

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

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PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

The Rural Justice Collaborative is partnering with the Institute for Coordinated Community Response to bring Day One of a virtual conference to practitioners focused on intimate partner violence and substance use solutions in rural communities.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

Coordinated Community Responses (CCRs) have been recognized as a best practice in reducing domestic violence since the Violence Against Women Act was enacted over 20 years ago and can be particularly effective in rural communities, where close-knit relationships and highly engaged community members provide an ideal jumping off point for collaborative efforts. However, with limited resources that must stretch further than their urban counterparts', it can often be a struggle to implement and sustain this approach.

ARTICLE

Date: Monday, Oct. 2 - Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023

Time: 8:30AM - 4:30PM CST

Register: [HERE](#)

WEBINARS

Click [HERE](#) to see a full list of workshops offered.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

PODCAST



RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Rural communities face unique challenges that impact their ability to deliver fair and equitable justice. Despite these challenges, rural communities rely on their many strengths to address the needs of their residents.

The National Center for State Courts, in partnership with Rulo Strategies, launched the [Rural Justice Collaborative \(RJC\)](#) to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlight the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems.

The work under the RJC is supported by a cross-sector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council guides and identifies innovative programs and practices.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

MENTAL HEALTH RESPITE FACILITIES ARE FILLING CARE GAPS IN MORE THAN A DOZEN STATES

Public health professionals say respite facilities can potentially play a significant role in addressing a national mental health crisis that accelerated dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially regarding suicide prevention. Respite can be especially important in rural America, where suicides increased 46 percent from 2000 to 2020, compared with 27.3 percent in urban areas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Rural residents also have 1 1/2 times the rate of ER visits for self-harm as urban residents.

WORKPLACE SUPPORT PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN MANAGING THE OPIOID CRISIS

The workforce plays a significant role in managing the opioid crisis. Employers can either hinder recovery and indirectly encourage opioid use or support the employee during recovery. Researchers at the Missouri University of Science and Technology are helping rural areas develop a community center to combat opioid use disorder through the Resilient Network of Workforce and Opioid-focused Rural Community Organizations or [R-NetWORC](#). One goal of the center is to improve employers' understanding of addiction and recovery so they can better help their employees rather than terminate them.

A RURAL HEALTH CLINIC'S JOURNEY TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

The need for behavioral health services in rural areas has never been greater, compounded by a lack of therapists. According to the Bureau of Health Workforce, 60.6% of Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSAs) are in rural areas. Much of east-central Illinois is rural, including Piatt County which is 94% cropland and pasture. When Kirby Medical Center started its behavioral health integration (BHI) program, there were no guidelines to help shape its structure. This article explores a rural clinic's success and challenges while developing its behavioral health integration program.



RESEARCH & REPORTS

CAN TEXT MESSAGES REDUCE INCARCERATION IN RURAL AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS?

Reducing failures to appear (FTA) in court is a top priority for criminal justice practitioners and advocates. However, existing work on reducing FTAs through text message reminders focuses on large urban jurisdictions and housed defendants. In this study, researchers explored whether text message outreach can increase court appearances for housed and unhoused populations in Shasta County, California, a rural county in Northern California.

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TELEHEALTH AND MISSED APPOINTMENTS AMONG PATIENTS EXPERIENCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

Missed appointments or no-shows can affect patients' health due to delays in timely care and inefficient use of healthcare resources. This study analyzed no-shows in rural Louisiana, where 19% of the patients did not have stable housing, and many lacked private residential space, internet connectivity, a sufficient cellular data plan, and regular income. Results suggest that telehealth was widely implemented after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it may have unintentionally prompted patients experiencing behavioral health challenges to miss their scheduled appointments at a rate higher than it would have been for in-person care.

ARTICLE

THE FRONTIER OF HARM REDUCTION: EXPANDING SERVICES FOR RURAL PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Opioid use, injection-related disease, and overdose deaths have surged in recent decades, making no exception for rural populations. This national epidemic is often compounded in rural and frontier communities by a shortage of treatment availability, increased stigma, and transportation-related challenges. In response, rural organizers across the country are testing innovative and sometimes controversial harm reduction strategies to expand potentially life-saving services to some of the most marginalized members of their communities.

WEBINARS

ESTABLISHING CONNECTIONS: INTEGRATING VICTIM SERVICES IN RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WEBINAR

This webinar, hosted by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA's) Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (RVCRI), provides an overview of how incorporating victim services into law enforcement agencies can benefit victims of crime, the agency, and the communities they serve. Strategies for providing victim services in rural communities, best practices, and lessons learned are shared. Speakers include Caroline Huffaker, Senior Program Manager at the National Policing Institute and former Victim Services Director of the Chattanooga, Tennessee Police Department and Amy Durall, Office for Victims of Crime fellow.

IMPROVING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH MEDICAID

People living in rural areas face multiple challenges when seeking behavioral health care, including workforce shortages, the need to travel longer distances to obtain care, and stigma. As a result, those living in rural areas have higher rates of unmet needs and higher suicide rates. Certain states have effectively utilized Medicaid funding to address these challenges to enhance behavioral health services for rural residents. This webinar hosted by the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) explores successful strategies implemented by North Dakota and Oklahoma and offers a thought-provoking conversation to foster knowledge exchange and collaboration.

PODCAST

RURAL ROADS PODCAST: THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING THOSE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

In this podcast, Michael Botticelli, the former Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, shares his lived experiences and sheds light on the importance of involving individuals in public health policy-making and life-changing decisions.

COSSUP Podcast Series: MAT in Rural Jails

This five-part podcast series by the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) features conversations with guests about medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in rural jails. This series allows listeners to learn from individuals providing MAT and recovery support within rural jails. Each of the five podcasts offers a unique perspective based on the role of the guest: a [jail medical staff administrator](#), a [peer specialist](#), a [community-based medical provider](#), a [MAT program coordinator](#), and a [jail administrator](#).

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