






2021 Council of Accountability Court Judges Annual Training Conference

September 26-29, 2021


Full Agenda



Icon = Session livestreamed to virtual conference attendees. Virtual attendees can ask the presenter questions in a chat feature. Livestreamed sessions are also recorded.

Pre-Conference		Sunday, September 26, 2021
4:00pm-7:00pm	Early Check – In & Conference Attendee Meet & Greet (Networking)	
Day 1		Monday, September 27, 2021
7:00am-8:30am	Breakfast	
9:00am - 10:00am	Plenary	
	Collaboration in Cross-Functional Teams Cross-functional teams can be defined as groups of people with different functional expertise working toward a common goal. Comprised of judges, drug court coordinators, prosecutors, defense council, treatment providers, community supervision representatives, law enforcement, case managers, etc., accountability courts fall within the definition. The true question is “how can cross-functional teams collaborate effectively?” This session will examine the importance of organizational alignment, understanding the roles of others, communication, and managing conflictive in creating and maintaining effective cross-functional teams.	
10:00am - 10:30am 	Awards Ceremony Recognition of 2021 STAR awards, Family Treatment Court and Veterans Treatment Court Model Courts, the Data Driven Award and Judge Stephen S. Goss Award recipients	
10:30am -11:00am	Break	
11:00am - 12:15pm	Breakout A (8 sessions)	
	Treatment Modality and Dosage: A Treatment Court Approach This session will describe the various treatment modalities and dosage levels that are appropriate to treat substance use disorder and other co-occurring mental health needs. Learners will understand how to determine the appropriate level of care for drug court participants based on clinical need and client input. Learners will understand the importance of integrating client voice into treatment planning and re-assessing participants throughout the duration of drug court participation.	



	<p>Addressing Conflict within Cross-Functional Teams</p> <p>All teams experience conflict. The way we handle our disagreements or conflicts can determine the successes or failures in our organizations. Is it more difficult to manage conflict in cross-functional teams? This session will discover the various types of conflict and the effect on the organization. This session will also examine the Five Dysfunctions of a Team with a specific focus on fear of conflict and artificial harmony.</p>
	<p>Sanctions and Due Process: What Process is Due?</p> <p>Sanctions in accountability courts pose legal and constitutional issues that have not been clearly defined by appellate courts anywhere in the country. The constitutional requirements implicated by sanctions, particularly those imposing jail time or other loss of liberty, are a source of controversy and strong opinions among team members. This session will provide an overview of the legal and constitutional issues raised by sanction procedures in accountability courts, as well as a case law update on appellate legal authority from across the country. Different models of sanctioning procedures will be presented, and advantages and disadvantages of each approach will be discussed, as well as best practice recommendations and current research.</p>
	<p>“We built it! Now we need them to come.” Identification, Referral, and Early Engagement in FTCs</p> <p>Identification of potential family treatment court (FTC) participants, referral, and early engagement are three of the most common challenges cited by FTC practitioners. Research and practice experience indicate that 60-80% of substantiated child welfare cases have substance use and co-occurring disorders as the underlying cause of the abuse or neglect. And even though numerous studies point to the critical importance of early engagement in quality treatment and other services on child welfare and recovery outcomes, substance use is often not identified early in the case. Even when identified, these families may not be referred to the FTC or the parents may refuse admission. Georgia legislation, regulation, and policy have the potential to either complicate or facilitate this process. This session will examine the best practices associated with identification, referral, and early engagement and feature a discussion with members of the Muscogee County FTC team.</p>



Utilizing the Voices of Lived Experience in Recovery Alongside Clinical Treatment Models

This session will provide a detailed look at services offered for individuals struggling to find sustained recovery from opioid addiction. Peers in Recovery from Opioid Use & Dependence (PROUD) is a comprehensive system of care with integrated approaches from all practices. As an opioid treatment program, PROUD utilizes medication assisted treatment (MAT) as a support for a client's recovery, but they do so in a dynamic way. The focus of the program is not primarily on the medication but instead on enriching the client's development of recovery capital for ongoing sustainability. This presentation will inform attendees of the change that results from creating a culture of person-centered care. The emphasis is on the power of the certified peer specialist to develop rapport, to advocate for best practice, and to connect clients with clinical, community, and natural supports that enrich the recovery process and improve treatment outcomes.

