



NEWSLETTER

August | 2022



From the CACJ Staff



CACJ is pleased to announce our recent approval from the National Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) as an Approved Education Provider. NAADAC is deemed the nation's largest addiction focused professional association. The NAADAC Approved Education Provider program highlights a continuing education provider's commitment to quality education and dedication to excellence.

NAADAC Approved Education Providers offer training and education for addiction professionals who are seeking to become certified/licensed and for those who want to maintain their certification/license at the state or national level.

The NAADAC Approved Education Provider emblem signifies that an organization has voluntarily opened its educational programs to examination by the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCCAP) for content applicability to state and national certification standards. This rigorous review process ensures that learners receive a consistent, reliable, and quality learning experience that is applicable to their careers and advances their understanding of addiction-related issues.

CACJ as a NAADAC Approved Education Provider offers Georgia's accountability court addiction professionals an extra incentive towards accruing continuing education credit, thus minimizing retention challenges for employers.

Current learning opportunities may be found on the CACJ website: <https://cacj.georgia.gov/training>.

Submitted by Keisha Ray, CACJ Treatment Fidelity Monitor

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Cobb County Drug Treatment Court Graduation

On Monday, July 11, 2022, the Cobb Drug Treatment Court held a hybrid commencement ceremony to recognize the accomplishments of three DTC participants. Cobb Superior Court Judge Kimberly Childs and Drug Treatment Court staff congratulate Caleb, Jeff, and Jason, the newest graduates of Cobb's Drug Treatment Court.

Submitted by Porsha Middlebrook, Cobb County Drug Treatment Court Coordinator

Towaliga Accountability Court Graduation

The Towaliga Accountability Court program held its 62nd graduation ceremony on Friday, July 8, 2022 with the Honorable William A. Fears presiding. Mr. Thomas Vacca was honored that day as the program's 201st graduate! He had spent time living out of his car and struggling with food insecurity before finding his way to treatment and then eventually into the Drug Court program. Throughout the program, he consistently worked hard and proved through his actions that he was determined to make a change. For his final Capstone Project, he chose to give back to his community by purchasing food to deliver to those in need, and he visited local treatment facilities to encourage many familiar faces. On his graduation day, he had the opportunity to speak about everything he had learned and the ways he was able to give back to his community.

The Towaliga Accountability Drug Court program honors every participant who succeeds in completing requirements to graduate. Our graduation ceremony is a testament to the hard work of the individual and the invaluable second chance offered by this program. On July 8, the courtroom was transformed into a place of celebration, reminding all in attendance that our choices directly impact our life course, and that hope is never out of reach. We celebrate with all graduates, like Thomas, who have chosen to take the better road.

Submitted by Steve Giglio, Towaliga Accountability Courts Director



DeKalb County Drug Court Graduation



On July 1, 2022, the DeKalb County Drug Court, with presiding Judges Stacey Hydrick and LaTisha Dear Jackson, held a graduation ceremony. Mr. James McCombs successfully completed the Track 1 Drug Court program. Mr. McCombs began the program in the fall of 2019. Throughout his time with the Drug Court program, Mr. McCombs became a mentor for several of the participants, and many of them came to him for words of encouragement. Mr. McCombs was well known for using positive affirmations to help not only himself, but others get through difficult times.

The keynote speaker for the graduation was Danny Hydrick. Mr. Hydrick is the son of Judge Stacey Hydrick and spoke openly about his personal struggles with addiction. His story was one of courage, tenacity, and strength. He talked candidly about his family's unconditional love and the many times he faltered by returning to his addiction. His story lets us know that addiction has no socioeconomic status, race, or creed and that its grip has no boundaries. Currently, Mr. Hydrick is an intern with the DeKalb County Public Defenders' Office and is currently in active recovery.

Mr. McCombs ended the graduation with his own story of what aided him throughout his time in the DeKalb County Drug Court program. He thanked the judges, staff, and the participants for helping him daily and for providing him with the skills necessary to remain clean and sober.

