



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Accountability Courts and DCS Interoperability

October 2022

**Presented by: Angel Perrine
and Lamario Harris**

Our Mission
As an integral
criminal justice

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Terminal Performance Objective

Given a classroom environment, Community Supervision Officers will enhance their knowledge of accountability courts and their ability to work within the guidelines set by the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) for improved interoperability with the local Accountability Courts.



Enabling Objectives

- **Identify the standards set by the CACJ**
- **Examine the basic Hierarchy and Functions of the Accountability Court Personnel**
- **Explain DCS Supervision of Accountability Court Participants and Interoperability with the AC**
- **Identify Appropriate Participant Referrals and Sanctioning Processes**

**Beware of
the Monster!**







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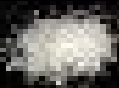
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VALUE PER 1 MG:

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What is the CACJ?

Council of Accountability Court Judges

Mission:

To provide a unified framework that promotes and improves the quality, accessibility and administration of Accountability Courts.

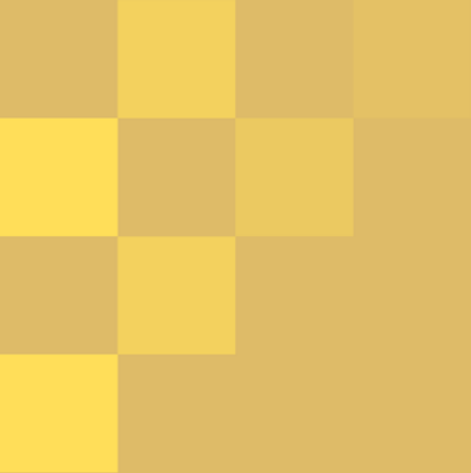
Vision:

Making accountability court work for all Georgians.

Who are the Eligible Participants?

Accountability Court is not limited to those under felony supervision. The programs are available to any individual at these points:

- **During the pre-trial phase as a diversionary sentence**
- **Ordered as a condition of a sentence for FOA, Conditional Discharge and those who are convicted**
- **Ordered as a Sanction due to a violation of a sentence currently being served in the community**
 - **Probation Sentence**
 - **Can be ordered on a new sentence if the individual is under a parole term but not ordered as a parole sanction (without Judicial consent).**



Types of Accountability Courts

- Drug Court
- Mental Health Court
- Veterans Court
- Family Treatment Court
- DUI Court



Drug Court

- Judicially run programs
- Combine treatment, supervision, and judicial staffing
- Planning team required
- Program must offer treatment backed by evidence based practices
- Participants must be assessed
- Focus is on medium to high risk offenders





Mental Health Court

- Judicially run programs
- Combine treatment, supervision, and judicial staffing
- Planning team required
- Program must offer mental health and substance abuse treatment backed by evidence based practices
- Participants must be assessed
- Focus is on medium to high risk offenders



