



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

NOVEMBER 2020

[HTTPS://CACJ.GEORGIA.GOV](https://cacj.georgia.gov)

2020 CACJ VIRTUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

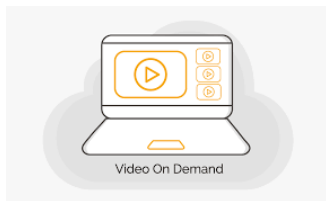
2020 Annual Training Conference Certificates of Attendance

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 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 able to be 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.

2021 Annual Training Conference



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! Please let us know what topics are important to you as an accountability court professional. Be on the lookout for the 2021 Annual Training Conference Save-the-Date and Call for Presenters submissions announcement. More details are coming soon. **Please complete the survey by November 13, 2020.**

If you experience technical difficulty with the survey, please email cacj@georgiacourts.gov.

ROBERT FOX NAMED NEW COORDINATOR LIAISON TO CACJ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Robert Fox of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit was named the new Accountability Courts Coordinator Liaison to the CACJ Executive Committee.

Robert was selected for this role following the departure of South Enotah's Molly Laughlin, who left Drug Court in August 2020 to attend law school.

Robert has served as the Circuit's Resource Court Coordinator since August 1, 2017. The Newton County program was established in July 2013, and the Walton County program began operating in January 2014. Currently, there are an average of 25 participants in Newton County and 16 participants in Walton County. Since the courts were established, the programs have graduated 75 participants. According to Robert, the programs provide a full range of support and supervision to the participants including individual therapy, evidence-based group treatment, psychiatric assessments, medication management, clinical

case management, SOAR case management, transportation to court-sponsored activities, in-home deputy supervision, curfew checks, random drug screening, electronic surveillance, employment assistance, and peer support services.

Robert received a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Georgia in 2003 and a Master's in Information Systems from Georgia College & State University in 2020. Prior to moving to Georgia in 2012, Robert worked with young adults suffering from trauma and addiction for several years. Since settling in Athens, he served as a foster care case manager and CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) director, as well as the H.R. director for a regional accounting firm. Through the child welfare system, he had the opportunity to be part of the Family Dependency Treatment Court in Clarke County, where he first saw the effectiveness of Georgia's Accountability Court system in action.

When asked about being an accountability court coordinator, Robert said, "For me, the best part about being a court coordinator is seeing the positive impact our program has on the participants, the relationships we are able to build in the community to support individuals with mental illness, and the flexibility we have to respond to participants' needs. I don't think it is any surprise that the hardest part is learning when to 'turn off'. Everyone who works in these kinds of programs is here because they feel called to the work, and it can be challenging to maintain that work-life balance."

Robert is clear about what he hopes to accomplish as a court coordinator. He said, "I want to make sure that our participants have access to the best possible program we can offer and have the best possible chance to graduate successfully. To that end, over the next year I hope to expand our census and develop more resources for participants experiencing housing instability."

Looking beyond his specific program and to the efforts being made statewide, Robert knows what makes Georgia's accountability courts so effective. He said, "After over a decade working in the treatment, child welfare, and criminal justice systems, Georgia's accountability courts were the only intervention I have seen that creates lasting, effective change in its participants. I think our commitment to research-based practices, innovation, identifying gaps, and expanding court access ensures that Georgia's accountability court system can meet the needs of the individual, and the data shows that we are doing something right."

In his newly appointed role as coordinator liaison, he said he hopes to facilitate the flow of information from the state's coordinators to CACJ leadership, and vice versa. He said, "I see this role as an opportunity to seek out and communicate ground-level feedback to the Executive Committee, as well as serving as the coordinator perspective to CACJ. I think the initial step in this process will be to develop a consistent, open platform for coordinators to express their concerns, thoughts, and suggestions. I am proud to be a part of the accountability court system, and I'm constantly grateful for the Alcovy Circuit team. I look forward to serving the Executive Committee to the best of my ability. "

DEKALB COUNTY ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

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

DeKalb County Accountability Courts Receive \$500,000 Grant

The DeKalb County Accountability Courts (DCAC) has been awarded \$500,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance FY2020 Adult Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program.

