methadone to [the] Central Health’s Medical Access Program [MAP] list of approved medications is another priority for [the Texas Harm Reduction Alliance] THRA. Central Health’s health care coverage program for low-income residents doesn’t cover methadone, although it does include buprenorphine which like methadone is one of the primary medications used for [medication-assisted treatment for](#)

[opioid addiction](#). Currently, Integral Care is the only publicly funded clinic in Austin that offers methadone for indigent residents, but the demand exceeds capacity, meaning the waiting list can be nine months or longer. Meanwhile, THRA is helping fill the gap by paying for people to receive weeks of methadone treatment at a private provider, Community Medical Services [CMS], while they wait to get a state-funded slot at Integral Care. If MAP covered methadone — or if CMS was an approved Central Health provider — more low-income residents could receive methadone treatment.

Funding to address Austin’s opioid epidemic is one of several investments expected to be prioritized in the county’s fiscal year 2022 budget. In the preliminary budget released last week, there was a \$175,000 increase for methadone and medication-assisted treatment for a total of \$250,000. Commissioners are expected to adopt the budget at the end of September.