



Video on Demand Agenda

2021 Council of Accountability Court Judges Annual Training Conference

September 26-29, 2021

Registered conference attendees will have access to the following recordings on demand until March 31, 2022. Recordings are available for viewing purposes only and CEU credit is not available.

Monday, September 27, 2021

Opening Plenary

Collaboration in Cross-Functional Teams

Eric Robinson, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

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.

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

Breakout A (8 sessions)

A1: Treatment Modality and Dosage: A Treatment Court Approach

Alejandra Garcia, Senior Program Manager, Center for Court Innovation

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.

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A2: Addressing Conflict within Cross-Functional Teams

Eric Robinson, Carl Vinson Institute of Government

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.

A3: Sanctions and Due Process: What Process is Due?

Alison M. Lerner, Senior Staff Attorney, Judicial Council/ Administrative Office of the Courts

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.

A5: Utilizing the Voices of Lived Experience in Recovery Alongside Clinical Treatment Models

Jonathan Barr, CADC, CPS-AD, MATS, Advantage Behavioral Health System

Catherine Mills, CPS-AD, CPRP, MATS, Advantage Behavioral Health System

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.

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Mini Plenaries

Roles & Responsibilities of Direct Service Staff Working with Young Adults in Crisis

Dr. Lucy R. Cannon, LCSW, LICSW, CCDP-D, and MATS, LEJ Behavioral Health Services, LLC

Staff are responsible for the management of inmates and individuals in crisis in these settings. It is imperative that staff identify and demonstrate certain competencies when managing young adults in crisis. According to Poston, “In a crisis, people want to know three things: What happened? Why did it happen? And what is being done to make sure it doesn’t happen again.” It is therefore necessary for staff to effectively demonstrate guidance, skills, and sensitivity when working with young adults in crisis, whether they are in correctional or other healthcare settings. This training is designed to help correctional facilities and health care organizations staff effectively manage crisis while being culturally sensitive to young adults in these settings. Staff will learn effective ways to engage this population, while helping them learn how to develop and utilize coping skills to manage crisis. A you tube video and case scenario activity will be used to assist staff with how to effectively treat individuals in crisis.

Mini-Plenaries Continued

The S Word Film Screening Panel

The Honorable Charles Auslander III, Athens-Clarke County State Court, CACJ Vice-Chair

R. Jayvone Hicks, Chair of the State Bar's Wellness Committee

Rachael Holloman, Georgia DBHDD Office of Behavioral Health Prevention Suicide Prevention Program

Lisa Klein, The S Word, Film Director

The Honorable Shondeana Crews Morris, DeKalb County Superior Court, Chair of the State Bar's Suicide Awareness and Prevention Committee

Beth Pelaccio, Accountability Courts Director Mountain Judicial Circuit

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.

Roles & Responsibilities of Direct Service Staff Working with Young Adults in Crisis – Continued

This session is a continuation of Part 1.

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Tuesday, September 28, 2021

B3: Secondary Traumatization and Self-Care in the Courts

Dr. Brian Meyer, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, and the Psychology Program Manager for Community-Based Outpatient Clinics at the Central Virginia VA Health Care System

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.

B4: Emerging Opioid Court Models

Alejandra Garcia, Senior Program Manager, Center for Court Innovation

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.

B6: Addiction as a Brain Disease - Part 1

Dr. Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

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.

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Breakout C (8 sessions)

C4: Liberating Latinx Communities: Understanding the Intersection of Oppressive Systems and Trauma

Miguel Gallardo, Psy.D., Associate Professor of Psychology Program Director, Aliento, The Center for Latina Communities, Pepperdine University

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.

C5: Trauma and Substance Abuse and the Impact on Military Families

Dr. Brian Meyer, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, and the Psychology Program Manager for Community-Based Outpatient Clinics at the Central Virginia VA Health Care System

This presentation addresses the links between trauma, mental health disorders, and substance abuse disorders in military veterans and the impact on their families.

C6: Addiction as a Brain Disease - Part 2

Dr. Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

This session is a continuation of Addiction as a Brain Disease Part 1.

C8: Encouragement, Engagement, and Accountability – Effective Behavior Responses in a Family Treatment Court

Kirstin Frescoln, Center for Children and Family Futures

Judge Maureen Wood; Rockdale Family Treatment Court

Elizabeth Smith, Coordinator, Rockdale Family Treatment Court

Jennifer Cline, Attorney, Rockdale County 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.

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Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Breakout D (8 sessions)

D2: Ethics and Professionalism for Defense Attorneys

Melissa Banker, Forsyth County Drug Court, DUI Court, and Mental Health Court

Valerie Cooke, Carroll County Adult Felony Drug Court and Mental Health Court

Rochelle Gordon, Henry County Adult Felony Drug Court

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.

D4: Reaching the 33%: How Do We Stop the High-Risk Impaired Driver?

Mark Stodola, Probation Fellow, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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.

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D5: Engaging Participants Through Therapeutic Jurisprudence

The Honorable Eddie Barker, Douglas County DUI/Drug Court

Joshua Nation, Douglas County DUI/Drug Court

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. Through this presentation, attendees will garner new communication skills, staffing approaches, and feedback loops which will empower judges in their judicial interactions while integrating treatment principles and recovery language into the judicial review hearing.

By attending this session, participants will learn the following objectives:

- 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.
- How to successfully incorporate feedback to the Judge in developing more meaningful conversations with participants.

D6: Why and How a Swift, Certain, and Fair Sanctions Pilot Program Involving High/Risk Needs Probationers Needs to Be Assessed

Miranda Bauman, John Prevost, Ph.D, Dr. William Bill Stabol

Georgia State University

This session will enhance 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. Participants will learn the important questions the evaluation of the pilot project is trying to answer. The session will also 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.

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D8: Building the Bridge Together: Combining resources through communication, referrals, and cooperation to support Mental Health participants in our courts and communities

Kay Demott, Keith Gray, Mary Maxion
NAMI of Georgia

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.

Closing Plenary

Recovering Recovery

Missy Owen, Davis Direction Foundation

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?