



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

DECEMBER 2020

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ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS NEWS

NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Submitted by Jessi Emmett, Treatment Services Director



The Georgia Addiction Counselors Association (GACA) recognized Heather Herrington as Counselor of the Year at the annual Fall Conference on October 26, 2020. This prestigious award is presented to one counselor each year who deserves special recognition for his/her contributions to the field of addictions counseling. "I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Herrington for over 10 years and believe her to be a true example of the absolute best our field offers. She is an incredible counselor and an advocate for our profession," said Jessi Emmett, Director of Treatment Services. Ms. Herrington currently serves at the Assistant Director of Treatment Services, the agency umbrella for the accountability courts in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit (Hall and Dawson Counties). Ms. Herrington provides clinical supervision and oversight for all staff and directs all treatment delivered by the agency. "I'm very honored," Ms. Herrington said. "I've been a Certified Addiction Counselor since 2007, and I feel very strongly about the importance of our work. It has been a difficult year and many people have turned to drugs or alcohol to cope. I hope that I've been able to make at least a small positive impact on those peoples' lives and their families."

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT GRADUATIONS

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Submitted by Talina Landestoy, DeKalb County Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator

On November 17, 2020 the DeKalb County Veterans Treatment Court (DCVTC) graduated its first female participant! She served with the Army Reserves for seven years and was a part of her high school and college ROTC program. After some unfortunate life events involving drugs and alcohol, she worked her way into the criminal justice system. She volunteered to enroll into the DeKalb



County Veterans Treatment program 23 months ago. She entered the program nervous, lost, and unsure of herself or where her life was heading.

Today, she presents herself as her true self - a confident, determined, goal-driven individual who loves being an active and reliable mother, sister, and daughter to her beloved family. She has found a new sense of peace and self-love through her journey with DCVTC. Her future plans consist of returning to college for her master's degree, catapulting her daughter's dream of going to medical school, and continuing to grow her faith, peace, and prosperity.

The DCVTC Team is grateful that during this time of separation we can still find a way to come together to celebrate great achievements from our participants. Community leaders attended the celebration, Commissioner Cochran-Johnson was our guest speaker, DCVTC alumni showed their support, our DCVTC mentors were front and centered, and the entire DCVTC team was present. Although not in person, it was still a wonderful and fulfilling graduation ceremony. The DeKalb County Veterans Treatment Program continues to find innovative ways to keep treatment going and hope alive in our clients!

NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Featured in [The Gainesville Times](#) and written by Nick Watson

First Hall Drug Court Group Graduates from Lanier Tech Skills Program



(Former Governor Nathan Deal shakes hands with Larry Galvez as part of a Drug Court pilot program ceremony Friday, Nov. 13, 2020, graduating participants who completed a training program at Lanier Tech for job preparedness. - photo by Scott Rogers)

Nearly three years ago after a time of partying and selling drugs, Larry Galvez said his attorney gave him three options: years in prison, a prison-based rehab program or Drug Court.

The third door, one of Hall County's accountability court programs that seeks rehabilitative solutions outside of incarceration, was Galvez's choice.

"It was very challenging for me, but I made it through," Galvez said. "I know if I could do it, everybody else can do it. You just have to put your mind into it."

Galvez and eight others were recognized Friday, Nov. 13, as the first cohort, or group, in the state of Georgia to graduate from a workforce development program through Hall County Drug Court.

Participants of the "workplace fundamental skills training" program, which was a partnership between Drug Court, Lanier Technical College and WorkSource Georgia Mountains, completed 120 hours of instruction in areas such as computer training, electrical, welding, forklift operation and other professional skills. The costs were covered by a grant from Lanier Tech and WorkSource Georgia Mountains, said Hall County Treatment Services Director Jessi Emmett.

"We are so proud of our participants and their accomplishments," Emmett wrote in an email. "Each individual put many hours into their studies and now have a stronger foundation for better employment and a brighter future for themselves."

