



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

OCTOBER 2019

WWW.GAACCOUNTABILITYCOURTS.ORG

COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES NEWS

COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



The Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ), in partnership with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), is pleased to announce the following funding opportunities:

- FY20 Accountability Court Supplemental Solicitation
- FY20 Accountability Court Competitive Law Enforcement Officer Solicitation

Please visit the CACJ or CJCC website for the grant application:

<https://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/grant-opportunities>

The deadline for each solicitation application is Friday, October 25, 2019 at 5:00pm.

LEVEL OF SERVICE CASE MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENT (LS/CMI) TRANSITION

Effective October 1, 2019, the Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) has replaced the Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R) assessment instrument. CACJ will no longer authorize LSI-R assessment use downloads.

All required courts have successfully completed the training requirements for the new assessment tool.

The CACJ website has been updated to provide helpful details for the new assessment. The revised webpage includes LS/CMI use requests, the LS/CMI assessment website (GEARS), a webinar to aid in administering the assessment, and the GEARS user help guide.

LS/CMI details are located on the [CACJ website LS/CMI webpage](#).

COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES MODEL COURTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The Council of Accountability Court Judges is pleased to announce the Model Courts and Technical Assistance Program. The FY2020-FY2023 Model Courts were recognized during the CACJ 2019 Annual Training Conference Awards Ceremony in Athens.

The goal of Georgia's Accountability Court Model Court Program, is to recognize the great work of accountability courts across the state, as well as identify programs that are adhering to state standards and may serve as mentors for other courts. The official news release is located on the [CACJ Website under the Model Court Program and Technical Assistance tab](#).

COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES COORDINATOR MENTOR PROGRAM

The Council of Accountability Court Judges is pleased to re-open applications the Coordinator Mentor Program.

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 22, 2019. Pairings will be announced by email in January.

Details and applications about the CACJ Coordinator Mentor Program are located on the [CACJ Website under the Coordinator Mentor Program tab.](#)

Upcoming Events:



The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) has a free training opportunity for treatment providers. NDCI is bringing a world-class, advanced training to substance-use disorder treatment professionals working with clients involved in the justice system. This training has been developed in partnership with the American Society of Addiction Medicine and with support from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. CACJ will host this training **January 30-31, 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia.**

Who should attend: If you are an addiction therapist, mental health therapist, drug and alcohol counselor, social worker, clinical case manager, or clinical supervisor currently providing direct services to accountability court participants in a CACJ certified accountability court program and will benefit from foundational and advanced addiction treatment training, this event is for you! There are limited slots available, so please register early and only if you plan to attend. . Ms. Lasheika Kassa will share registration details and the training agenda soon.



HUD 811 One-Day Exchange
Wednesday, October 30 • 9AM-3PM

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is hosting an event for the HUD 8.11 housing program.

Join DCA for a full day of networking, technical assistance, and program evaluation in preparation for the final push to fill the first grant's units! Let's help households with disabilities come home!

Registration Link Here (Property and Provider/Referral Agent Representatives only please). If you have a question, send it to the HUD 811 Team at HUD811@dca.ga.gov.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) Facilitators mark your calendars. On October 25th, Correctional Counseling Inc (CCI) will host a Clinical Q&A webinar. The Clinical Q&A webinar will help answer questions about certain MRT steps and discuss group circumstances. For additional details about the webinar and to register please visit the CCI website. <https://www.ccimrt.com/>

- Accountability Court Winter Forum registration will open Tuesday, October 15, 2019. The forum will serve as an opportunity to host accountability court Judges and Coordinators together.
- Prime Solutions facilitator training registration is currently open. Registration will end October 25, 2019.
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) facilitator training registration will open Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

2019 COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES TRAINING CONFERENCE

The 2019 Annual Training Conference was held September 15 – 18, 2019 in Athens, Georgia.

1300 attendees from Accountability Courts across the state met in Athens for the largest training conference to date! Over 40 breakout sessions and 3 plenaries featured speakers from the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), Georgia School of Addiction Studies (GSAS), NPC Research, Center for Court Innovation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, American University (NHTSA), Prevention Research Institute (PRI), and Georgia's accountability courts and stakeholders. The conference also introduced a new feature, the mobile app.