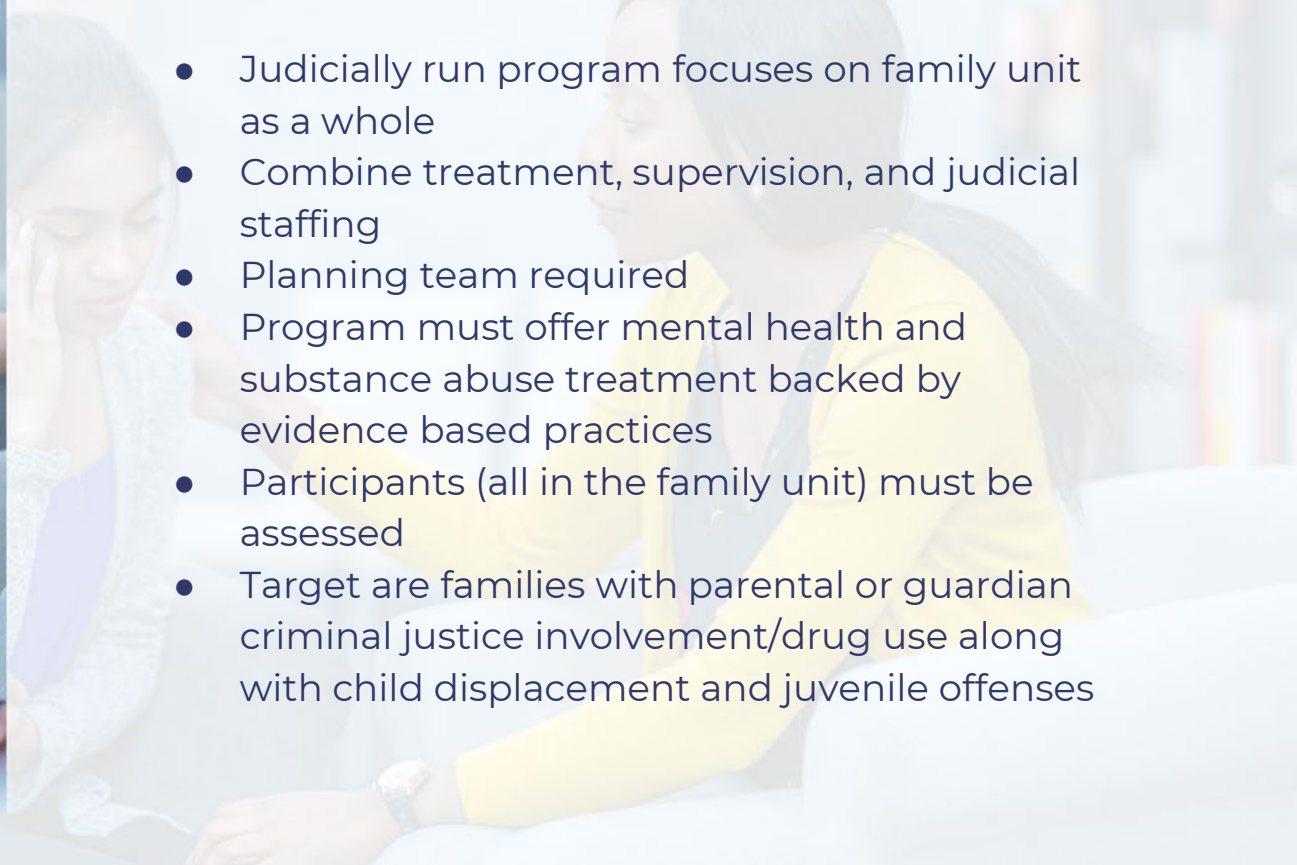
Veterans Court

- Judicially run programs
- Combine treatment, supervision, and judicial staffing
- Planning team required



Family Treatment Court


- Judicially run program focuses on family unit as a whole
- Combine treatment, supervision, and judicial staffing
- Planning team required
- Program must offer mental health and substance abuse treatment backed by evidence based practices
- Participants (all in the family unit) must be assessed
- Target are families with parental or guardian criminal justice involvement/drug use along with child displacement and juvenile offenses





DUI Court

- Judicially run program
- Requires a planning group
- Requires a risk assessment followed by treatment for alcohol/drug abuse related to the DUI
- Usually a misdemeanor offense



"I started the Accountability Court because we (law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders) saw a need. A significant percentage of chronic re-offenders were suffering from untreated mental illness; this is expensive for the jail and county resources, and it was a cycle that COULD be broken with appropriate intervention. I am pleased with the progress we have made. We have seen real lives changed, families reunited, reductions in recidivism. We are always striving to provide the latest evidence based treatment and consistent sanctions and struggling with limited resources."

- Katherine Lumsden
Superior Court Judge
Houston Judicial Circuit



Accountability Court Personnel

- AC Coordinator
- Case Managers
- Treatment Providers
- Surveillance Officers



Accountability Court Coordinator

- Case Manager oversight
- Maintenance of Program
- Collaboration with resources and treatment providers



Case Managers

- Assesses individuals for program
- Develops case plan
- Incorporates community resources as needed
- Monitors compliance and treatment
- Reports and makes recommendations to planning team



AC Treatment Providers

- Can be internal or external
- Collaborates with Case manager
- Provides treatment based on
 - Program type
 - Needs
 - Case plan





Surveillance Officer

- Court funded and contracted
- P.O.S.T Certified Officer
- Monitors participants with field interactions



DCS Supervision and Interoperability with AC

- Mission
- Officers
- Resources and Techniques
- Collaboration with Courts
- Specialized Caseloads



Mission of DCS

As an integral part of the criminal justice system, we protect and serve the state of Georgia through effective and efficient community supervision while providing opportunities for successful outcomes.



