

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

December 17, 2021



National

[Judge Tosses Purdue Pharma's Opioids Deal That Shielded Sacklers](#)

Kaiser Health News

At issue for the federal judge: a measure in the bankruptcy settlement in the opioids lawsuits that would have protected members of the Sackler family from facing individual litigation. Purdue Pharma plans to appeal the ruling.

National

[Opioid Verdict Puts Health Systems Next in Line for Lawsuits](#)

Bloomberg Law

Health systems and companies collecting drug prescription data could be caught in the crosshairs of opioid liability following a federal jury finding that major pharmacy chains helped create the nationwide addiction crisis, attorneys say.

Walmart Inc., CVS Health Corp., and Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. join Johnson & Johnson, McKinsey and Co., and others in the drug supply chain that have faced blame for allegedly fueling an epidemic that's led to more than 800,000 U.S. [overdose deaths](#). A Cleveland panel [found](#) that the three pharmacy chains failed to properly monitor opioid prescriptions.

North Carolina

[Treatment for opioid use disorder – not separate but still unequal](#)

North Carolina Health News

Despite the widespread acknowledgment that SUD is a crisis irrespective of race and/or ethnicity, there are vast disparities in who has access to quality treatment and care. Few people of any race identified as needing SUD treatment actually receive it but the numbers are most abysmal for people of color: just 10 and 8 percent of Black and Latino individuals [respectively,] with substance abuse disorder according to [data](#) from SAMHSA. A [2019 national study](#) published in JAMA Psychiatry reported that more than 97 percent of people prescribed buprenorphine in an in-office setting were white.

North Carolina

[As Drug Overdose Deaths Soar, Addiction Experts Say Lawmakers Should Spend Money on Established Programs Offering Evidence-Based Treatment](#)

Indy Week

Medication assisted treatment is well documented to reduce opioid overdose deaths and help people with opioid use disorder live normal lives. But many groups receiving state money rely on older abstinence-based approaches to addiction recovery.

Tennessee

[Washington County reaching out to its neighbors on drug issue](#)

Johnson City Press

Members of the HEW Committee also heard from Criminal Court Judges Lisa Rice and Stacy Street earlier this month regarding a proposal they are developing for an inpatient drug treatment facility that would serve nine counties in Northeast Tennessee.

Street said the treatment facility would be modeled on the existing recovery court concept in partnership with the Families Free program. Street said proponents hope the abstinence-based residential treatment program can be located in the now-closed Roan Mountain annex of the Northeast Correctional Complex.

Texas

[County renews agreement for substance use treatment services](#)

Austin Monitor

One distinction between Austin and Travis County's contributions to the Integral Care interlocal agreement is that Austin's funds were restricted to only apply to individuals that are part of the Downtown Austin Community Court program, whereas the county funds apply to all qualifying individuals in the county. In the current interlocal agreement, the city contributes \$672,000 and the county contributes a little over \$1 million, which goes to substance use disorder treatment.

A county Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant also contributes \$218,000 designated specifically to individuals enrolled in the parenting and recovery family drug treatment court.