Several stakeholders, including three past graduates, attended the graduation. Among them were DeKalb County Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, Sheriff Melody Maddox, and Ms. Deirdre Pierce with the DeKalb County Board of Education.

Submitted by Lasheika Kassa, DeKalb County Accountability Courts Director

Colquitt County Accountability Court Graduation



The Colquitt County Accountability Court is proud to announce that on July 27, 2022, the program recognized the graduation of a stellar participant, Mrs. Kimberly Coleman.

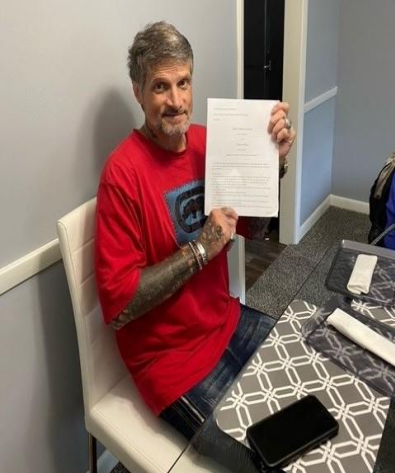
This particular individual overcame more than your average participant while enrolled in our program. As Kim was entering Phase 4 (weeks from graduation), she was involved in a serious car accident that left her and two family members in the ICU for several weeks. CCAC was truly concerned for her well-being and monitored her recovery closely.

Months of physical therapy and hard work paid off and on July 27, 2022, she not only received her graduation certificate but now serves as a program volunteer and support apprentice to active participants.

In the company of friends, family members, and fellow participants, the judge handed over more than a framed piece of paper, he gave this participant, and everyone else in that room who was struggling, hope...and as the applause of the crowd echoed off the walls of our judicial center, it was a good day for drug courts. A local representative from NAMI was also in attendance and presented Mrs. Coleman with a congratulatory gift.

Stories like this one make this job more than worth it. To anyone out there questioning whether Accountability Court programs work, I say this, "Attend one graduation ceremony, just one...and you will see for yourself."

Submitted by Jennifer Fabbri, Southern Circuit Accountability Courts Director



Fulton County Accountability Court: Rapid Rehousing Program

Fulton County, in partnership with CACJ/CJCC and DCA, were delighted to be able to place the first two participants in Rapid Rehousing on July 21. The lease signing was an emotional time for both Mr. McClain and Mr. Carter. There were tears of joy from participants and staff alike! Mr. McClain was especially proud to be not only getting his own place but signing his first ever lease. Stable, long-term housing, that the participants can truly call their own, is a true blessing but also a major step forward in rebuilding their lives.

This was all made possible via the Accountability Court Housing Grant Program, and Fulton County would like to say a special THANK YOU to Taylor Jones, Alison Lerner, Britney Hough, and the rest of the CACJ/CJCC team who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to make this program a possibility. We would also like to say a big THANK YOU to our housing case management partners at ViewPoint Health. Randi Atkinson was on hand from the beginning of the process to the lease signing, making sure everything went to plan! And finally, Sharon Reaves, the Fulton County Drug Court Coordinator, was on hand every step of the way to make sure the participants had everything they needed to settle into their new home.

Submitted by John Collins, Fulton County Accountability Court Director

Walton County Resource Court: Walton Wellness Food Rx Program



As the clarion call for mental health sounds across the nation, Walton Wellness completes Walton County's first Mental Health Food Rx Program with referrals from Walton County's Resource Court. The Food Rx program utilizes the power of the written prescription to create a cognitive link with participants between healthy habits, food, and their wellbeing.

"The opportunities for our participants to learn about the relationship between healthy food choices and physical health and learn practical cooking skills and techniques to accentuate healthy food choices is invaluable. Physical wellbeing directly affects self-confidence and mental wellbeing. Walton Wellness, through Food Rx, provides a safe and comfortable learning environment, which is another important resource to help our participants move forward successfully in life," said Superior Court Judge Jeff Foster, presiding judge for the Walton County Resource Court.

The Food Rx program provides nutrition education, cooking classes, and access to free produce for Resource Court referred participants.

