



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

JULY 2021

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ACCOUNTABILITY COURT NEWS

FAYETTE COUNTY ACCOUNTABILITY COURT PROGRAMS

Submitted by Alex Domaleski, Fayette County Accountability Courts Coordinator



On Wednesday, June 9, the Fayette County Accountability Court Programs hosted their third annual kickball and cookout event. Each quarter the programs attempt to do a “different” kind of court session - whether this entails giving back to the community or simply just being together. Without the collaboration of the alumni program, the Veteran’s Treatment Court program, DUI/Drug Court program, the Fayette County Recreation Department, and the participants who volunteered to cook and captain the kickball games, this event would not have been possible. The alumni leaders ensured that enough alumni were in attendance to face the participants on the kickball field while the participants and probation officers facilitated all the grilling and organization of the food. Laughter, teamwork, encouragement, and most of all, fun, was had by all.

COLQUITT COUNTY ACCOUNTABILITY COURT

Submitted by Heather King, Colquitt County Accountability Court Case Manager

On October 12, 2020, the Colquitt County Accountability Court (CCAC) established the CCAC PEER Support Apprenticeship program, which is a mentoring program that trains a CCAC participant (in phase 4 or 5) to become a skillful recovery advocate. Through this program, the CCAC team will assist apprentices in attaining CARES and/or CPS-AD certification. Apprenticeships will combine hands-on experiences with continuing education and training, along with individual assignments and job shadowing. PEER apprenticeships are currently volunteer positions. As the apprentice is learning, they are then able to apply those lessons while assisting the CCAC team and its current participants.

On April 29, 2021, CCAC received endorsement from GCSA enabling us to name our program “PEER (People Entering Early Recovery) Support Apprenticeship”. We are very proud to say we have three PEER apprentices (KA, BD, and MH) who are successfully training and becoming recovery examples to their peers currently in the CCAC program. KA (a graduate of the CCAC program) is integral in helping with program intakes, wellness calls, and inspiring peers. BD (also a graduate of the CCAC program) conducts weekly jail recovery meetings (empowering female inmates and explaining the CCAC program). MH (currently in phase 4 of the CCAC program) energetically works one-on-one with male peers and educates male inmates through jail recovery meetings. KA and MH also lead CCAC aftercare/alumni meetings in the community. These three PEER apprentices are shining examples of how recovery can look to participants currently enrolled in the CCAC. Each apprentice will be pursuing more formal certification in the coming months. All of this is due to the diligent work of CCAC program case manager, Heather King, who has worked tirelessly to get this program off the ground. We are so proud of the great work these folks are doing for our community in Colquitt County!

DEKALB COUNTY MISDEMEANOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Submitted by Sharla Taylor, DeKalb County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Coordinator

Please see the link to access DeKalb County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court's June 2021 newsletter: [MMHC Newsletter June 2021.pdf](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT GRADUATIONS

DOUGLAS COUNTY DUI/DRUG COURT

Submitted by Anita Grainger, Douglas County DUI/Drug Court Director

On June 3, 2021, the Douglas County DUI/Drug Court celebrated our 20th Graduation and our 201st graduate! Chief Judge Eddie Barker started the DUI Court in 2013 and held the first graduation ceremony in February of 2015. As we navigated through this past 15 months of change, we are proud to celebrate our participants' completion of this 18-month, intensive outpatient treatment court program.

Not only did the graduates participate in group and individual treatment sessions, random and frequent alcohol and drug screening, community service hours, and fee payments, they also had to complete a 24-hour give back to the community project. Some examples include cooking for and feeding the homeless, collecting and distributing clothing and personal items to the homeless community, helping elderly neighbors with projects that they were unable to do themselves, and cleaning trash off the roadways. Participants feel a sense of accomplishment in these projects, as well as compassion for those that are in need.

Representative J. Collins of District 68 was the guest speaker. Eleven graduates graced the stage with family and friends present. It was simulcast via WebEx due to continued COVID restrictions. Thanks to the Douglas County School System and Douglas County High School, we were able to have all current program participants come in person to witness the celebration. Thanks to the support of our County Commissioners, Sheriff's Office, Public Defender, Solicitor-General and District Attorney, we can continue the good work that we have done over the past eight years. It is a pleasure to serve!