Veterans Court Challenges and Adaptations During the COVID-10 Pandemic





This presentation reviews the challenges faced by the Appalachian Judicial Circuit Veterans Court during the COVID-19 pandemic. It reviews timelines and events and the many changes that were necessary to cope with the disruption of normal procedures and operations. Specifically, it considers whether some of these changes led to unforeseen efficiencies and improvements to not only program administration but that may have improved staff and veteran interaction, daily communication, and program efficacy. As a result, several of these changes will likely be maintained for normal, post-pandemic operations. The presentation explains how program administrators quickly put new policies and procedures in place that used methods familiar to veterans. It also looks at how military culture and core values enhanced both participant and staff ability to respond to frequent changes, uncertainty, and the inevitable stress caused by the pandemic.



Understanding Adolescent Behavior through a Trauma Informed Lens

This session will focus on the importance of understanding JDTC client behavior through the lens of adolescent development, trauma, and substance use. The session will review important research on the impact of trauma, racism and substance use on the developing brain. Participants will be provided with practical tips and techniques of how to respond to youth behaviors and needs within the juvenile treatment court setting.



	Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines: The Big Picture, The Critical Details - Part 1 <p>The module introduces participants to the history, development, and operations of Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts (JDTCs). Much like their adult counterparts, JDTC programs have moved through stages of development and operations. To provide a framework based in research and evidence, the OJJDP Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines were introduced in 2016. This session explores the history and research to date, the conceptual framework of the Guidelines, and provides participants with an overview of each of the Guidelines. Participants will learn practical tips for implementation of the Guidelines. This is a two-part session. The first session is focused on understanding the Guidelines, while the second session is focused on new research and transferring the Guidelines into practice.</p>
12:15pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:45pm - 3:15pm	Mini Plenaries
	The S Word Film Screening <p>THE S WORD is a powerful feature documentary that puts a human face on a topic that has long been stigmatized and buried with the lives it has claimed. The film gives a platform to those with lived experience – people who have attempted to take their own lives and survived to tell their stories. These are the voices that have been silenced for so long, and their stories could save lives. Capturing personal revelations and surprising moments of humor, THE S WORD opens a door on this most taboo of subjects through the eyes of the people who have been there and are now committed to preventing others from getting to that edge.</p>
	Managing Wellness for Children & Teens During Crisis <p>The impact of a crisis can affect children and young people directly and indirectly. Young people’s social, emotional, and mental well-being are impacted during a crisis. This session provides resources to adults serving children and young people by helping them recognize the mental health challenges and provide tips to help ensure their well-being.</p>
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Break
	Panel Discussion Post Film <p>The panel discussion will feature The S Word film director, Lisa Klein and subject matter experts to discuss the film and share perspectives with the audience.</p>
	Managing Wellness for Children & Teens During Crisis - Continued End of Day