Each Food Rx cohort is together for six months. The first three months are spent in combination nutrition education and cooking classes. Alex Lundy, Health Education Coordinator for Walton Wellness, alongside Sous Chef Rosalind Simmons educate participants about healthy eating and healthy cooking. During the three-month education component, participants are provided all the ingredients for recipes which they have practiced cooking in class. This aids in retention, compliance, and integration of the new foods and practices learned in class. After three months of prescription provided from the Field Garden twice monthly for the remaining three months of the program.

“I just got home and have been going through the bags of vegetables and herbs, and I just want to say thank you again for all your hard work and dedication in teaching your hard work and time to help others. And now I am making my son and myself some salad for dinner and some other veggies”, said a recent participant.

“The goal of our Food Rx program is to increase knowledge and implementation of healthy eating habits, healthy cooking methods, and new recipes, fresh herbs, and spices, all while decreasing food insecurity. By combining nutrition education, hands-on cooking classes, and provision of free and healthy food, we enable our participants to make true lifestyle changes over the course of an interactive and supportive six-month program. Using this type of program design in work with the mental health services and holistic case management that the Walton County Resource Court provides is truly innovative, and we are so excited to be a part of this partnership working in Walton County”, said Alex Lundy, Health Education Coordinator for Walton Wellness.

In 2022, use of the Field Garden, located on the grounds of the Walton County Sheriff’s Office, was expanded to include providing fresh fruits and vegetables to a mental health cohort, as well as a physician referred cohort, for patients who have been diagnosed with a lifestyle chronic illness such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure. The garden is operated by Walton Wellness, Inc. and, with the help of Walton County inmates, able to harvest a donatable bounty each year.

“Walton Wellness sets the goal for this cohort as increasing knowledge of healthy recipes, cooking skills and use of fresh herbs and spices, as well as self-reported evidence of an increase in cooking with fresh ingredients at home and decrease in regular consumption of processed foods”, said DeDe Harris, Executive Director, Walton Wellness, Inc.

Walton Wellness, Inc. has its eyes set on program expansion. In a few months, Walton Wellness’ second Food Rx cohort for 2022, with attendees referred by local clinicians, will be complete, as well.

Written by DeDe Harris, Walton Wellness Executive Director, and submitted by Robert Fox, Newton and Walton County Resource Court Coordinator

Conasauga Circuit Drug Court: 20th Anniversary

The Conasauga Circuit Drug Court is celebrating its 20th year of helping participants turn their lives around. To mark the occasion, the staff is asking some of the past graduates to talk about how Drug Court has made a big difference in their lives.

Drug Court will also hold a 20th Anniversary Party on Sept. 21 at the Stage 123 Rock Bridge Church, 123 W. Gordon St. in Dalton. The public is invited.

Richard Morrison Jr., who entered Drug Court in December 2016 and graduated on May 23, 2019, shares the uplifting story of what the program has meant to him and his wife, Trista.

To read the full article: <https://www.chattanoogan.com/2022/6/22/451296/Conasauga-Drug-Court-Celebrating-20th.aspx>

Article appeared on www.Chattanoogan.com June 22, 2022; Written by Mitch Talley, Whitfield County Director of Communications; Submitted by Terry Sosebee, Conasauga Drug Court Coordinator

Fulton County DUI Court: 15 Anniversary



In conjunction with its 15-year anniversary, the State Court of Fulton County and Fulton County's Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) will host its DUI Treatment Court Graduation on Thursday, June 23 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Fulton County Government Center's Assembly Hall, 141 Pryor Street, SW, Atlanta.

The DUI Treatment Court Program is a post-conviction treatment program for those who have multiple violations of driving while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants. In addition, it is a judicially supervised treatment program that takes place for a minimum of two years. The program provides enhanced supervision, and individual and group treatment sessions to assist participants in making healthy lifestyle changes while gaining insight and knowledge about their disease of addiction. Since the program's inception in 2007, the Fulton County DUI Treatment Court has worked diligently to provide a better quality of life by promoting sober living and healthier lifestyles for repeat offenders. The most conservative estimate is that DUI Courts reduce DUI relapses and general criminal relapses approximately 12% better than other sentencing options. Keeping this in mind, Fulton County's DUI Treatment Court has grown to include two treatment and drug testing facilities to accommodate all of Fulton County.