Pictured above are the graduates, guest speaker, and treatment court team.

PATAULA DRUG COURT

Submitted by Beau Leyse, Pataula Drug Court Coordinator

The Pataula Adult Felony Drug Court was able to hold our first graduation since the pandemic on May 28, 2021. We had seven graduates in attendance; however, we recognized 21 total graduates. State Representative Gerald Greene came and spoke to our group as a keynote speaker, and we had a personalized video message from Governor Brian Kemp, as well.

HENRY COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Submitted by Craig Ogilvie, Henry County Accountability Court Director



After nine months and three attempts delayed by the pandemic, we finally got our 2nd Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) graduation completed!!!

We celebrated four graduates representing the Army, Air Force, and Navy. The Honorable Judge Trea Pipkin from the Georgia Court Appeals, who was the inaugural judge for our VTC, was the keynote speaker. Judge Pandora Palmer officiated the ceremony on a crispy 55-degree day on April 22, 2021. We have been so pleased to have our graduations at the Veterans Memorial Wall and Museum in Henry County, a fitting location to honor the graduates' military pasts, current successes, and future endeavors. The commencement ceremony can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/EwG5lnNZrDI>.



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES ANNUAL MEETING



The Council of Accountability Court Judges held elections at the June annual meeting to vote for FY22 Executive Committee members.

The Council of Accountability Court Judges would like to announce Chief Judge D. Scott Smith as the new Council Executive Chair. Judge Smith presides over the Cherokee Judicial Circuit Drug Court in Bartow and Gordon Counties. Judge Smith received the Executive Chair torch from Chief Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin who graciously served two terms as Executive Chair in FY20-FY21. Judge Gosselin will continue to serve as the Immediate Past Chair for the Council.

Judge Charles Auslander, Athens-Clarke County State Court, was elected to serve as the FY21 Vice Chair.

The Council also thanked inaugural Executive Committee members Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver, Appalachian Judicial Circuit, Judge Mary Staley Clark, Cobb Judicial Circuit, and Judge James F. Bass, Eastern Judicial Circuit, for their dedicated service to the CACJ Executive Committee.

The Council welcomes Judge Lawton Stephens, Western Judicial Circuit, Judge Jack Niedrach, Rome Judicial Circuit, and Judge Jason B. Thompson, Fayette County State Court, as the new Executive Committee members.

THANK YOU TO JUDGE JAMES BASS Jr., JUDGE MARY STALEY CLARK, AND CHIEF JUDGE BRENDA WEAVER!

What do the three judges who are rolling off the CACJ Executive Committee all have in common? They have presided over an accountability court 19 years! Judge James Bass, Judge Mary Staley Clark, and Chief Judge Brenda Weaver all implemented an accountability court in their respective counties. In addition, all three judges have assisted with conducting peer reviews and accepted the invitation to be one of Georgia's model courts.

Judge James Bass implemented the Savannah-Chatham County Drug Court in 2002. He has retired but still presides over the Savannah-Chatham County Drug Court with Veterans Division in Savannah, GA. He served on the Executive Committee for three years and also served on the Standards & Certification Committee. Judge Bass was nominated and received a STAR Award in the judge's category in 2017 at the Annual Training Conference.

Judge Mary Staley Clark helped start the Cobb County Drug Court in 2002 and assisted with presiding over the court program, implemented the Cobb County Mental Health Court in 2013, and is now the presiding judge of the Cobb County Drug Court. She served on the Executive Committee for four years, served on the Funding Committee, and as an Advisory member on the Standards & Certification Committee. Judge Staley Clark was nominated and received the Tommy Day Wilcox Award in 2019 at the Annual Training Conference.

Chief Judge Brenda Weaver implemented the Appalachian Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court in 2002 and the Appalachian Circuit Veterans Court in 2013. She served as a member of the Executive Committee since the inception of CACJ and also served on the Funding, Standards & Certification, and Legislative Committees. Judge Weaver was nominated and received a STAR Award in the judge's category in 2019 at the Annual Training Conference.