Day 2		Tuesday, September 28, 2021
7:30am-8:30am	Breakfast	
8:45am - 10:00am	Opening Plenary	
	You Can't Stop What You Don't Know – Current Alcohol and Drug Trends and Identifiers During this plenary, Jermaine Galloway, known as the "Tall Cop," gives the audience a deep dive into recent drug trends. The session teaches the knowledge and ability to identify those who might be abusing drugs and/or alcohol and educates attendees on items identified to defeat drug tests and how drug testing can be a part of your prevention program. Participants are taught the recent alcohol and drug abuse trends associated with the coronavirus pandemic, as well as new vape trends, including marijuana concentrates and drug concealment methods.	
10:00am - 10:15am	Keynote Speaker	
10:15am - 10:45am	Break	
10:45am - 12:00pm	Breakout B (8 sessions)	
	Kratom and Other Herbal/Non-Traditional Drug Use Terms and Trends Kratom is a substance well known to state agencies and quickly making its way into metro communities. The popularity of the drug Kratom (a.k.a. Mitragnyna Speciosa, the plant name) has continued to increase among all age groups. This session will highlight the popularity of Kratom, where it can be purchased, why and how people use it, and its side effects.	
	Responding to Behaviors- Incentives, Sanctions & Therapeutic Adjustments - Part 1 This series of workshops will review the scientific principles of behavior change and provide extensive information on the practical application of these principles with physical distance guidelines in place (e.g., during the pandemic) and when in-person activities resume. Part 1 focuses on how to engage participants during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as includes a discussion of team member roles and communication. We will cover the importance of understanding individual participant risks and needs in determining appropriate responses to behavior and how to provide incentives, sanctions, therapeutic responses, and monitoring while protecting participant and team member safety and well-being during the pandemic.	

	<h3>Secondary Traumatization and Self-Care in the Courts</h3> <p>Courts staff who work in criminal courts are exposed to people who have been traumatized and stories of trauma daily. Often these people and cases take a psychological toll on the people who hear them. As a result, they may become depressed, irritable, angry, tired, and anxious. When these experiences become continuous rather than occasional, secondary traumatization may result. This presentation will also provide specific tools to help court staff engage in self-care so that they can successfully continue to engage in the important work they do rather than burn out.</p>
	<h3>Emerging Opioid Court Models</h3> <p>Justice systems across the country have developed new strategies to respond to the opioid overdose crisis in their communities. Opioid Courts and Overdose Avoidance and Recovery (OAR) parts are two new models that have emerged as a response to this crisis. The session will cover the opioid crisis in the justice system, describe the models, and discuss implementation considerations. These new models are designed to save lives through preventing overdose through immediate engagement in treatment services, including Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). Learners will gain knowledge on these new innovative models.</p>
	<h3>Applying Ethics to Treatment Professionals in Accountability Courts - Part 1</h3> <p>This course is designed to examine how various clinical ethical codes are applied in accountability court settings. In Part 1 of this course, attendees will review ethical codes and how they apply to the various roles comprising accountability court teams. In Part 2 of this course, attendees will explore specific scenarios and discuss how to navigate challenging ethical dilemmas such as sanctions and limits of confidentiality.</p>
	<h3>Addiction as a Brain Disease - Part 1</h3> <p>This two-part presentation is for professionals who work with individuals challenged with a substance use disorder. The workshop will teach the body of knowledge from recent research relevant to the neurobiology of substance use disorders, and a review of the latest neurotransmitter and neurohormonal research on the impact of psychoactive chemicals on the brain will be the primary focus of this presentation. An overview of the “anti-reward brain system” and the reason that a substance use disorder causes a detaching effect on human bonding will be included in this seminar.</p>



	<p>Overview of Mental Health Disorders</p> <p>This session provides an overview of mental health disorders, beginning with a general definition of mental illness and then going through the major categories of mental health disorders using the DSM-V. We will provide incidence and prevalence data, as well as discuss certain diagnostic criteria and key characteristics across a spectrum of mental health disorders. While all major categories are introduced, we will focus on those disorders most likely to be seen in accountability courts. We will also discuss the primary behavioral manifestations of the broad categories of disorders, as well as focus on the co-occurring disorders. We will end with a discussion of evidence-based treatment strategies designed to address mental health disorders.</p>
	<p>Family-Centered, Comprehensive Case Plan – What is it and how do we do it?</p> <p>Research and practice experience point to the importance of actively engaging parents, children (when appropriate), and supportive family members in the development of a comprehensive, family-centered case plan, but the process to reach this ideal can be complicated. This session will explore what best practice and research indicates should be included in the case plan and discuss how to harmonize individualized case plans with family treatment court (FTC) phases. Team members from the Hall County FTC will share challenges of and strategies for meeting case plan requirements for DFCS and treatment, engaging family members, and the creation of a document that can drive decision-making and responses to behavior in the FTC.</p>
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 2:45pm	Breakout C (8 sessions)
	<p>Coping with a Participant's Overdose: When the Unthinkable Becomes Inevitable</p> <p>The session provides an overview of addiction and some practices towards preventing and coping with overdose in accountability courts. We will discuss the need to respond to participant overdose in a coordinated, comprehensive, collaborative, and compassionate manner. Several recommendations and resources will be provided during the session. Attendees will learn the nature and extent of the current drug overdose, including some of the key factors responsible for overdose; learn and become familiar with prevention-focused approaches to reducing drug overdose deaths; and learn healthy ways you can help your team and participants navigate through a participant's overdose death.</p>