Working the third shift, Galvez would finish work at 7:30 a.m. before heading to the Lanier Tech programs. "I had to drink a lot of coffee," he said.

Lanier Tech's vice president for economic development Carl Rogers said the program's genesis came three years ago after a call from former Gov. Nathan Deal's office. "Governor Deal has always had a passion that people should have a second chance," Rogers said.

The former governor handed the graduates their certificates and spoke at the ceremony about this experiment that the participants proved to be a success. Deal said he predicts "that you're going to see a wealth of job opportunities opening up."

"We're all very, very proud of each one of you," Deal said. "I hope you're proud of yourselves. You should be. As has already been said, this is not the end. This is just the beginning as a step that will hopefully be very beneficial to you in the future." The nine participants who completed the Lanier Tech manufacturing skills curriculum are moving on to different paths. Some are pursuing their GED, while one person working in Lawrenceville wants to "use his creativity skills to start his own company," said Drug Court coordinator Suzanne Stanley.

(Kristina Smith receives a certificate from former Governor Nathan Deal in the first cohort of a Drug Court pilot program Friday, Nov. 13, 2020, graduating participants after completing a training program at Lanier Tech for job preparedness. - photo by Scott Rogers)



One woman is employed with Fox Factory as a result of her participation in the Lanier Tech program, and others are interested in continuing their education at Lanier Tech.

"Take advantage of this," said Lanier Tech executive vice president Tim McDonald at the ceremony. "Never forget that you're writing your own history book, and today you closed a chapter. ... What's the next chapter? Think about what that is and let us help you. There's plenty of people that will support you."

Superior Court Judge Clint Bearden, who presides over the accountability court along with Judge Jason Deal, said the program provides practical skills for manufacturing careers "given the growth of that sector that we're fortunate to have" in Hall County.



"It opens a pathway to have skills in those areas that could lead to employment with those manufacturing companies and/or promotion within those companies, creating better financial opportunities for some of our participants and some skilled workforce members for manufacturers," Bearden said in a statement. "Like a college degree, not everyone that did the program works in manufacturing currently, but if they wanted to explore that career path, they have some marketable skills in that arena now due to this program."

(Lanier Technical College Vice-President for Economic Development Carl Rogers welcomes participants Friday, Nov. 13, 2020, in the first cohort of a Drug Court pilot program that have completed a training program at Lanier Tech for job preparedness. - photo by Scott Rogers)

COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES NEWS

MEET THE NEWEST CACJ TEAM MEMBER – KEISHA RAY, MSW, MA

Submitted by Lasheika Kassa, CACJ Treatment Fidelity Program Manager

CACJ Welcomes the Newest Team Member and Treatment Fidelity Program Monitor

Keisha Ray has over seven years of professional experience in the mental health, substance use, and gerontology field. She earned her Master of Social Work in Advanced Clinical Practice degree in 2020 from Saint Leo University, in addition to her Master of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from the University of West Georgia. From 2013 to 2017 she worked as a resource specialist and program coordinator at Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) providing community and home-based services to adults, families, and individuals with disabilities. In her role of program coordinator at TRRC, Keisha monitored a federal and state funded program covering 24 counties, provided training for host agencies around the state, developed a regional computer training workshop for the community, and strengthened partnerships with community liaisons and other governmental agencies while serving



on the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act board (WIOA). In 2018, Keisha was awarded the opportunity to supervise a mental health outpatient program, serving individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses and/or substance use addictions. Other responsibilities included monitoring and managing state budgets from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), providing community lunch and learns, and being a key team member of interdisciplinary treatment teams. Through her dedication and leadership, the program's state goals increased by 40% in less than six months. Most recently, Keisha served ex-offenders on probation and/or parole by facilitating and managing cognitive-based intervention programs designed to help participants improve coping skills, maintain recovery, and relapse prevention by utilizing cognitive behavioral, motivational interviewing, and solution-focused treatment modalities. Keisha's greatest professional passion is helping others succeed and become better individuals today than they were yesterday.

