



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

JANUARY 2021

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ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS NEWS

CHEROKEE CIRCUIT DRUG COURT

Submitted by Melissa Johnson, Cherokee Circuit Drug Court Coordinator

The Cherokee Circuit Drug Court, Bartow and Gordon Counties, has partnered with Toys for Tots for the last four years. Prior to 2015, the Drug Court team would have a Christmas party for the participants each year. Participants could choose to have a gift exchange if they wanted to, and everyone would bring food to the event. In 2015, the Drug Court staff decided to suggest an alternative to a Christmas party to the participants. We thought that instead of spending money on gifts and food for ourselves, we should give back to the community instead. We gave this idea to the participants, and they all agreed that Toys for Tots would be a better way to spend our time and money. Since 2015, the Cherokee Circuit Drug Court staff and participants have donated to Toys for Tots every year. This year we were able to collect the largest donation to date. It is much more rewarding to all of us to know that families in need are being helped in our community.



FULTON COUNTY ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

Submitted by John Collins, Fulton County Accountability Courts Director



We have had many interruptions to "normal activities" this holiday season. However, thanks to the support of the Atlanta Bar Association, Family Division, the Fulton County Accountability Court's charitable arm, the Hope and Healing Foundation, was able to launch a successful end-of-year donation drive. The kind donations to our charitable organization allowed us to provide holiday gifts for 80 of our clients' children. We had volunteers to staff Santa's workshop and ordered, wrapped, and distributed over 160 individual gifts and holiday blessings. We were happy to relieve some of the holiday stress and financial burden that trouble our participants at this time of year.

Fulton County Accountability Courts Staff pictured from left to right: John Collins, Louise Faulks, Anthony Warren, Michelle Dowdell

NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Submitted by Jessi Emmett, Treatment Services Director

Each December, Friends of Recovery, the non-profit organizations formed to support the accountability courts of Hall and Dawson Counties, hosts a large Christmas party for all program participants. Normally these events would be held at local churches where program participants and their families (approximately 800 people total) would enjoy a sit-down meal, entertainment, door prizes, and presents for all children. Well, COVID forced Santa's elves to get creative for this year's festivities but the fun continued without a hitch. On December 8, participants of the Dawson County accountability court programs enjoyed Charlie Brown Christmas drive-in style. Staff and volunteers provided hot chocolate, fresh popcorn, cookies, and bags of candy for all movie-goers. Santa (aka Judge Jason J. Deal) made an appearance to take pictures with participants' children and listen to their wish lists. On December 17, participants in the Hall County accountability court programs attended a drive-thru event where they received a full meal in to-go containers, door prizes, and entertainment. Santa (aka Judge Clint G. Bearden) took pictures with each car while his elves handed out presents to all children. While the events looked different, the joy and comradery of participants and programs were as strong as ever. The annual Christmas parties are the largest events hosted by Friends of Recovery and are enjoyed by participants and team members alike. The programs were fortunate to adapt to the current circumstances and continue to provide these important opportunities and services for participants.



DEKALB COUNTY ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

Submitted by Fredericka S. Dent, DeKalb County Accountability Courts Executive Director

Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson Elected to Preside over DeKalb County Accountability Courts

The DeKalb County Accountability Courts (DCAC) has elected Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson as presiding judge of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit's Accountability Courts for a two-year term commencing Jan. 1, 2021.

Judge Dear Jackson will succeed Judge Mark Anthony Scott who will continue to be involved with the Circuit's Accountability Court Program since he presides over the Veterans Treatment Court and Parental Accountability Court.



The DCAC assist nonviolent offenders in addressing the risk factors that lead to frequent and persistent incarceration, with specific programming for veterans (Veterans Treatment Court), individuals suffering from addiction (Drug Court), and the mentally ill (Felony Mental Health Court). The programs provide cognitive behavioral evidence-based treatment curricula that are designed to assist participants by monitoring their thinking while assessing their core values, as well as their attitudes and belief systems. The programs further focus on instilling accountability and developing a network of community resources and support systems after program completion.