	Responding to Behaviors – Incentives, Sanctions & Therapeutic Adjustments - Part 2 Part 2 focuses on staffing, including a review of effective incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic responses and an introduction to a Response Matrix that provides guidelines for selecting appropriate and fair individualized responses to behavior.
	Applying Ethics to Treatment Professionals in Accountability Courts - Part 2 This session is a continuation of Applying Ethics in Accountability Courts Part 1. In Part 2 of this course, attendees will explore specific scenarios and discuss how to navigate challenging ethical dilemmas such as sanctions and limits of confidentiality
	Liberating Latinx Communities: Understanding the Intersection of Oppressive Systems and Trauma This breakout session will address the intersections of oppressive systems and trauma in the lives in Latinx communities. Some studies indicate that substance use and abuse are growing steadily within Latinx communities in the United States. Unexamined, it is easy to assume that the problems lie solely within individuals and families. The consequence of negotiating contextual factors that create inequitable distribution of resources and opportunities must be understood to develop strategies in developing culturally relevant services. Understanding the use, and abuse, of substances must include an analysis of systems of oppression that create stressful and deleterious conditions for many Latinx communities. The presenter will address the need to see Latinx communities beyond what can be seen and measured.
	Trauma and Substance Abuse and the Impact on Military Families This presentation addresses the links between trauma, mental health disorders, and substance abuse disorders in military veterans and the impact on their families.
	Addiction as a Brain Disease - Part 2 This session is a continuation of Addiction as a Brain Disease Part 1.





	Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines: The Big Picture, The Critical Details - Part 2 This session is a continuation of Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines: The Big Picture, The Critical Details Part 1. The second part of the session is focused on new research and transferring the Guidelines into practice.
	Encouragement, Engagement, and Accountability – Effective Behavior Responses in a Family Treatment Court Family Treatment Courts (FTC) seek to support behavior change in parent participants through the provision of services and supports including lots of structure and accountability. This session will review the research behind behavior change and explore how Rockdale County FTC shifted their practice to align with the research. Rockdale team members will also discuss their concerns about making this practice shift and the changes they have experienced in participant engagement.
2:45pm - 3:00pm	Break
3:00pm - 4:15pm	Plenary Session
	Team Building Roundtable Discussions: Table Talks This session is a roundtable discussion with the members of your accountability court team. During the session, participants will use a series of guided to questions to debrief and discuss their perspectives about the 2021 annual training conference, define team goals and additional discussion topics. Virtual attendees are encouraged to connect with their team members remotely (via Zoom, WebEx, Teams, etc.) and participate in the roundtable discussion.
4:15pm	End of Day
6:00pm -7:00pm	2021 Conference Wellness Activity
	Professional Self-Care: Your Duty to Decompress Treat yourself to an experiential yoga session designed to help you recover from burnout and protect you against vicarious trauma. In the session, you will be guided through gentle movement sequences, rhythmic breathing practices and empowering visualization techniques, while seated in your preference of a chair or on a yoga mat. Expect to develop competency with 3-5 mind-body practices and learn why it is your duty to implement them at work, home or in the courtroom. The class includes complimentary access to a downloadable reference booklet and two customized Yoga Nidra audio files; one mini session, and a full session.