We thank you all for your service, hard work, and dedication to accountability courts throughout the years!

GEORGIA'S ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS ARE EXPANDING

The Council of Accountability Court Judges welcomes one new implementation program in FY22: Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court – Juvenile Drug Court. Also, the Carroll County Juvenile Wellness (Juvenile Drug) Court has transitioned to a Juvenile Mental Health Court.

The total number of CACJ certified accountability court programs in Georgia has increased to 170 as of July 1, 2021.

CACJ ANNUAL CONFERENCE – COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

Logistics: The CACJ 2021 Annual Training Conference will be a hybrid event with a combination of onsite and virtual participants, speakers, and vendors. Onsite attendance is limited to 600 attendees.

Due to the onsite attendance limitations at the Classic Center, in-person participation is limited to three (3) team members per accountability court. State-funded accountability courts received funding in the program's FY22 Operating Grant Award to support only 3 in-person attendees. Accountability courts can register ten (10) additional virtual (online) attendees. An online platform is being designed for virtual attendees that will offer an enhanced live-streaming experience.

Registration: Registration for the 2021 Annual Training Conference will open on Monday, July 19, 2021. 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) will receive an email from ICJE Event Coordinator, Ms. Laura Kathryn Hogan, with instructions to register team members and a link to the hotel room blocks for overnight lodging in Athens. Registration for onsite attendance will end on August 20, 2021. **Please register early!**

Award Nominations: Nominations open on July 6, 2021! 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. One outstanding individual from a mental health court will be recognized for their contributions in the field for the Judge Stephen S. Goss 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 last year's inaugural award can be found [here](#).

DATA & RESEARCH

"RESEARCH REQUEST" ADDED TO WEBSITE

CACJ Staff added research request instructions to the CACJ website. It can be found on the Data & Research homepage (see box on the right-hand side). <https://cacj.georgia.gov/data-research>

FY2022 DATA COLLECTION DOCUMENTS

All Coordinators should have received the new FY2022 data collection documents via email from Rachel Gage on June 28, 2021. They can also be found [here](#).

VERY IMPORTANT DEADLINE!!

*****[FY2021 Q4 Data is due by July 15!](#)*****



AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

Please send submissions for the August 2021 newsletter to Debbie Mott (Debbie.Mott@GeorgiaCourts.gov) by Monday, July 26. 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:

*Forsyth County Contract Counselors
*Rockdale County Behavioral Health Clinician – Team Lead
*Tifton Judicial Circuit Drug Court Coordinator

*Rockdale County Juvenile Drug Court Case Manager
*South Enotah Drug Court Case Manager
*Towaliga Accountability Court Surveillance Officer

CACJ is pleased to release the FY22 training calendar. This calendar includes trainings sponsored by CACJ July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Please note the specific training dates, events, and locations are subject to change. Specific details (who is eligible to attend, registration dates, prerequisites, and required documents) for each training are in the downloadable version of training calendar on the [CACJ website](#).



Registration is now open for the following:

- [New Judges Orientation](#)
- [New Coordinator Orientation](#)
- [Interactive Journaling](#)
- [START Assessment](#)

Council of Accountability Court Judges On-Demand Webinars Now Available!

Did you miss one of the live webinars? Below is a list of webinars hosted by the Council of Accountability Court Judges. To access the recorded sessions as your schedule allows, select the title. You will be prompted to complete a form to view the recording. Please note that Continuing Education (CE) credits and certificates of attendance are not available for viewing these recordings.

Recorded Webinars:

- Title: [Coping and Understanding Participant Overdose](#)
 - Original date: April 7, 2021
- Title: [Medication Assisted Treatment Webinar Series: Focus on Suboxone](#)
 - Original date: May 20, 2021
- Title: [Stimulants 2021: Epidemiology, Effects, and Treatments](#)
 - Original date: June 9, 2021



The Future of Teleservices in Drug Courts

Part 3: Implementing Teleservices for Court Proceedings and Treatment

JULY 21, 2021, 1:00-2:00 P.M. ET; DISCUSSION GROUP 2:00-3:00 P.M. ET

After assessing readiness and fit and developing a comprehensive implementation plan for teleservices that takes into account site-specific opportunities, resources, and barriers, treatment courts may shift focus to delivery of the intervention(s). Part three of this three-part Virtual Learning Community will provide detailed guidance on the many considerations for effective implementation of treatment court services delivered in virtual formats, including both court proceedings and treatment services. This event will feature a brief review of essential service elements, policies, and procedures necessary to support effective delivery; strategies for ongoing quality assurance that will inform necessary refinements; and suggestions for tracking appropriate outcomes.