Conference keynote speakers and special guests were Governor Brian P. Kemp and Mr. Terrence Walton, NDCI Chief Operating Officer. The Accountability Court Art Exhibit and Star Award Ceremony showcased participant talent and dedicated team members that make Georgia's accountability courts great! A new addition for the 2019 Training Conference agenda was the recognition of Georgia's Model Drug Courts.

The Council of Accountability Court Judges & Staff would like to thank the conference speakers, vendors, CACJ Training Committee, CACJ Executive Committee, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Institute for Continuing Judicial Education, Athens-Clarke County Probation, Athens – Clarke County Police Department, and the Classic Center for helping make the 4th Annual Training Conference a success.

For photos and conference session handouts please visit the [CACJ Website under the 2019 Training Conference Webpage tab](#).

As a reminder, conference attendance certificates are distributed to the program coordinator. CACJ staff will not have a copy of your certificate. Please continue to check the CACJ training conference webpage, as information will be posted after attendance certificates are distributed.

Have a topic idea for a breakout session at the CACJ 2020 Annual Training Conference? Please share your topic idea(s) and complete the survey [HERE](#).

STAR AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2019 Accountability Court Star Award recipients.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| ▪ Judge | Brenda S. Weaver, Appalachian Circuit Drug and Veterans Treatment Court |
| ▪ Coordinator | Jason Bennett, Hall County HELP Court |
| ▪ Case Manager | Lupe Banda, Mountain Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court |
| ▪ Treatment Provider | Conrad Valcy, Cobb County Veterans Treatment Court |
| ▪ Probation Officer | Vincent Dennis, Jefferson County Adult Drug Court |
| ▪ Law Enforcement Officer | Johnny McCoy, North Enotah Drug Court |
| ▪ Defense Attorney | Valerie Cooke, Carroll County Drug Court |
| ▪ Prosecutor | Buck Levins, Enotah Mental Health Court |

Honorable Tommy Day Wilcox Leadership Award

Judge Mary Staley Clark
Cobb County Mental Health Court

DEKALB COUNTY MISDEMEANOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT

❖ Feature submitted by Coordinator, Sharla Taylor.

The Dekalb County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Program released the latest quarterly newsletter. Check out a copy of the newsletter [HERE](#).

HENRY COUNTY SPECIALITY COURTS HOST MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Henry County Accountability Courts recently held a symposium on September 24, 2019 during National Recovery Month. The theme of the event was “Changing Lives.” Henry County currently has a Drug Court, Mental Health Court, DUI Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and Juvenile Mental Health Court.

The event’s keynote speaker was Georgia’s Supreme Court Justice Harold D. Melton. The Henry Herald recently covered the special event. The newspaper article “Henry County Works to Keep Non Violent Offenders Out of Jail” can be found [HERE](#).

LOWNDES COUNTY DUI COURT CELEBRATES NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

❖ Feature submitted by Coordinator, Stacey Bass.

In 2019, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) celebrates the 30th anniversary of National Recovery Month (Recovery Month), marking three decades of spreading the message that treatment is effective, and people can and do recover—every day. On September 13, 2019 the Lowndes County DUI Court held its 1st Annual Recovery Walk at the historic Lowndes County Courthouse in downtown Valdosta to raise awareness about addiction, promote behavioral wellness and show the community that recovery is possible.



Paige Dukes, County Clerk, kicked off the event by stating “Recovery Month reminds us that mental and substance-use disorders affect all of us and that we are all part of the solution.. She then introduced Laci Rankhorn, Owner of Redirect Counseling Services and treatment provider for the DUI Court, who addressed the crowd by stating that “recovery is different from person to person, but the essentials are always there and they are: health, home, purpose and community.” She went on to explain how all four are an important part of daily living for recovery. Ms. Rankhorn concluded with an invitation to recite the Serenity Prayer.