Additionally, through its Parental Accountability Court, it has worked to remove barriers for persons making child support payments at a cost savings of millions of dollars for the restoration of individual lives and families.

Judge Dear Jackson is excited to lead the Accountability Courts forward and will continue the level of excellence her predecessors have established.

The present composition of the Accountability Courts includes the following components: Drug Court Track 1—Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson; Drug Court Track 2—Judges Tangela M. Barrie and Courtney L. Johnson; Mental Health Court—Judges Asha F. Jackson and Shondeana C. Morris; Veterans Court— Judge Mark Anthony Scott; and Parental Accountability Court— Judges Gregory A. Adams, Linda W. Hunter, and Mark Anthony Scott.

OCMULGEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Submitted by Beth Smith, Ocmulgee Circuit Family Treatment Court Coordinator

Judge Philip B. Spivey Retires from the Baldwin County Family Dependency Treatment Court



Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Juvenile Judge Philip B. Spivey retired on October 1, 2020. Judge Spivey is a native of Milledgeville and earned his degree from the University of Georgia Law School. Judge Spivey began his work with accountability courts programs with the Baldwin County Family Dependency Treatment Court in July 2013. Judge Spivey also served as president of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges from 2018-2019.

When Judge Spivey started the Family Treatment Court it served four of the eight counties in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. To include all eight counties in the treatment court program, Judge Spivey sought grant funding for the program. In 2016, Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit was awarded an implementation grant from OJJDP to initiate a second Family Treatment Court in the four northern counties of the circuit. During Judge Spivey's seven years with the Family Treatment Court, the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit program served 169 families and positively impacted 378 children.

Judge Spivey recognized at an early stage that to give families the services they needed, the program would need to fully abide by the Family Treatment Court Standards and offer evidence-based treatment with licensed and competent mental health providers.

Judge Spivey's adherence to the FTC standards while holding himself and his team accountable, as well as the judicious application of an understanding of the psycho-social dynamics of participants, helped to foster a judicial environment which contributed to the success of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit's juvenile accountability court program. Judge Spivey's professional example is one that should be noted and emulated.

Words from Judge Spivey:

What was your initial interest in being an accountability court judge? I was particularly concerned about the number of terminations of parental rights cases we had due to substance use disorder. I felt it was my job as a juvenile court judge to bring this model to our circuit for our citizens in the rural areas.

Why were you interested in family treatment court? FTC represented a fresh approach to parent addiction and the promise of sorely needed resources in the eight-county Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. After 10 years, I was getting burned out. The lack of resources in our circuit was frustrating, and, truthfully, I felt a little helpless, as I could not give the intensive help addicted parents and their children needed.



Was there a specific moment/event that happened that let you know you were doing something right for your program? Not a single event, but as we had more families reunited, in large part because of FTC, success was proof enough that we were on the right track. I began to believe that we were helping the parents build a strong foundation with the skills they needed to have a sustained recovery.

To date, what do you think is your court's biggest program accomplishment? I am sure it is the expansion of FTC to the entire circuit - an immense geographical area encompassing remote, rural areas where parents have not had ready access to sufficient treatment.

How does your court involve the community? Special events? We formed an advisory board from the communities in our circuit to raise funds for and to assist with such things as Breakfast with Santa. We made presentations to civic clubs to raise public awareness.