DCS is a valuable asset and resource to the AC Planning Group

- Purpose Driven Supervision
- Knowledgeable staff
- Highly trained and skillful officers
- Community Coordinators
- Effective and efficient strategies for community supervision



DCS Officers

- Community Supervision Officers (CSO) are sworn officers who are held accountable for imposing, documenting, and reporting compliance with the conditions and special conditions under supervision.
- CSOs focus on deterrence strategies and preventative methods to guide individuals towards a successful outcome based upon risks and needs.





DCS accomplishes its mission in 3 ways

- **Surveillance** to enhance Public Safety
- **Treatment** to connect those we serve with crucial services
- **Enforcement** of Court and Board ordered conditions



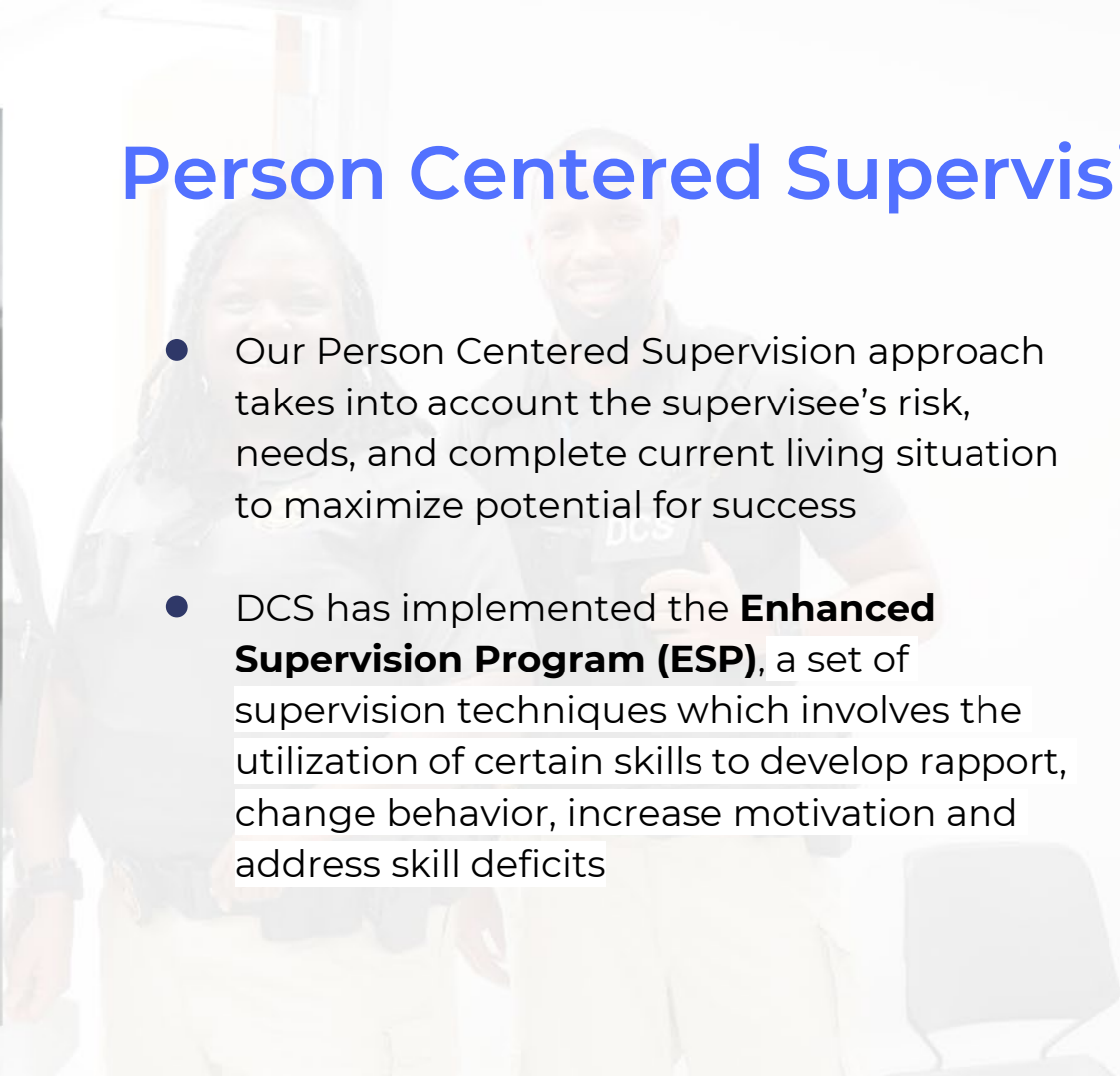
DCS utilizes

- Case Plans which address risk and needs
- Dynamic Assessment Tool
- Levels of Supervision
- Ongoing data collection which measures key performance indicators