Webinar: Fentanyl in Treatment Courts

FRIDAY, JULY 16 | 2:00 P.M. ET

NADCP's National Drug Court Institute Drug Court U is presenting a [free webinar](#) on what treatment court teams and other stakeholders need to know about fentanyl to better serve participants. The live webinar is presented by pharmacology expert Steve Hanson.

America's opioid crisis continues to take a toll on communities across the country in the form of overdoses and deaths. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attribute these casualties largely to illegally manufactured fentanyl. Armed with the latest information, treatment courts are well positioned to act against this fast-acting and dangerous substance in their communities.

The [webinar](#) offers a comprehensive overview of fentanyl, including its:

- Pharmacology
- Variations
- Medical use
- Street availability
- Overdose prevalence
- Treatment implications



2021 Annual Training Conference



September 26 - 29, 2021

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



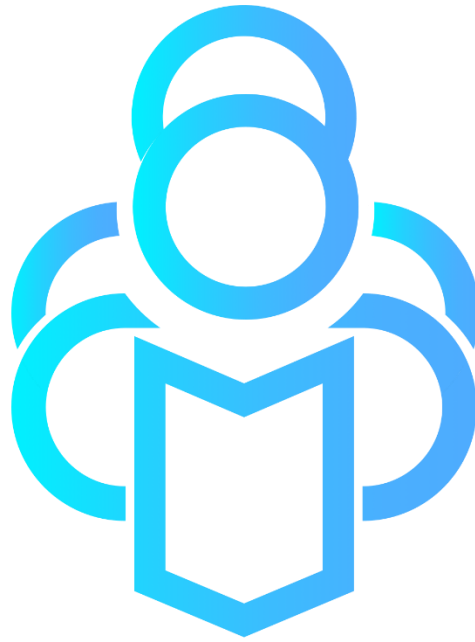
The 6th Annual Training Conference will be held at the
Classic Center in Athens, Georgia.

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.

Sober Peer – Unlocking Each Person’s Best Chance for Success

Have you ever wondered why some program participants succeed and others fail?

We know that treating lifestyle behavioral diseases is hard and that each person’s recovery journey is unique. Sober Peer uses its decades of behavioral science experience to help you understand each person and continuously manage them. Our promise is to help deliver dramatic improvements in participant engagement, graduation rates and post-program success.



SOBER PEER

Our technology platform makes administrators and staff more effective by offering a simple way to know more information about each participant and the program population. Sober Peer uses a participant’s smartphone and a mobile app to collect behavioral data that is analyzed to identify patterns of behavior and offer insights on progress and treatment.

Sober Peer provides these benefits:

For Participants:

- Virtual Access for court check-ins, home/office visits, testing and counseling.
- Online community of peers to support each other 24/7.
- My To-Do List puts program assignments at their fingertips.
- My Journal records progress, feelings and documents their journey.
- Trigger warnings connects them with an accountability partner if they are tempted to return to old habits.
- Digital Small Groups offer online education, counseling, and support.

For Accountability Courts:

- Reduces a court’s costs by guiding participants through each phase of recovery.
- Virtual Check-Ins with the court, probation officer and counselor to monitor progress or conduct home or office visits.
- Breathalyzer tests are prompted at random times. Facial recognition validates identity; test video is recorded and stored in their file.
- GPS Tracking to monitor the location of participants 24/7.
- Better collaboration between all program stakeholders through shared insights into participant activity and progress vs. goals.
- Population analytics that promote transparency and a focus on outcomes.

To find out more, contact J.C. Skidmore at jc@soberpeer.com or visit www.soberpeer.com.