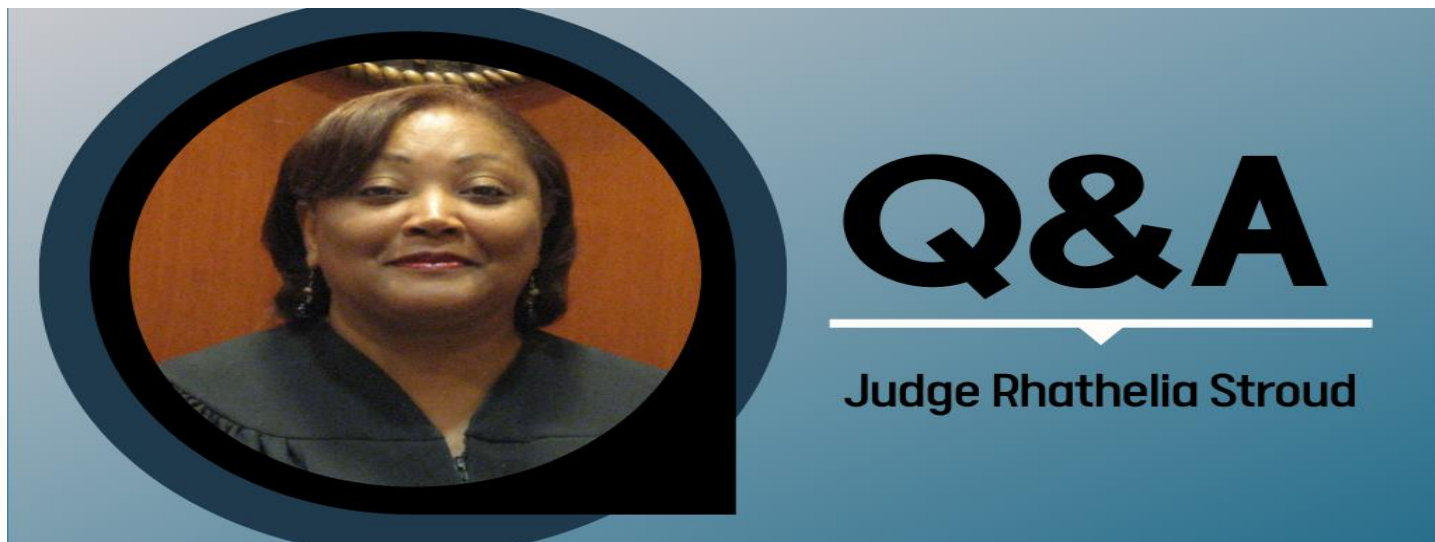
Now that you are retired, do you plan to stay involved? If so, how? Yes. I will be an advisory member of the board. I will also be available for peer reviews later.

What advice would you give a judge starting a new court program? Do not start an FTC without advance study and planning - lay the groundwork first. Get buy-in from the stakeholders. Learn basic principles such as motivational interviewing and proper team building. Be familiar with the standards. Be committed to it completely before applying for grants. Track your data and have your steering group be guided by it, making improvements along the way.

Thank you, Honorable Judge Spivey, for your service to the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit and your community!

DEKALB COUNTY MISDEMEANOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Appears on the Policy Research Institute website ([Q&A with Judge Rhathelia Stroud - Policy Research Associates \(prainc.com\)](https://prainc.com))



DECEMBER 7, 2020 | SAMHSA'S GAINS CENTER

THE MISDEMEANOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT (MMHC), FORMERLY THE DIVERSION TREATMENT COURT, IS THE LONGEST-RUNNING MENTAL HEALTH COURT OF ITS KIND IN GEORGIA. WHAT OUTCOMES ARE YOU MOST PROUD TO SEE COME FROM THIS PROGRAM?

One of the most significant outcomes is that, as the Diversion Treatment Court, our court evaluation revealed an eight-percent recidivism rate among our graduated participants, which suggests many are not returning to the criminal justice system. However, that evaluation was conducted approximately 10 years ago. Since that time, the court has evolved to include dedicated full-time staff members, including a coordinator, a case manager, a licensed master social worker, and a part-time licensed clinical social worker. The MMHC now offers in-house, gender-specific group therapy, *Thinking for a Change* group cognitive behavioral therapy, and a National Alliance on Mental Illness group. In addition, the court's partnerships with entities like the public defender, solicitor general, probation, jail mental health, the Council of Accountability Court Judges, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education,

Community Service Board, and the Georgia Public Safety Training Center—which are all critical to our work—have expanded to the benefit of our participant base.

