

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

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Alabama

[National Recovery Month: The stories of four people who have overcome their addictions](#)

WAFF

September is National Recovery Month.

It's a chance to recognize those who have overcome addictions.

"I got in trouble, and it got me in drug court," said Nelson.

"I went through a drug court program that kind of helped me get cleaned up," said Kazi.

"I went to treatment four times and then I ended up in drug court," said Ikerd.

All of them now share their stories with other men and women who are sitting where they used to be.

"It gives me hope that maybe I can help someone, and they can look up to me and say hey, if she can do it maybe I can do it to," said Lovelace.

Maryland

[Plans for drug recovery court cheered by QA commissioners](#)

Bay Times and Record Observer

Circuit Court Administrative Judge Lynn Knight introduced plans Sept. 14 for a problem-solving court in Queen Anne's [County] designed to offer resources to those dealing with drug addiction, an idea championed by the county commissioners during their first meeting since QA went purple in solidarity with victims of drug abuse.

According to Knight – who said she “didn’t really realize how far behind the times” the county was in relation to drug courts – while similar programs have taken root in Maryland for the last 25 years, Queen Anne’s is the only county in the state without one. The county’s only circuit court judge did acknowledge, however, that because of this position, the establishing process in QA could move faster because the county doesn’t need to “recreate the wheel.”

Michigan

[Rough recovery: Courts, jails slow to adapt to best practices for addiction treatment](#)

Record-Eagle

The change [Cyrus] Patson and his attorney, Jesse Williams, say they are seeking is for Grand Traverse County, its courts and its jail, to implement MAT – medication-assisted treatment — for those, like Patson, diagnosed with a substance use disorder.

“What I find most concerning in the district court is the lack of understanding of what’s happening in their own house,” Williams said. “People with opioid use disorder are not getting their medications in the jail. In my opinion, that’s wrong.”

MAT refers to the use of buprenorphine, methadone, or naltrexone, which when prescribed by a physician and used in conjunction with counseling, has been repeatedly found in clinical trials to be effective in treating opioid addiction.

West Virginia

[Residents struggling with addiction find ‘Brighter Futures’](#)

Coal Valley News

Boone County residents struggling with opioid addiction have one more recovery resource available to them, thanks to the work of Boone Memorial Hospital.

Brighter Futures offers a substance and mental-health treatment program.

This program came to fruition via a grant award from the State Opioid Response Grant SAMHSA Funding Opportunity, a community innovation for treatment access and retention.

The Boone Memorial Hospital Board of Directors earmarked additional funding to further develop and strengthen the initiative.

Brighter Futures serves as a hub for a larger program including the Quick Response Team — peer recovery coaches in the Emergency Room working as advocates for individuals in active addiction or recovery, while also working with local family and drug court initiatives.