

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

April 21, 2023



National

[“And then COVID hits”: A qualitative study of how jails adapted services to treat opioid use disorder during COVID-19](#)

Substance Use & Misuse (accepted for publication)

Jails in Massachusetts responded to COVID-19 in March 2020, soon after it was declared a national emergency. By April 2020, the Massachusetts Supreme Court directed jails to rapidly release certain incarcerated individuals with non-violent offenses as part of COVID-19 mitigation activities (Massachusetts Court System Archived Updates, 2020). Jails also implemented other new health and safety practices. Notably, changes in applicable regulations meant that jail-based MOUD programs could provide up to 28 days of take-home MOUD medication at release (BSAS, 2021).

Florida

[Volusia County, FL Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Gap Analysis](#)

University of Central Florida

When discussing funding distribution, stakeholders noted a lack of funding for services and providers and gaps in funding distribution for opioid addiction treatment. A stakeholder stated, “funding obviously you’re always going to need more money, money is what is going to allow providers to take action, money is going to allow us to provide them a controlled, safe environment to detox or receive treatment.”

Florida

[Flagler schools to keep Narcan on campus in case of overdoses](#)

News 6 Orlando

Flagler County Schools will become the first district in Central Florida to keep Narcan on its campuses.

The school board approved bringing the opioid overdose reversal drug to its schools Tuesday night. District leaders said all nine of the district schools, including elementary schools, will keep it on campus. Those who pushed for this said it most likely won’t be needed but could be life-saving if it is.

“It’s not just about substance abuse. It’s about accidental use which is happening all over,” said Michael Feldbauer, president of the Flagler County Drug Court Foundation.

Indiana

[Indiana chief justice: State should act to avoid ‘justice by geography’](#)

WISHTV 8

In 2018, Chief Justice Lorretta Rush was named co-chair of the [National Judicial Opioid Task Force](#). The task force addressed how the judicial system affects change.

One of the issues in Indiana’s “justice by geography” is funding, which is controlled by the Indiana General Assembly. Will state lawmakers have to bring the change?

“I think it will have to be and also, for smaller communities, you are going to see counties band together because they might not have the resources to have one, so a big push for me with the General Assembly this year is to fund the drug courts instead of funding the tail end, which is long periods of incarceration,” Rush said. “Doing the front end, we have about 4,000 participants in problem-solving courts a year, and that is growing, and that is 4,000 lives saved.”

New Hampshire

[How NH is using its opioid lawsuit payouts: ‘That money has to go back to helping those people hit the hardest’](#)

NHPR

Cheshire County plans to use some of its funds for drug court programming and to host trainings on substance use for local police. It’s also giving \$20,000 grants to two local recovery organizations.

New York

[Town hall meeting on May 3 in Batavia will tackle subject of medication for opioid use disorder](#)

The Batavian

Davis works with clients through Monroe County treatment courts – providing guidance and peer support, providing transportation for same day/next day inpatient admissions, and other services, including reentry into society following incarceration.

Virginia

[RCAHD offers education and resources for prevention and treatment of substance use](#)

Virginian Review

The Live Well Alleghany Highlands Substance Use committee supports the Alleghany Highlands Healthy Youth Coalition and activities such as Drug Take Back Day (April 22).

Partners have worked together to launch a drug court that supports individuals with substance use disorder in the court system.

Virginia

[Getting into, and sticking with, substance use treatment](#)

WMRA

Federal officials consider Winchester part of the Washington and Baltimore “High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.” WMRA’s Randi B. Hagi has the second of a two-part report speaking with those trying to loosen the hold illicit substances have on the region.

In yesterday’s report, we heard from drug court administrators in Winchester about how they combine the criminal justice system with substance abuse treatment for people with nonviolent charges who have struggled to stop using drugs. Part of that is helping participants recover from relapses – as long as the person is honest about what happened.