Further, the court's 501(c)(3) DeKalb Criminal Justice Treatment Coalition became active. It provides unbelievable support to the court and its participant base in the form of housing and utility assistance, food and medication assistance, along with educational expense assistance. When the MMHC is re-evaluated soon, with the court's involvement and growth, we hope the recidivism rate will have decreased further, and the productivity and success of the graduated participants will have increased significantly. Finally, we believe the MMHC to be a flagship of sorts here in Georgia as the first and longest-running court of its kind, especially since there are now 43 adult mental health courts in Georgia and codified standards for them.

IN THE 9 YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN THE PRESIDING JUDGE, IS THERE A STORY FROM A CASE YOU HEARD THAT SIGNIFIES THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS WORK?

Yes, last year we had a young man about the age of 22 or 23 enrolled in our court. His mother's boyfriend, who was only 23 himself, got into a fight with our participant, who was attempting to protect his mother, about age 45. Our participant was preparing to come to court at the time, but instead called the authorities, then contacted his case manager to alert them of the situation and notify them that he would not make it to court. Amazingly, his mother aligned herself with her boyfriend to get our participant, her own son, arrested. Fortunately, it did not work. This young man, who worked hard and had been promoted to manager at his job, moved into his own place with the support of his girlfriend and her mother. Just prior to completing our court, he tested and was accepted into a branch of the U.S. military. This young man took advantage of the various therapies and other opportunities offered through the court and engaged with his mental health providers about his diagnosis. He worked hard the entire time he was with us. This was a proud moment and a great story for our court. We are eagerly awaiting his update!

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHERS INVOLVED IN OPERATING A MENTAL HEALTH COURT?

One of the most important pieces of advice I can offer is this—please understand that those we serve suffer from mental health disorders, and as such, are not perfect beings and will sometimes decompensate. But although they relapse or decompensate, all is not lost. Yes, the challenge has intensified, but the opportunity to get them back on track still exists. It's remarkable what a court team's commitment to staying with these individuals garners from them. Many of our court participants have experienced abandonment and lack of support and, sadly, expect more of the same.

Also, embrace the concept of self-care for court staff; it's critically important!

FROM YOUR YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP, WHAT INNOVATIONS OR CHANGES DO YOU FORESEE AS CRITICAL REGARDING HOW WE SERVE INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS WHO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM?

The question I often get from family and community is, "Why do they have to commit a crime before they can get the type of help offered through the accountability court?" This is a critical issue and a fair question. I was happy to hear about and see the release of SAMHSA's [National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care—Best Practice Toolkit](#), which I believe can begin to help answer that question. There are also structured projects in Arizona and New Mexico that give law enforcement a tangible option to not arrest an individual and instead take them somewhere to get an immediate assessment and, ultimately, the help they need, versus a jail cell. If they take an individual to one of the project's emergency receiving facilities, they are guaranteed a 30-minute sign-in and sign-out. The option must be tangible, present, and accessible to police, or they will choose what is—jails, which are de facto mental health hospitals. There are also a few crisis stabilization units in Georgia, and I would like to see those developed across the nation. I want to see those experiencing serious mental illness able to get the same treatment and care regardless of what state, city, or county they reside in and call home.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST HOPE TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH YOUR ROLE AS A JUDGE?

An understanding that a large part of this population (those thrust into the criminal justice system because of the symptoms of their mental health disorder) can and do function and participate productively in family, community, society, and relationships just as others of us do. This can be achieved via concerted effort, commitment to getting them into treatment for the first time or back in treatment, appropriately medicated, and engaged with other therapies (e.g., gender-specific groups, Thinking for a Change cognitive-behavioral curriculum, peer support). Good stories, great outcomes, decreased recidivism, and committed court teams promote this narrative and bear witness to this truth daily.

I also hope to impart somehow that a sensitive, compassionate, and passionate judge who does this work is not a soft judge, but one that is committed to and sees and engages humanity under these uniquely challenging circumstances.

