

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

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### National

#### [Mental health clinics angle for spot in Biden budget bill](#)

Associated Press

[Senator Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich] and [Senator Roy Blunt, R-Mo.] would give states the option of incorporating the clinics within their Medicaid programs, securing federal matching funds at an enhanced rate.

“We are finally putting in place quality, comprehensive services for mental health and addiction that will be funded the same as physical health services,” said Stabenow. In the House, Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Calif., leads the effort.

The lives of people with serious mental health problems and addiction lurch from crisis to crisis and don’t align with doctors’ office hours. Clinics must offer round-the-clock access to a broad range of services tailored to the client’s situation in the moment. Services include medication assisted treatment for addiction but also evaluation of physical health needs.

### West Virginia

#### [Teen drug courts work. But too many West Virginians don’t have access to one](#)

Mountain State News

Take Mingo County. Despite being one of the epicenters of the opioid epidemic (as well as media coverage of the crisis), the county doesn’t have a teen treatment court.

Mingo has only one circuit judge, who would have to apply for, set up, and then preside over the brand new juvenile drug court in addition to her already-crowded docket.

And even if they established a teen drug court, the county lacks the other supporting services they need. There’s no youth reporting center, and the treatment services for children are limited, according to [Teresa] McCune, who has served as a public defender and worked with children in the county for more than three decades.

**Wisconsin**[Federal grant to help fight opioid addiction in four WI counties](#)

WEAU

“We’ve seen an increase in substance use, you know, we’ve seen it in drug court, we’ve seen it in CPS—individuals that had been relatively stable and engaging in their recovery before the pandemic came along,” [Tim Easker, Chippewa County Human Services Director] said. “AA, NA, those meetings were shut down for a period of time.”

Even before the pandemic, in rural areas there have been barriers like distance preventing people from getting help.

“Transportation, access to treatment--that’s an issue in rural areas,” Easker said. “There’s a lot of poverty in the counties that are part of this grant.”