CACJ AND GEORGIA COURTS FEATURED BY THE NATIONAL DRUG COURT RESOURCE CENTER

Newsletter

December 2020



**National Drug Court
Resource Center**

Featured State



Georgia

Georgia courts found a unified and effective way to manage accountability court programs by establishing the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ). And while most states have a statewide coordinator that executes goals and objectives of these programs, CACJ took it a step further by creating an Executive Director position who, along with dedicated staff, provides to the courts extensive technical assistance, a peer review process, treatment fidelity monitoring, standards and certification, training, grant opportunities, data collection and repository, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) expansion.

Read more about these changes [here](#).

2021 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE CALL FOR SPEAKERS

CACJ is excited to launch its call for presenters for the 2021 Annual Training Conference. As a member of the accountability court professionals' community, we need your help on ideas for workshops and presenters! There are two opportunities to submit a proposal for the 2021 training conference. CACJ is seeking proposals for workshop speakers and an inspirational speaker. Proposal instructions and additional details are available on the CACJ website conference page: <https://cacj.georgia.gov/training/2021-annual-training-conference>.

NEW EMAIL SERVICE

CACJ has transitioned to a new email service to distribute bulk emails to accountability court professionals. Please check your junk or spam folders for messages from CACJ. The new service provider is Constant Contact.



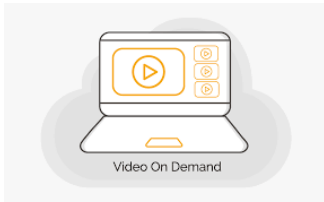
2020 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE

Certificates of attendance for the 2020 CACJ Annual Training Conference have been delivered via email to registered attendees by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. Please check your inbox (the email address used during conference registration) for a message that was delivered on October 30, 2020 from Casey Semple (csemple@uga.edu). Attendees will have to submit their certificate of attendance to their credentialing board to receive credit. The Council of Accountability Court Judges does not pay for continuing education unit fees.

The Council of Accountability Court Judges and the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council are not responsible for POST forms that were submitted in error, incomplete, or inaccurate.

If there is a correction needed to your certificate, please contact Ms. Casey Semple at csemple@uga.edu.

NOW AVAILABLE! RECORDINGS FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



Recorded sessions and resources from the CACJ 2020 Annual Training Conference are now available as an on-demand learning experience to conference attendees on the virtual conference platform.

You can access all the recordings on the Pathable website and use the recordings to catch what you may have missed from this year's conference. Here's what you need to know:

- All content will remain available in the virtual platform until August 31, 2021. Content is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Google Chrome is the recommended browser to access the platform.
- For convenience, your Pathable log-in email was resent to you on October 15, 2020 with a subject line: 2020 Annual Training Conference Video On-Demand Access. If you need to request your log-in email, please email cacj@georgiacourts.gov.
- Video recordings cannot be downloaded and must be viewed on the conference platform.
- To view a recording, select agenda and navigate to sessions tagged "On-Demand Recording Available". Once the page appears and video loads, select play.
- PowerPoint presentations are available for download by navigating to the session and selecting the right arrow above the session's chat window – then choose Files.
- The Council of Accountability Court Judges is not responsible for continuing education units or issuing certificates of attendance for sessions viewed after September 16, 2020.
- Do you have questions? Please email cacj@georgiacourts.gov.

2020 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE SURVEY

Please take five minutes and help shape the topics for consideration at the 2021 Annual Training Conference. This [SURVEY](#) will help the training conference planning committee begin planning the 2021 event!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR THE FY22 FUNDING SEASON



FY22 Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding

The CACJ FY22 Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for funding submission window is still open. Each program currently funded by CACJ is required to complete the Notice of Intent. In addition, if a circuit or county has planned to implement a new certified accountability court program during FY22, a NOI is required for the planned program.