TIFT COUNTY DUI-DRUG COURT

Submitted by Michelle Calhoun, Tift County DUI-Drug Court Coordinator

POISON... CONTAINS TOXIC CHEMICALS... CAUSES DAMAGE TO THE ESOPHOGUS AND STOMACH... CAN SEVERELY BURN EYES... CAUSES SEVERE ABDOMINAL PAIN... FATAL IF SWALLOWED... CAN CAUSE DEATH

These dire warnings are on household products that most of us use on an occasional and sometimes daily basis. Products like drain cleaner, camp fuel, lawn fertilizer, salt, and sinus medication containing pseudoephedrine. They are mostly safe if used correctly. However, when you combine them all together and add in a few other items, one being an AA battery, you have a good portion of the ingredients for an illegal drug known as crystal methamphetamine or crystal meth.

Crystal meth is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system and causes a quick rush of euphoria after using. It is also one of the most abused drugs by participants in the Tift County DUI-Drug Court. After several participants in our program relapsed due to methamphetamine use, Judge Herbert Benson made the decision to give a presentation that he has given many times in the past few years to civic groups, churches, and schools to emphasize the dangers of methamphetamine use. In his presentation, he discusses each of the chemicals used in making meth and outlines how dangerous each individual ingredient can be if it is ingested, inhaled, or if it comes in contact with skin and eyes. He also stresses the dangers of preparing or cooking methamphetamine and the violent reactions that can occur when combining these ingredients together to produce the final product.

After giving this most recent presentation, Judge Benson allowed participants to engage in a discussion and ask any questions. The most common statement among all participants was that they had no idea that methamphetamine was produced with such dangerous chemicals. Several participants vowed to never use meth again. Judge Benson will continue to give this presentation throughout our community with the hope that if it prevents one person from using meth, it was worth his time and effort.



ROCKDALE COUNTY ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

Submitted by Mary-Lou Snow, Rockdale County Resource Court Coordinator

Georgia Piedmont Technical College Pre-Apprenticeship Industrial Maintenance Program Graduation

On Thursday, November 5, 2020, Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC) hosted their first graduation of the Pre-Apprenticeship Industrial Maintenance Program. Five of the graduates are participants and/or alumni of the Rockdale Accountability Courts. The GPTC President presented the Horace Johnson Award to DUI Court participant, Mr. Anthony Johnson, for his outstanding performance and leadership among his peers. It was a very proud moment for Judge Robert Mumford, Judge Nancy Bills, and Commissioner Williams who were all in attendance to support the graduates.



Community Clean-up Event

On Saturday, November 14, 2020, the Rockdale County Accountability Courts hosted a community clean-up event for the Keep Conyers & Rockdale Beautiful Initiative. Staff and participants gathered to pick up garbage at Randy Poynter Lake, Black Shoals Park, and Walk of Heroes Veteran's Memorial Park. Gift cards were awarded to the three participants who gathered the most garbage. It was a perfect example of a pro-social activity while simultaneously giving back to the community.

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT GRADUATIONS

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Submitted by Lakisha Dixon, Clayton County Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator



On December 2, 2020, the Clayton County Veterans Treatment Court graduated its first participant! Mr. Terrance Raymond served in the Army as a Medic. After some unfortunate life events, he found himself in the criminal justice system. He entered into the Clayton County Veterans Treatment Court 19 months ago. He entered the program homeless and unsure of himself or where his life was heading but positive that he would complete this program. Today, he is confident and determined to be a reliable partner and grandfather. The Clayton County Veterans Treatment Court came together, socially distant of course, to celebrate this great achievement. The VTC Team, including the mentors and all VTC participants were present. The speaker was Major General Charles M. Hood, Jr., who began his military career in 1959 upon completion of the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps and entered active service in February 1960. General Hood held a variety of important command and staff positions culminating in his appointment by President George H.W.