Fulton County's DUI Treatment Court hosts four graduations each year, and approximately 10 participants will be recognized during the June 23 graduation ceremony.

"Graduation is the acknowledgement of the hard work and challenges that participants face while in the program," said Bradley Jones, Behavioral Health Program Manager, State Court DUI Treatment Program. "Sobriety is not an easy road, and many participants face multiple challenges. This event allows everyone to come together and applaud their hard work."

To participate in the County's DUI Treatment Court program, eligible candidates must complete the following requirements: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy clinical treatment, complete the Risk Reduction Program (DUI School), complete a Victim Impact/MADD Panel, submission to random home visits, random drug testing, participate at compliance reviews, and community support meetings such as AA/NA. Fulton County's DUI Treatment Court provides focus and leadership for community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality, and significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce substance abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other justice strategy.

Written by Erica Miller, Fulton County Department of External Affairs, and submitted by Bradley Jones, Fulton County DUI Court



Model Courts Feature

The goal of Georgia’s Accountability Court Model Court program is to recognize the great work of accountability courts across the state, as well as identify strong programs that may serve as mentors for other courts. Programs identified as Model Courts are those that have met and exceeded adherence to Georgia’s Standards as dictated by strong performance on certification and peer review processes. To recognize the talent and expertise of the accountability court community, each month CACJ will recognize a model court or two and their work in the substance use and mental health fields.

Appalachian Judicial Circuit Veterans Court Model Veterans Treatment Court (2022-2025)



Appalachian Veterans Treatment Court Team Members

From left to right:

Chris Holt - Appalachian VTC Coordinator,
Chief Superior Court Judge Brenda S. Weaver – Presiding VTC Judge,
Susan Baucom - Appalachian Judicial Circuit Assistant District
Attorney assigned to the Accountability Courts,
Superior Court Judge John Worcester – Presiding HELP Court Judge
and alternate VTC Judge, and
Clint Hooker – Chief Public Defender

Not Pictured:

John DiRenzo – VTC Case Manager
Brandy Hamby – Treatment Provider

Court Type: Veterans Court

Presiding Judge: Chief Superior Court Judge Brenda S. Weaver has been the presiding judge since the court’s inception in 2013.

Coordinator: Chris Holt has been the Coordinator since program inception.

Inception Date: September 2013

Number of graduates to date: 48

Current Program Census: 20

Recidivism Rate: 8% of graduates in the last nine years have had a new arrest

Innovative Practices/Unique Programming:

Mr. Holt: “We utilize ‘The Depot’ and ‘EG House’, which are homeless shelters for men and women, specifically for participants in our Accountability Courts. Veterans can live in the home if they are homeless or do not have a safe sober living environment. The homes provide shelter, food, and transportation. Participants can also attend meetings there.”

“We use incentives for every court review and strive to recognize progress. We regularly use the following incentives: verbal praise, 100% compliance drawings to win a \$25 gift card, participants’ fees paid on time drawing to win a \$25 gift card, flag lapel pins, certificates of achievement, coins, curfew extension, fast pass for court or drug screens, incentive wheel to win gift cards, fee credits, toilet paper, laundry detergent, etc., and higher phases have reduced court reviews. The participants who are 100% compliant go first in the court reviews.”

“During the Christmas holidays we have a special ‘Christmas Wheel’. We use the following Christmas incentives: mini-Christmas trees, wrapping paper and bows, Christmas mug, Christmas toilet paper, Christmas blanket, and socks. We plan to start this for other holidays, as well.”

“We recognize birthdays once a month by gifting participants with a birthday card, singing ‘happy birthday’, reviewed first in court, and an individually packaged cupcake.”

“We partner with local doctors to help provide participants with medically assisted treatment services and other medical and dental services.”

“We had a local veteran’s organization provide us with ‘Stars’ from US flags that have been PROPERLY retired with a note thanking them for their service and informing them the flag still waves because of their sacrifice.”