The three-year grant program provides financial and technical assistance to enhance the operations of the DeKalb County Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court.

The Accountability Courts will use the grant to increase participation in its programs, expand services to current participants and graduates, as well as conduct ongoing surveys and evaluations to ensure that participants and graduates are able to maintain long-term sobriety while developing strong alumni and community support networks after graduation from the program.



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.

The programs continue to look for community partners to assist with the ongoing needs of the program participants. The participants' needs vary as they have often gone without maintaining their physical and mental health. While participating in treatment, one of the numerous treatment goals is to ensure participants are managing and maintaining all aspects of their lives (spiritual, mental, and physical). The ability to access and connect with resources within the community are necessary to support the program's participants as they reintegrate back into mainstream society while maintaining long-term sobriety.

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT GRADUATIONS

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Submitted by Lakisha F. Dixon, Clayton County Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator



On September 11, 2020, Mr. Terrance Raymond, a participant of the Clayton County Veterans Treatment Court completed his community service project. The Community Service Project is a graduation requirement of the program. Mr. Raymond's idea for the project stemmed from his interest in health issues as a former Army Medic and his own personal experience with COVID-19. Mr. Raymond greeted patrons of the Great American Hotdog and Chevron Gas Station in Ellenwood, GA and informed them about the virus and the importance of protecting themselves by wearing a mask. He handed out close to 300 bags containing hand sanitizer and masks to the community. Recipients, as well as the store owners, were very appreciative. Mr. Raymond is scheduled to be the first graduate of the Clayton County Veterans Treatment Court in upcoming months.

BARTOW COUNTY FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Submitted by Tracy Jacob, Bartow County Family Treatment Court Coordinator



Bartow Family Treatment Court held its second Strengthening Families Graduation on August 29, 2020. Strengthening Families is a parenting program that is administered to the participants of the Family Treatment Court. Bartow Family Treatment Court is lucky enough to have the SAMHSA grant that provides for these classes and other wraparound services for our treatment court participants. (Pictured are all of our graduates and Judge T. Neal Brunt - without mask).

Strengthening Families is a three-hour class every week for 14 weeks, which has the parent being taught proper parenting and communication skills. Children are required to attend, and they are also taught the same lesson in a different classroom for the first hour of class. During the second hour of class, participants and children practice their newfound knowledge and skills together all while being observed by teaching and coordinating staff. The third hour of class consists of parents interacting with their children while sitting down to a family meal. All classes were held Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m.-noon, which required a lot of dedication from participants, children, and staff.

Upon graduation the participants all received a certificate, a book on activities to do with their children, and a \$50 gift card to their favorite restaurant to enjoy with their families. Family portraits were taken, framed, and donated by our very own Surveillance Officer, Deputy Ushonda Wells, to be given to the participants during court on a later date. Children also received a bag of goodies which included age-appropriate toys, treats, and gift cards to Chick-fil-A and Fazoli's. Gifts for the children were all donated by the Bartow County Family Treatment Court Staff to include Sara Griggs (LPC/Treatment Provider), Anna Johnson (GAL), Lorie Moss (SAAG), Anais Lopez-Brown (SAAG), Rita Iheanacho (DFCS Administrator), Judge T. Neal Brunt, and Chick-Fil-A.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to the Strengthening Families Team, Bartow Family Treatment Court Staff, and, of course, SAMHSA who provided the training and funds to assist in this endeavor.

DEKALB COUNTY DUI COURT

Congratulations to the graduates of the DeKalb County DUI Court Program, designated as a model court by CACJ for 2020-2023. The graduation ceremony on October 8, 2020 marked the program's 16th anniversary, 1,000th graduate, and featured guest speaker Michael L. Thurmond, DeKalb County CEO. DeKalb County DUI Court is presided over by the Honorable Alvin T. Wong and the Honorable Dax E. Lopez. Congratulations!