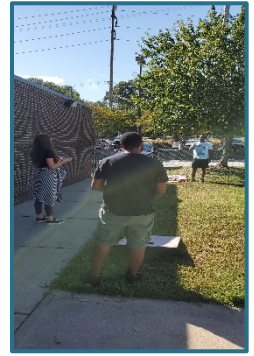
Ellen Golden, Judge for Lowndes County State Court, who also presides over the Lowndes County DUI Court spoke about the history of the DUI Court and the mission and goals of the program. Since the DUI Court’s inception in 2017, the Court has had 25 graduates successfully complete the strenuous program. The 26th graduate was recognized at the event. Ms. Dukes read the official Proclamation signed by Chairman Bill Slaughter and presented it to Judge Golden. Commissioner Joyce Evans was in attendance for the presentation of the proclamation. Families, activists and addiction survivors then walked in recognition of National Recovery Month around the historic courthouse with each other with one thing in common – recovery. The Coordinator for the DUI Court, Stacey Bass, is hoping to make the walk an annual event to continue to raise awareness for recovery.



FULTON COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT COURT

❖ Feature submitted by Director, John Collins.

Fulton County Behavioral Health Treatment Court celebrated National Recovery Month (2019) with several activities that promoted living in mental health and substance-use recovery. "Together We are Stronger," was the focus of the Recovery Month Celebration 2019. Participants were able to identify who were part of their support in maintaining their recovery. The recovery month picnic was a way to experience fun activities and a way for participants to connect with others in a healthy way. Participants were able to engage in team building activities, play games, and enjoy the food served at the picnic.



CACJ recently hosted the first Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abusers (CBI-SA) Booster training. Twelve treatment -providers attended the one-day session in Peachtree City, Georgia. The interactive training session was facilitated by Ms. Lasheika Kassa, CACJ Treatment Fidelity Program Manager and CBI-SA Trainer. The training agenda included a quiz, role-play exercises, and group discussion on common CBI-SA group facilitation challenges.

Congratulations to the attendee's for receiving a boost and enhancing their CBI-SA facilitation skills.

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT GRADUATIONS

Congratulations
September Graduates

Fulton County H.O.P.E
Juvenile Court

Paulding County Drug
Court

October Graduations

October 10, 2019 Fulton County DUI Court

October 16, 2019 Clayton County DUI Court

October 23, 2019 Chatham County Drug Court

October 23, 2019 Chatham County Veterans Treatment
Court

October 24, 2019 Dekalb County Misdemeanor Mental
Health Court

Upcoming accountability court graduation announcements are located on the CACJ website calendar. Please email CACJ your graduation notices, we are happy to share the news!

COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES STAFF UPDATES

The Council of Accountability Court Judges is pleased to share the following updates for CACJ Staff:

- Effective 10/1 Mr. Josh Becker will serve as the CACJ Assistant Director. Since January 2016 Josh has faithfully served as the Chief Certification Officer for the Council. In his new role he will continue to manage the peer review and certification programs as well as take on new leadership responsibilities.
- Effective 10/1 Ms. Kimberly Howard will serve as the CACJ Operations Administrator. Kim began her role as Operations Coordinator for the Council in September 2017. In her new and enhanced role, she will take on new statewide project responsibilities.
- Effective 10/1 Ms. Rachel Gage will serve as the CACJ Certification and Special Projects Officer for the Council. Rachel has served as a Certification Officer for the Council since November 2017. More recently she began serving as a Certification Officer II in May 2019. In her new, expanded role she will work to manage data related projects for the Council.
- Effective 10/16 Ms. Tara Zellous will officially join the CACJ staff as the Treatment Fidelity Program Monitor. She will work directly with Ms. Lasheika Kassa, Treatment Fidelity Program Manager to execute the treatment fidelity monitoring program.

REMINDER



At this time, the AOC supported intranet for court coordinators is not available.

As a result, resources for accountability court participant housing are no longer accessible using the platform.

To continue operations and provide housing resources for program participants, please contact CACJ staff for the following:

- Reentry Partnership Housing Application
- HUD 8.11 Housing Application
- CACJ Residential Resource Guide