Why do you choose to preside over the accountability court?

Mr. Holt: “Judge Weaver states to everyone that presiding in Accountability Courts and in adoption proceedings are the best part of her job as a Judge. She feels that she can positively change a person’s life and his/her family by presiding in these courts. She is always blessed when she is told by a participant or his/her family members that she saved their life or helped make their life so much better. She hopes to encourage, by her example, more judges to preside in Accountability Courts so that every person who wishes to be in an Accountability Court has the opportunity to participate no matter where he or she lives in Georgia. Judge Weaver is especially passionate about Veterans Court, as her husband is a Vietnam Veteran. She firmly believes that every veteran should have a chance at treatment.”

What are you most proud of in terms of the program’s success? What do you hope to accomplish as a model court?

Mr. Holt: “I am proud that we were one of the first VTCs in Georgia. Those who served our country certainly deserve a second chance. They deserve an opportunity for treatment rather than incarceration, especially since some of the problems our veterans are working through are a result of service to our country. We are also very proud we were named a model court for the State of Georgia. We hope to be able to help other courts implement a VTC or improve an existing VTC. We stand ready to go travel to any court that may need our assistance.”

What is something you wish you knew at program inception that you hope to impart to newer courts?

Medically assisted treatment for participants and less use of jail for sanctions.

Anything else you would like to add?

Mr. Holt: “Good treatment is the basis to make a court successful. Make sure your courts are getting GOOD evidenced based treatment.”



Newton County Drug Court Model Adult Felony Drug Court (2020-2023)



Newton County Drug Court Team Members

From left to right:

Honorable Ken Wynne – Presiding Drug Court Judge
Greg Chapman – Case Manager
Teri Doepke – Defense Attorney
Dep. Veronica Williams – Law Enforcement
Amber Dally – Assistant District Attorney
Nora Manning – Certified Peer Specialist
Wes Long – Coordinator
Damien Kellam – Treatment Provider

Not Pictured:

April Stanton – Community Supervision Officer
Gina Hutto – Court Services Director
Alyssa Johnson – Treatment Provider
Xavier Ferguson – Treatment Provider
Dr. Amber Mohn – Treatment Provider
Lt. Michael Cunningham – Law Enforcement
Dep. James Muse – Law Enforcement

Court Type: Adult Felony Drug Court

Presiding Judge: Honorable W. Kendall Wynne, Jr. has presided over the court since program inception.

Coordinator: Wes Long has been the Coordinator since program inception.

Inception Date: February 1, 2013

Number of graduates to date: 125

Current Program Census: 30

Recidivism Rate: 21%

Innovative Practices/Unique Programming:

Mr. Long: “One of the innovations that has paid dividends is the Certified Manufacturing Associates Program offered by Georgia Piedmont Technical College. We had two participants graduate from this program and get jobs immediately in the

Manufacturing sector in the community. The jobs pay very well and allow them to support themselves. The partnership with Georgia Piedmont is a great asset to the Court and its participants.”

Why do you choose to preside over the accountability court?

Judge Wynne: “I was skeptical when I first heard of accountability courts. In the past, we were sold boot camps and diversion centers as solutions to curbing criminal behavior, only to be disappointed when those did not deliver promised results. However, after attending a seminar on the science of addiction sponsored by the NADCP, I decided to give drug court a chance, and it has not disappointed.

The data and research tell the overall success story of accountability courts, but it’s the individual success stories in the lives of drug court participants that I love and that have the greatest impact on me, our team, and our community. I love stories of redemption and restoration, and I get to read those stories in real life every week in drug court, as people trapped in addiction begin to reclaim their lives and regain the trust of their families and loved ones. There is a tremendous amount of joy in seeing them thrive and flourish.

As a Christian, I see history as the story of God at work redeeming and restoring all His creation. To me, the redemptive and restorative work of accountability courts is just a small part of God’s greater work. And that’s one thing that makes getting out of bed in the morning certainly worthwhile.”

What are you most proud of in terms of the program’s success? What do you hope to accomplish as a model court?