DEKALB COUNTY DRUG COURT

Submitted by Connie F. Morris, DeKalb County Drug Court Coordinator

DeKalb County Drug Court (DCDC) is proud to highlight our clients and recent graduates. The year 2020 has changed the way that we think, feel, and behave. On top of managing the disease of addiction, the threat of COVID-19 has been a surreal stressor that none of us could have ever thought we'd face in our lifetime. Yet our clients were prepared. They listened and learned. They strategized and put their plans into action. They stayed the course and continue to rise up every day, no matter what challenges the pandemic presents. No matter what challenges life presents.

Since the beginning of March, DCDC has managed to graduate 10 wonderful clients from its program. Under "normal" circumstances, this is something great to share, but in light of a world-wide pandemic, we consider this an impressive accomplishment.

The DCDC looks forward to more graduations and more successes to share. Our measure of success spans anywhere from attending an extra Community Support Meeting without being instructed to do so or helping a peer without being prompted to celebrating 30, 90, 365 days of sobriety or graduation.

So, please join us in congratulating and celebrating our incredibly courageous and inspirational graduates on their recent completion of this program. It was not easy, but it was worth the struggle.

The Honorable LaTisha Dear Jackson and the DeKalb County Drug Court Staff hosted a virtual graduation ceremony via Zoom on October 2, 2020. Congratulations to the graduates of the DeKalb County Drug Court!

COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES NEWS

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 will open **Monday, November 16, 2020**. 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.

Grant Writing Workshop December 1 – 2, 2020

By popular request, the Council of Accountability Court Judges is pleased to offer a grant writing workshop for accountability courts. The workshop is facilitated by Ms. Betty Barnard of Resurgens Impact Consulting. The event is FREE to accountability court coordinators and directors; however, registration is required.

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 and the date is to be determined.

REENTRY PARTNERSHIP HOUSING REMINDER

To request the Reentry Partnership Housing application for an accountability court participant in need of housing, please contact CACJ Operations Administrator Kimberly Howard at Kimberly.Howard@georgiacourts.gov for assistance. **Completing the application is the first step to request RPH housing from the Department of Community Supervision (DCS).** Due to the retired intranet, the application is no longer available online and can be requested from CACJ staff.

COORDINATOR MENTOR PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Council of Accountability Court Judges is pleased to re-open applications for the Coordinator Mentor Program. Details about the program and applications are now available on the [CACJ website](#) for coordinators who are interested in being mentored or serving as a mentor. Applications are due November 23, 2020. Pairings will be announced by email in January 2021.

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send submissions for the December 2020 newsletter to Debbie Mott (Debbie.Mott@GeorgiaCourts.gov) by Monday, November 23. 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:

- **Enotah Judicial Circuit Case Manager**
- **DeKalb County Counselor**
- **Paulding County Counselor**
- **Fulton County Clinical Case Manager**

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Training Registration is Open for the following:

[Ethics for Accountability Court Providers](#)

[Moral Reconation Therapy \(MRT\) Booster/ Refresher](#)

[Accountability Court Grant Writing Workshop](#)

Please note that due to COVID-19, training dates and locations are subject to change. Select trainings can be offered virtually; however, CACJ will continue to update courts regarding the FY21 training calendar's cancelled or postponed trainings.

Thinking for a Change Facilitator's Training Course

This course is not sponsored by CACJ, but in case you need Thinking for a Change training, we wanted to make you aware of this opportunity.

The Pace Institute is offering a virtual, 40-hour Thinking for a Change Facilitator's Training Course on January 12-22, 2021. The class is limited to 10 participants. Tuition is \$1,250 per person and includes a shipped copy of the 650+ page facilitator's manual and electronic copy of program slides. Please send inquiries to adash@thepaceinstitute.com.