Person Centered Supervision

- Our Person Centered Supervision approach takes into account the supervisee's risk, needs, and complete current living situation to maximize potential for success
- DCS has implemented the **Enhanced Supervision Program (ESP)**, a set of supervision techniques which involves the utilization of certain skills to develop rapport, change behavior, increase motivation and address skill deficits





Specialized Caseloads

- Mental Health and Veterans Courts handle issues that DCS is prepared for. Our Mental Health Officers are specially selected for their supervision skill and tact. They are then specially trained for the issues posed by individuals with heightened mental health needs.
- All Accountability Court cases are recognized as a special level of supervision and assigned to officers with special assignments to the type of case or the court

What does collaboration look like for CSOs and ACs?

- **Frequent communication**
 - Information about assessments and treatment, previous conduct, contact information, familial information, etc.
 - Information sharing concerning community and state resources
- **Coordinating treatment observations and collateral contacts**
- **Coordinating field contacts with AC Surveillance Officers**
 - Duo field visits can increase officer safety and reinforce treatment goals
 - Staggered field visits can reduce the work on each officer and produce increased compliance by the participant



Things to remember

- AC supervision and treatment is lead by the court
- AC program will take precedence over most other special conditions
- Special conditions may be added to the AC case plan
- Communication is key!

STATE
OFFICER



Communication drives Collaboration

“I believe that the way our program collaborates between the two agencies is great because we communicate between each other before any big decisions are made...The one thing that always needs improvement is communication.”

-Katie Barrs,
Accountability Court Case Manager,
Houston Judicial Circuit





Referrals and violations

- AC Referrals
- Violations
- Sanction Recommendations
- Secure Sanction Alternatives



Appropriate Referrals

- Varies by Circuit
 - Each Court has its own criteria with some static requirements
- Must be under supervision or have a pending charge
 - If under supervision, must have adequate time remaining under sentence
- Participant MUST be willing to participate in the Program
 - May require medication prohibition, unemployment for initial phase, or other lifestyle changes
- High Risk
 - Those who are more likely to reoffend without the services of an AC.

Violations



- Graduated Sanctions Process
- Sanctions will vary from court to court
- DCS will collaborate with planning team on appropriate sanctions and make recommendations and offer available services accordingly
- Sanctions will be issued by the court (generally)
- Secure Sanction alternatives to long term incarceration may be utilized



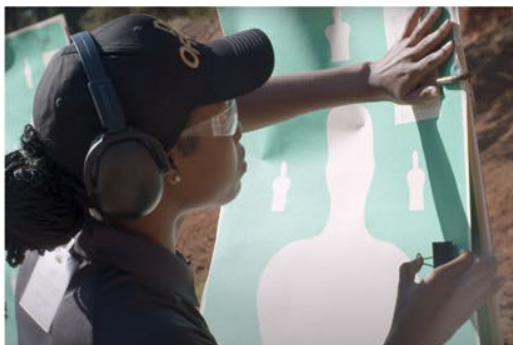
Secure Sanctions Alternatives to Long Term Incarceration

- Detention Centers
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities (RSAT)
- Integrated Treatment Facilities (ITF)

Compete or Complement?

“A strong partnership between CSO’s and AC’s will net great benefits for both entities such as reduction in jail time and prison from VOPs; backlog waits for RSAT and ITP; including court calendars through the consent process. The intensive involvement of AC’s in the everyday lives of participants can reduce strain on CSO caseloads. CSO’s knowledge base of candidates can help keep referrals flowing and provide good feedback in the referral process.”

-Craig Ogilvie,
Asst. Dir. Henry County Accountability Courts
Former DCS Officer





Questions?/Comments?

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