Mr. Long: “Our program’s success comes from the dedication of the entire team. We have six team members who have been with the program since its inception on February 1, 2013. I am also proud that we have been able to double the number of maximum participants accepted into the program from 25 to 50. We have also been able to accept Walton County participants due to the growth of the program (the other county included in the Alcovy Circuit). The program also has twice as many graduates as the number of terminations. As a model court, we hope to assist newer courts in establishing their program. We have served as a mentor for a court that was going through several personnel changes. I believe that it is important for all teams to be willing to assist other courts whether they are an established or new court.”

What is something you wish you knew at program inception that you hope to impart to newer courts?

Mr. Long: “Early in our program, I think we terminated people that we would not terminate today. I would suggest newer courts not to be so quick to terminate a participant.”



CACJ Seeks Experienced Trainers to Participate in Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI™) Trainer Training Program for Accountability Courts

Application Deadline: August 12, 2022

CACJ is now soliciting applications from experienced trainers (individuals) who are interested in developing their skills to train new users to administer the LS/CMI tool. The program aims to assist CACJ in becoming self-sufficient in the administration of the tool and the onboarding of new accountability court staff. Selected applicants will learn to facilitate the training via a virtual Train-for-Trainer (T4T) event and subsequently deliver the training program in their local jurisdictions.

The CACJ is offering this event at no cost to experienced trainers who successfully complete the application process. Interested team members should contact Kimberly Howard with questions. Please complete the application and read additional information about the opportunity [here](#).

An Exciting Pilot Project Announcement: RED Assessment

The Council of Accountability Court Judges was contacted by a team of experts at the American University (AU) who developed a Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Program Assessment Tool to help accountability courts identify and examine areas where racial and ethnic disparities may exist in their court programs.

AU, in partnership with the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), is working with accountability court judges and coordinators in conducting assessments of existing racial and ethnic disparities in their courts and developing concrete strategies for addressing such disparities. The RED assessment tool will help CACJ to achieve its vision of making accountability courts work to benefit all Georgians.

CACJ is looking for courts interested in participating in this pilot project.

Accountability court pilot project eligibility: At this time adult felony drug courts, adult mental health courts (serving a co-occurring population), veterans' treatment courts, and DUI courts operating for at least one year will be able to participate in the pilot project. Please read the full announcement and review the pilot's projected timeline of events in the July 2022 CACJ newsletter.

On **August 10, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.** AU and CCI will present on the RED assessment during the first portion of the FY23 data webinar. All interested and eligible courts should plan to attend to learn more. Please sign-up to attend the webinar [here](#).

September 2022 Newsletter Submissions

Please send submissions for the September 2022 newsletter to Debbie Mott (Debbie.Mott@GeorgiaCourts.gov) by Wednesday, August 31. If you plan to include a photo where participants can be identified, please be sure to send a signed photo consent with your submission.



Georgia Accountability Courts Career Opportunities

Please see the Career Opportunities tab (under About Us) on the CACJ website for information about these job postings:

- | | |
|---|--|
| *Griffin Judicial Circuit Contract Counselors | *Fulton County Behavioral Health Clinician II |
| *Henry County Case Manager | *Henry County Behavioral Health Clinician |
| *Columbia Judicial Circuit Accountability Courts Coordinator | *Cherokee Judicial Circuit Mental Health Counselor |
| *Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Drug Court Coordinator | *Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Case Manager |
| *Columbus Family Treatment Court Coordinator | *Forsyth County Contract Counselors |
| *Glynn County Lead Clinical Director | *Cherokee County Case Manager |
| *North Enotah Judicial Circuit Accountability Courts Coordinator | |
| *DeKalb County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Social Worker | |
| *Gwinnett County Behavioral Health Court Coordinator (Juvenile Court) | |

JOB OPENING

Virtual Office Hours

Wondering about something? We are here to help
Wednesday! Join CACJ Staff for virtual office hours!



Who: CACJ Teams – Data, Executive Director/Legal/Grants, Standards & Certification, Training, and Treatment

When: One Wednesday of the month from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (times changed as of August 1, 2022)

Where: Zoom – We are pleased to offer this new form of technical assistance!