The submission is due by 5:00 pm on December 11, 2020.

Court Operating Profile Report and Webinar Date

CACJ, with the support and partnership of CJCC, will open the Court Operating Profile on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The COP is a survey used to collect accountability court program information. Accountability court coordinators will receive by email instructions to complete the survey, and each CACJ-funded accountability court is required to submit a Court Operating Profile. The final report is due no later than Friday, February 5, 2021. A webinar to provide coordinators help with completing the survey will be held on January 26, 2021.

FY22 Grant Solicitation and Grant Webinar Date

The FY22 Fiscal Year Operating Grant will be released on Monday, February 22, 2021. The completed grant application is due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2021. Please note, the FY22 Notice of Intent to Apply for Funding is mandatory for all certified accountability court programs applying for state grant funds. Details about the NOI can be found in the paragraphs above. A webinar to provide coordinators help with navigating the grant application is planned for March 4, 2021..

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send submissions for the January 2021 newsletter to Debbie Mott (Debbie.Mott@GeorgiaCourts.gov) by Monday, December 28. 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 JOB POSTINGS

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

- **Bartow County Treatment Case Manager**
- **Rockdale County Juvenile Drug Court Case Manager**
- **DeKalb County Counselor**

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The first two dates for the two-day virtual **Seeking Safety** training are scheduled for **January 5-6** and **February 9-10**. Please visit the CACJ website's Training page for more information: <https://cacj.georgia.gov/training/seeking-safety>.



Please join Judge Rhathelia Stroud, presiding Judge of the DeKalb County Magistrate Court's Misdemeanor Mental Health Court, as she presents "NOT JAIL, Exploring Alternatives to Incarceration", a webinar presented by SAMHSA's GAINS Center on behalf of the MacArthur Foundation. This webinar will be held Friday, December 4, 2020 from 1 – 2 pm. Please register for the event: https://pretrial.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dli6xNwCSPWHyqXv2Nb7Dw.



Free Motivational Interviewing Training for Treatment Court Team Members

In partnership with the [Center for Strength-Based Strategies](#), NADCP's National Drug Court Institute is pleased to offer treatment court team members free, two-year access to the popular online training series "**Motivational Interviewing (MI) for Treatment Courts.**" This collection of 20 web-based courses is the most comprehensive series published for internet-based training in MI. Each course includes a companion booklet for teams to build skills and develop proficiency.

Features and benefits of this training:

- It's a free, comprehensive, web-based training program with two years of unlimited access for up to eight team members! Choose the pace that suits your program's schedule.
- Your answers are graded immediately – whether right or wrong, the course will tell you why.
- It includes 20 free companion booklets to enable small-group skill-building.
- Five additional courses are available for supervisors, treatment court coordinators, MI coaches, and other team leaders to aid implementation and sustainability.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL MELODY FIELDS AT mfields@allrise.org



2021 Annual Training Conference



September 26 - 29, 2021

Accountability Court Teams Paving New Roads to
Recovery and Continuing to Shine Bright !



The 6th Annual Training Conference will be held at the
Classic Center in Athens, Georgia.

Details for conference registration will be available in Spring 2021. Please continue to monitor the
CACJ website at www.cacj.georgia.gov for the most up to date information.



Your 2020 Impaired Driving Prevention Month Toolkit Is Here

December is Impaired Driving Prevention Month and a critical time for your DWI court to engage and educate your community. Awareness is key to reducing the impaired driving epidemic, and your treatment court can help. [Download](#) your newly redesigned toolkit from NADCP's National Center For DWI Courts to find out how!

Inside the [toolkit](#) you'll find:

- Ideas for safe events to raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving and to educate your community on how DWI courts are making a difference
- Tips for engaging your local media and elected officials
- Sample social media posts and op-ed
- Ideas for keeping your participants safe during the holiday season
- And much more!