Thinking for a Change (T4C) is an integrated cognitive behavioral change program that incorporates research from cognitive restructuring theory, social skills development, and the learning and use of problem-solving skills. T4C is comprised of 25 lessons that build upon each other and contain appendices that can be used to craft an aftercare program to meet the ongoing cognitive behavioral needs of offender groups. Not all lessons can be completed in one session, so a typical delivery cycle may take 30 sessions. Sessions should last between one and two hours. Ideally, the curriculum is delivered two times per week, with a minimum recommended dosage of once per week and a maximum of three times per week. Participants must be granted time to complete mandatory homework between each lesson. The program is designed to be provided to offender populations - adults and youth, males and females. It is intended for groups of eight to 12 and should be delivered only by trained facilitators.



NADCP
National Association of
Drug Court Professionals

1-Day Virtual Training for Treatment Providers - Registration Now Open!

Trainings are free and include 6.5 CEUs

Learn More and Enroll

NADCP's National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) is bringing world-class [training](#) to substance use treatment professionals working with clients involved in the justice system. These training programs, presented in partnership with the American Society of Addiction Medicine, are being offered virtually in each time zone and are open to both newcomers to the treatment field and seasoned professionals.

Whether you are an addiction therapist, mental health therapist, drug and alcohol counselor, social worker, clinical case manager, clinical supervisor, student, or just interested in foundational and advanced addiction treatment training, this program is for you!

Spots are limited; enroll today!

Who should attend: Treatment provider trainings are for anyone currently delivering or supervising the delivery of addiction treatment, co-occurring disorder services, or clinical case management to participants in treatment courts, on community supervision, or otherwise involved in the justice system.

NAADAC-accredited: NDCI offers 6.5 continuing education credit hours, including ethics hours, for this training.

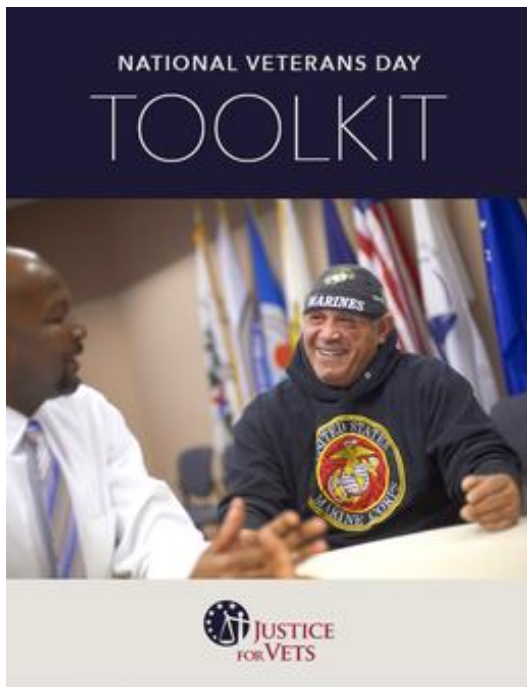
When and where: Trainings are conducted virtually and are time-zone specific to meet treatment professionals' needs. The training day is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cost: Registration and all materials are provided without charge.



Celebrate Veterans Day in Your Treatment Court

JUSTICE FOR VETS VETERANS DAY 2020 TOOLKIT - AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD NOW



Veterans Day is an opportunity for treatment courts to pause and recognize the service of members of the U.S. armed forces, past and present. NADCP's Justice For Vets assembled a [toolkit](#) full of ideas for programs to safely recognize and celebrate Veterans Day - Wednesday, November 11.

November is the ideal time for veterans treatment courts to engage their community. [This toolkit](#) contains a wealth of resources to help you plan and execute events, as well as educate your elected officials and the media.

In addition, Veterans Day can bring up mixed emotions or usher in a difficult holiday season for some veterans in your program. For these reasons, we have also included tips on ensuring your staff, participants, and

mentors have the support they need.

We encourage you to share what your program is doing on social media. Tag us on Twitter [@Justice4Vets](#) or on Facebook [@JusticeForVets.org](#)!