Why: Virtual office hours give you the opportunity to ask your questions and receive support in a streamlined fashion. You can meet with CACJ Staff on a regular basis to stay informed and get the answers you need.

Meeting Schedule

August 31, 2022 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Get questions answered regarding the 2022 annual training conference at the Classic Center in Athens, GA

September 7, 2022 **Cancelled!**

October 5, 2022 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Rachel Meyer will answer your Data questions

November 18, 2022 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Staff will answer questions about Certifications

December 7, 2022 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Staff will answer Treatment Session questions

February 8, 2023 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Staff will answer questions about the FY23 grant application



After two years of hosting events as completely virtual or hybrid, CACJ is excited to gather with the accountability court community and return to Athens for the 2022 Annual Training Conference.

Overview

The CACJ 2022 Annual Training Conference will feature over 45 training sessions in different subject tracks presented by nationally recognized speakers, partner agencies, and accountability court professionals. CACJ anticipates a full line-up of vendors offering services to your accountability court that attendees can connect with.

Logistics

The CACJ 2022 Annual Training Conference will be an in-person only event. Participation is limited to eight team members per adult and juvenile accountability court; however, family treatment courts can register 10 team members. State-funded accountability courts received funding in the program's FY23 Operating Grant Award to support conference attendance.

Registration

Registration for the conference opened on Monday, July 11, 2022. **Accountability Court Coordinators are the point of contact to register team members for the conference. Only coordinators (person listed on the CACJ directory as the point of contact) received the email from the ICJE Event Coordinator, Ms. Laura Kathryne Hogan, with instructions to register team members and a link to the hotel room blocks for overnight lodging in Athens.** Registration for conference attendance will end on September 16, 2022.

Early registration is encouraged as classes and hotels are booked on a first come, first served basis and can fill up quickly. If there are questions about your registration or you experience technical difficulties, please email for assistance. A summary of conference FAQs is found [here](#).

Award Nominations

Nominations opened July 11, 2022! The deadline to submit nominations is August 5, 2022.

As in years past, CACJ wants to recognize team members across the state for their hard work and dedication to accountability courts. Start thinking about the people who you work closely with on your court team and consider nominating them for an award. CACJ will recognize one person from various team roles for the STAR Award.

The following categories are open for STAR Award nominations:

- Case Manager
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Coordinator/Director
- Defense Attorney
- DFACS Case Manager
- FTC Attorney (SAAG, Parent Attorney or Child Attorney)
- Judge
- Peer Support Specialist
- Prosecutor
- Probation
- Law Enforcement/Surveillance Officer
- Treatment Provider
- Veteran Mentor Coordinator