	<p>Please note this class is appropriate for all levels and abilities, you are invited to bring a towel or small blanket for additional comfort, the practice space/room will be set up with a chair and yoga mat for each attendee and end spaces are available for attendees using wheelchairs.</p> <p>Attending the wellness activity requires an RSVP during registration and a signed participation waiver.</p>
Day 3	Wednesday, September 29, 2021
7:30am - 8:30am	Breakfast
8:45am - 10:00am	Breakout D (8 sessions)
	<p>Planning for a Cyber Crisis: Managing Your Accountability Court's Information</p> <p>Information security is of key importance to maintaining the integrity of court programs, minimizing legal and financial risks, and safeguarding participants' confidential information. Not only do program staff have a legal obligation to implement best practices in information security, we have an ethical responsibility to be aware of trends, risks, and dangers regarding sensitive information. This session will provide attendees with an understanding of the risks and liabilities of information security breaches, including real-world examples, basic security practices including document control, common attacks, and device controls to safe proof accountability court information and more.</p>
	<p>Ethics and Professionalism for Defense Attorneys</p> <p>This panel explores the nuanced ethical and professionalism challenges faced by defense attorneys in accountability courts in Georgia. The problem-solving, non-adversarial model poses unique challenges for defense attorneys, who must remain zealous advocates while also acting as collaborative members of a larger team working together toward a common goal. Defense attorneys must be careful to define their role as advocate and attorney for participants, advisor to the team, or both. Panelists are seasoned members of their teams, and they will share their experiences wrestling with the ethical challenges posed by their service on an accountability court team and will reflect on how professionalism in the practice of law manifests in the accountability court context.</p>

	<p>A Nudge from a Judge - Part 2 We're Back!</p> <p>This is a panel of experts who will share both information and experience with the implementation of the following modalities: community collaboration, response to Covid-19, and enhancing the path to the aftercare continuum. The Power Point presentation will provide actual testimonies, as well as data that demonstrates our outcomes. This presentation is not only motivational, but it is a must-see for combatting compassion fatigue. This presentation shows outcomes of the Rockdale Resource Court. They will hear directly from Superior Court Judge Nancy Bills, Superior Court Judge Robert Mumford, Commissioner Doreen Williams, Project Developer Bill Carruthers, and alum Tanisha Character.</p>
	<p>Reaching the 33%: How Do We Stop the High-Risk Impaired Driver?</p> <p>Every year approximately one million individuals in the United States are arrested for drunk driving. Research shows that about two thirds of the first-time DWI offenders never commit a subsequent drunk driving offense. However, the other third continues to drink and drive despite multiple convictions and the sanctions that accompany these offenses. In fact, over 73% of high-BAC drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes are repeat offenders. How can practitioners determine which of these individuals is most at risk to reoffend and how can they be stopped? This interactive presentation addresses the three components of effective management of high-risk drunk drivers: assessment, supervision, and treatment. Topics will include the use of DWI specific risk/need screening and assessment, evidence-based community supervision practices, and comprehensive treatment programs specifically designed for individuals convicted of multiple DWIs.</p>
	<p>Engaging Participants Through Therapeutic Jurisprudence</p> <p>Best practices tell us that recidivism is successfully driven down by the judge spending a minimum of three minutes during each court session addressing individual participants, but what are they supposed to be discussing? Sometimes three minutes can feel like a long time, so how do we overcome this challenge? Over the past six years, Douglas County Chief Judge Eddie Barker and Clinical Director Joshua Nation have successfully developed an approach to judicial interactions which empowers the judge to bring therapeutic concepts and examples from treatment into the courtroom, reinforcing treatment goals and case management interventions. Participants will learn how to use treatment curricula topics to empower judicial interactions and meet the 3-minute goal, how to reinforce treatment plans and case management from the bench and how to successfully incorporate feedback to the Judge in developing more meaningful conversations with participants.</p>