Bush to serve as Adjutant General in the United States Virgin Islands National Guard, following his retirement from the active army after completing 30 years of service. He offered many words of encouragement to Mr. Raymond as well as all other participants in the program. Presiding Judge Robert L. Mack, Jr. presented Mr. Raymond with a graduation plaque to commemorate his success in the program. Mr. Raymond ended the celebration by encouraging all participants going through the program to stay focused and rely on the help that is offered to them by the program. He also thanked all that were involved with his success in the program.



FULTON COUNTY FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Submitted by Tiffany Barclay, Fulton County Accountability Courts Administrator

The Fulton County Juvenile Family Treatment Court HOPE (Helping Our Parents Excel) Program conducted its first virtual graduation on Wednesday, November 4, 2020.



Aretha entered the Fulton County FTC program June 2018. She was shy and reserved and had a hard time learning how to communicate with staff and her peers. However, through treatment groups and individual sessions, she gained inner strength, found her voice, became self-confident and began to excel in the program. Over the last two years, she has maintained her sobriety by participating in treatment, other meetings, developing healthy relationships with positive peers, and rebuilding her family. Aretha successfully regained custody of her son. After graduation, she has continued to set short and long-term goals for herself and her son. She is demonstrating parenting skills learned in the Strengthening Families Program by preparing meals, ensuring completion of school assignments, and attending her son's sporting events. Aretha continues communication with FTC staff and has informed the case manager that she is working on getting a GED for herself. She also continues to attend meetings and is maintaining her sobriety. She is a positive example of how Family Treatment Courts can assist to restore and empower individuals and families.

During the month of December, Fulton County Juvenile Court's FTC Program partnered with AT&T Community Outreach - Adopt a Family Program. Each year, they select a family from the program and provide holiday gifts for each family member. HOPE FTC is honored to partner with this program to ensure that the participant and their children had a happy holiday season. The gifts were delivered to Fulton County Juvenile Court on December 14, 2020.



CHATHAM COUNTY FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Submitted by Latrell Gulotta, Chatham County Family Treatment Court Coordinator

Chatham County Family Treatment Court held our final graduation for 2020 on December 1st in a virtual format. The graduation included a current participant sharing what life is like to be a FTC participant. This was very impactful in a sense that we, the professionals, were not talking about our graduation requirements but a participant was. We also held our annual holiday celebration which included CASA providing gifts to our parents to share with their children as though they bought them. This is truly a time that we always enjoy in person. We host the celebration filled with holiday best wishes, sharing, ornament exchange, talks of family traditions from both staff and participants, and talk of starting new traditions for families that just received custody of their children and now are a sober drug-free parent. We provided each participant with holiday gift sets which included a mug, hot chocolate, candy cane, and card from the FTC team. The pandemic has challenged courts to think outside the box and create new avenues to conduct everyday business. We have embraced the challenge head on while making sure our families stay connected with the court, find permanent placement for the children, and continue their journey of recovery.



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES NEWS

2021 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE AND 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>.

IMPORTANT UPDATE TO 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.



LEVEL OF SERVICE CASE MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENT (LS/CMI) BOOSTER TRAINING

The Council of Accountability Court Judges, in partnership with Multi Health Systems, Inc., is pleased to announce a training opportunity for accountability court team members currently certified to administer the Level of Service Case Management Instrument (LS/CMI) Assessment. During 2021, up to five virtual sessions are scheduled for anyone interested in a refresher course. The LS/CMI booster is an interactive, four-hour training that will provide attendees instruction on common pitfalls to avoid during the assessment, as well as time for Q&A. Registration will open February 1, 2021 for the first two sessions scheduled in March and May of 2021. Space is limited, and registration will close once all eligible spots are full. Future sessions are tentatively scheduled for June, August, and November.

ON-DEMAND CONTENT FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

Recorded sessions and resources from the CACJ 2020 Annual Training Conference are available as an on-demand learning experience to conference attendees on the virtual conference platform until August 31, 2021. 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. Instructions to access the on-demand content can be found on the CACJ website [here](#).