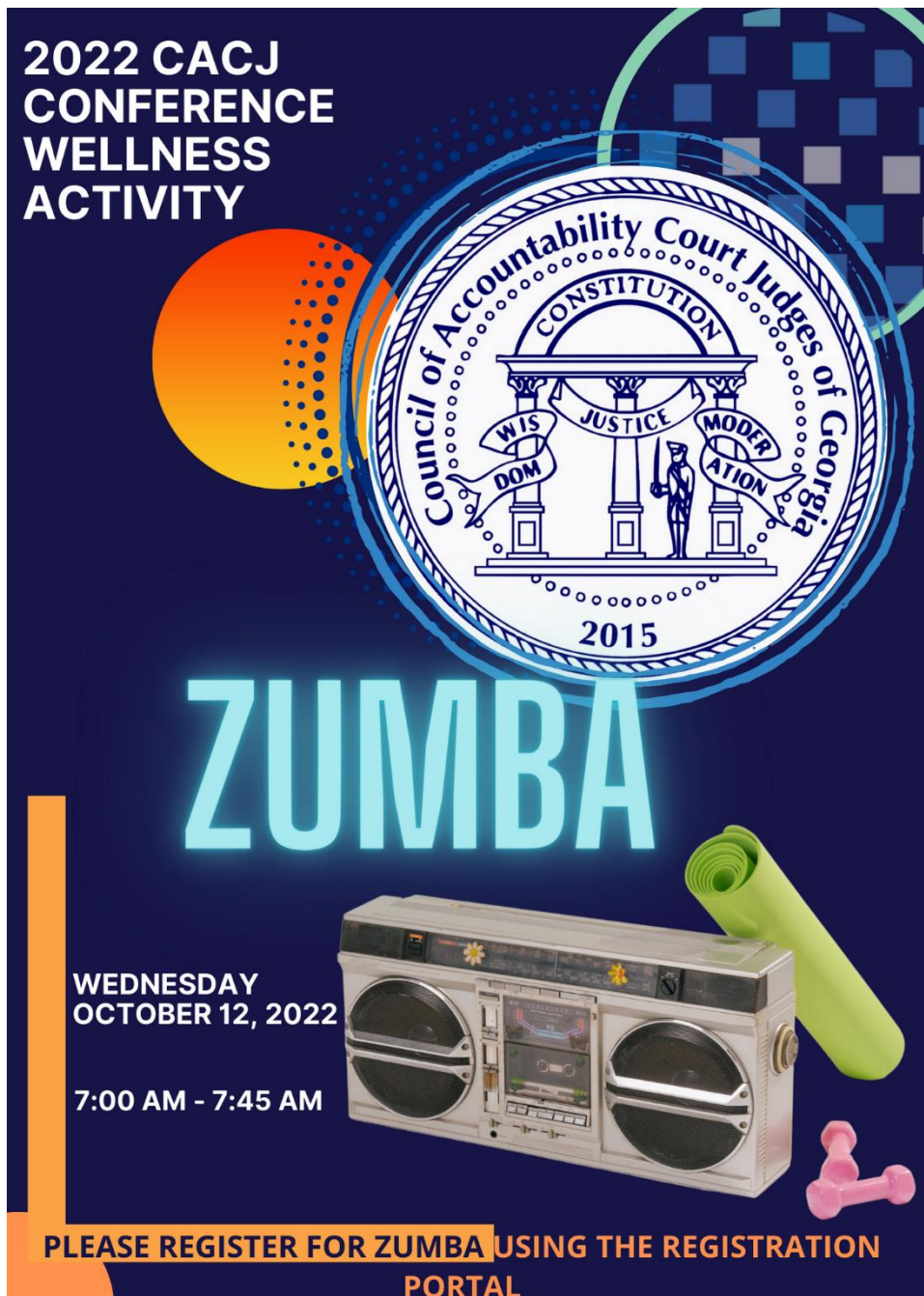
One outstanding individual from a mental health court will be recognized for their contributions in the field for the Judge Stephen S. Goss Award and one outstanding individual will be recognized for their contributions in the accountability court community for the Tommy Day Wilcox Award.

CACJ created the Data Driven Award to reward programs who fully utilize data and their case management systems to improve program and participant outcomes. The Data Driven Award provides both recognition and financial support (up to \$15,000!) for continued program evaluation. Information on prior inaugural award recipients can be found [here](#).

Nomination instructions for each award are found [here](#).

Updates

Continue to monitor your inboxes for conference updates from the CACJ. There are many exciting activities and details pending confirmation – please don't miss out! The most up-to-date information is found on the CACJ website [here](#). CACJ anticipates sending bi-weekly updates about **What's New in 2022** regarding continuing education hours, team building and wellness activities, and the mobile app in the months ahead.



**2022 CACJ
CONFERENCE
WELLNESS
ACTIVITY**

ZUMBA

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 12, 2022**

7:00 AM - 7:45 AM

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR ZUMBA USING THE REGISTRATION
PORTAL**

The poster features a dark blue background with a large, glowing orange and yellow sun on the left. In the center is the official seal of the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia, which includes the text "CONSTITUTION", "COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA", and "2015", along with a central figure holding a scale and a banner that reads "WISDOM JUSTICE MODERATION". Below the seal, the word "ZUMBA" is written in large, glowing cyan letters. At the bottom, there is a silver boombox, a rolled-up green yoga mat, and a pair of pink dumbbells.