

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

July 15, 2022



### North Carolina

#### [How will county use \\$7.8M to combat opioids?](#)

The News Reporter

Some evidence-based practices to combat the opioid crisis Wiford [Syd Wiford of Addiction Consulting and Training Associates] cited at the meeting include crisis intervention training and mental health first aid training for all law enforcement officers; the establishment of a drug court in the county to allow those with a substance abuse disorder to enter long-term drug treatment plans under court supervision rather than receive a jail sentence; increased collaboration with faith-based institutions, especially for housing; and ensuring that there is adequate education about crisis intervention and substance abuse recovery options throughout the county.

### North Carolina

#### [‘Don’t Asheville our Madison County’: Residents concerned about opioid settlement options](#)

Citizen-Times

“The opioid settlement money coming into Madison County should be spent on our residents for evidence-based addiction treatment, not putting an addict in a low-barrier shelter and supplying them with crack kits and needles,” Sherry Morgan said. “We say choose Option B and help people on a case-by-case basis, which could also include money for drug court. Don’t Asheville our Madison County.”

“(Option) A and B were, and remain, only suggested options,” [Interim County Manager Norris Gentry] said. “This is very important, and to take care to develop what is best for each individual community.”

Whichever option the county chooses, it will be subject to meet certain criteria, according to Rachel Potter, the county health department’s MOUD/MAT program coordinator and bridge counselor.

## Pennsylvania

[Pa. court system says it's not responsible for county judges banning opioid addiction medication](#)

SpotlightPA

A fight between the U.S. Department of Justice and leaders of Pennsylvania's court system is playing out in federal court — and the outcome could have major implications for people who experience [opioid addiction and face criminal charges](#).

The federal agency sued the Pennsylvania court system in February, alleging that it discriminated against people with opioid use disorder. The Justice Department found that several county courts in the state system banned or limited the use of medication prescribed to treat addiction.

It's now arguing that the entire court system is responsible, as Pennsylvania's constitution gives the state Supreme Court "general supervisory and administrative authority over all the courts and justices of the peace."

## Virginia

[Warren County hears effects of sought-after drug court program](#)

The Northern Virginia Daily

The push for the Warren County program began in 2020 when Front Royal Councilman Gary Gillispie contacted Warren County Supervisor Delores Oates to see about starting one. The two, along with Coyne, Warren County Commonwealth's Attorney John Bell, the Northwestern Community Services Board, Valley Health, local law enforcement leaders, and recently retired Judge William Sharp have been working on it since. Sharp's replacement, Judge Daryl Funk, has said he is committed to establishing the program.