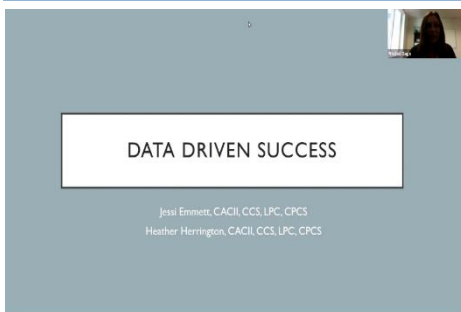
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR THE FY22 FUNDING SEASON

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. On January 19, 2021, 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 is scheduled for January 26, 2021. Coordinators interested in attending the FY22 COP webinar can register [here](#).

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. **A webinar to provide coordinators help with navigating the grant application is planned for March 4, 2021.**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT – PEER-LED DATA WEBINAR



CACJ partnered with the Director, Jessi Emmett, and Assistant Director, Heather Herrington, of Northeastern Judicial Circuit Treatment Services to deliver a webinar about their data collection practices, following the evolution of paper files to full case management system utilization. While the Northeastern Circuit (Hall and Dawson Counties) uses Connexis Cloud, this webinar is relevant to all accountability courts regardless of the court's case management system. Ms. Emmett and Ms. Herrington share examples of the materials they have developed to assist with their efforts.

This peer-led data training is a great opportunity for you to hear from your peers how they have overcome many of the data collection pitfalls you, too, may have experienced or are experiencing now. You will learn tips and tricks and hopefully will be inspired to continue working hard on improvements to data collection practices.

To access the training slides, please visit <https://cacj.georgia.gov/document/document/peer-led-data-training-slides/download> or to watch the recorded training, please visit [Peer-led Data Webinar | Council of Accountability Court Judges \(georgia.gov\)](#).

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send submissions for the February 2021 newsletter to Debbie Mott (Debbie.Mott@GeorgiaCourts.gov) by Monday, January 25. 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:

- DeKalb County Counselor
- Hall County Counselor
- Hall County Lab Technician
- Rockdale County Juvenile Drug Court Case Manager
- Rockdale County Family Treatment Court Coordinator

RESOURCES



U.S. Department of Justice Announces FY 2021 Funding For Treatment Courts

BJA and OJJDP grant solicitations now open

NADCP is pleased to announce U.S. Department of Justice grant solicitations to support adult drug courts, juvenile drug treatment courts, tribal healing to wellness courts, DWI courts, and veterans treatment courts have been released.

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- Adult Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program:
 - **Category 1: Implementation grants for veterans treatment courts**
 - Award amount: \$500,000 each
 - Award period: 48 months
 - **Category 2: Enhancement grants for operational veterans treatment courts**
 - Award amount: \$500,000 each
 - Award period: 48 months
 - **Category 3: Grants for operational treatment courts or treatment courts "fully ready to implement"**
 - Award amount: \$500,000 each
 - Award period: 48 months
 - **Category 4: Grants for implementing statewide strategies to support treatment courts**
 - Award amount: \$1.5 million each
 - Award period: 48 months

Applicants are required to complete a new two-step submission process:

- **March 3, 2021:** the SF-242 and SF-LLL must be submitted to Grants.gov
- **March 17, 2021:** the full application must be submitted to JustGrants



Communities of color often suffer from poor mental health outcomes due to multiple factors including inaccessibility of high-quality, culturally responsive mental health care services, cultural stigma surrounding mental health care, discrimination, and overall lack of awareness about mental health. Learn from panelists specific tools to promote healing and resiliency around complex trauma. Identify practical approaches to reduce stigma in underserved populations.

Join us on **January 7, 2021 at 12:00pm-1:15pm** to learn from our distinguished guest different strategies to improve access to mental health care and divert Georgians to appropriate levels of care.

This event will be recorded and transcribed.

To register, please click [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).



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.