	<p>Why and How a Swift, Certain, and Fair Sanctions Pilot Program Involving High/Risk Needs Probationers Needs to Be Assessed</p> <p>The goal of the session is to deliver information that enhances participants' understanding about why it is important to assess the effectiveness of Georgia's Swift, Certain, and Fair (SCF) Sanctions Pilot Program and how a team from Georgia State University will do this. After attending this session, participants will learn and understand the rationale behind evaluating the pilot and the important questions the evaluation of the pilot project is trying to answer. The session will also discuss how the pilot project will go about answering these important questions, discuss the importance of research partnerships for evaluating the effectiveness of criminal justice programs and practices and discuss the importance of research partnerships for identifying and implementing evidence-based criminal justice programs and practices.</p>
	<p>Developing Alumni Groups for Accountability Courts</p> <p>Accountability courts are extremely successful in Georgia. Many participants make tremendous strides while enrolled and thrive with the support of treatment teams, community resources, and peers. But how can we keep participants engaged after graduation? Alumni groups give participants the opportunity to stay connected to the support systems they have used to create and maintain a life of meaning and prosperity. The Developing Alumni Groups for Accountability Courts session will walk your team through the initial steps of planning and developing this important support system for your participants. The session will provide real-life experiences from an alumni group leader and instructional materials to help your program develop an alumni group.</p>
	<p>Building the Bridge Together: Combining resources through communication, referrals, and cooperation to support Mental Health participants in our courts and communities</p> <p>Accountability Courts are faced with the behavioral (mental) health challenges with respect to participants, their families, support, advocacy, recovery, and aftercare. After participants graduate, it is critical that judges and teams consider the aftercare support of their graduates to help combat recidivism. In this session, court personnel will be apprised of NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Health) and their legacy and signature programs that are provided throughout the state. Additionally, how NAMI GA and courts can work together to provide support for youth and adult participants with family support groups, peer to peer groups, crisis intervention training for frontline workers (law enforcement), and volunteerism.</p>



10:00am – 10:15am	Break
10:15am - 11:15am	Closing Plenary
	Recovering Recovery When the Opioid epidemic collided with the global pandemic, the Recovery World perhaps took the greatest hit of all. We often say that Connection is the opposite of Addiction, but “sheltering in place” created isolation for many people in recovery removing the lifeblood of their disease. Treatment centers had to figure out how to provide virtual treatment, respond to rapidly changing quarantine recommendations to keep the population safe, and quite frankly many just gave up and shut down. The devastated economy left many people homeless, and the court systems resorted to virtual treatment leaving many loopholes in place for their participants. Mental illness skyrocketed and people responded by drinking more alcohol and abusing drugs. The number of people needing addiction treatment increased rapidly and has remained 10 – 20% higher than pre-pandemic levels. So, where do we go from here?
11:15am – 11:45am	Closing Message & Recognition of Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program Graduates
	Join CACJ leadership for the closing message and recognition of the inaugural cohort of Carl Vinson’s Institute of Government’s Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program graduates!



Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program Courses	
Monday, September 27 @ 2:00-5:00pm	Succession Planning & Delegation During the first course, Succession Planning & Delegation, participants will have an introduction to the concepts behind succession planning and their role in it. They will learn the importance of training and developing other employees so that their organization has “bench strength” ready when it is needed. The course will also examine the role delegation plays in developing employees and making the organization more effective. Participants will discuss the role that policies and standard operating procedures play in establishing organizational sustainability. Participants will also develop sample standard operating procedures during class. This class is limited to 30 coordinators – onsite attendance is required.
Tuesday, September 28 @ 8:30-11:30am	Accountability and Advocacy The second course, Accountability & Advocacy, will begin by providing an overview of how governments are structured and operate at the local, state, and federal levels, and how accountability courts fit into this picture. This course will provide a basic understanding of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and how it applies to accountability court participants, as well as cover rules that govern how to effectively advocate for an accountability court. This class is limited to 30 coordinators – onsite attendance is required.