



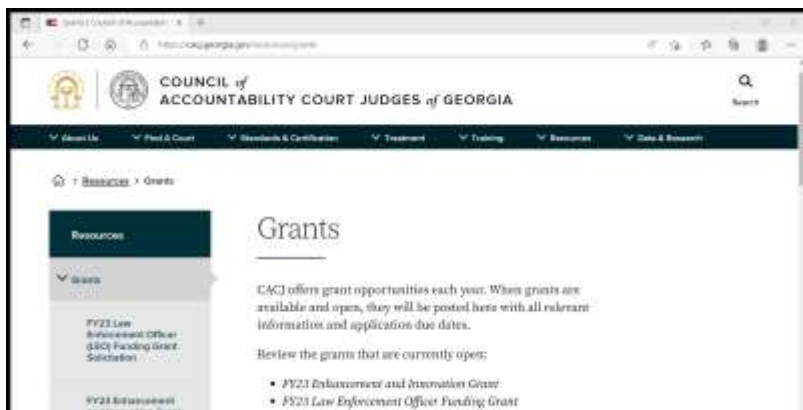
From the CACJ Staff

The Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) in partnership with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is accepting applications for two funding opportunities – the FY23 Enhancement and Innovation Grant and the FY23 Law Enforcement Officer Funding Grant.

The deadline for grant application submissions is Friday, September 30, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Both applications are limited to existing accountability courts. For the Enhancement and Innovation grant, grant requests will be prioritized for courts that can demonstrate that funds would be used to enhance operations or to implement innovative accountability court practices. Requests for enhancement funds must show the court's ability to increase or improve the quality, value, or extent of current operations. The Law Enforcement Officer grant funds support services to accountability courts. The services may include, but are not limited to, surveillance, courthouse security for accountability court's staffing and court sessions, and transportation to treatment.

Please visit the CACJ or CJCC website for additional information on how to apply.



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Henry County Celebrates a GREAT season of graduates!

The 20th commencement and first LIVE commencement in over two years for Henry County Adult Felony Drug Court took place in Superior Court on April 14, 2022. This was a special event considering none of the graduates had EVER been in a live Drug Court status hearing prior to that day. Many were plead into the program via WEBEX court from the jail. It was a very special moment for Judge Holly W. Veal and the entire team. Mr. David Curry, the former Tax Commissioner for Henry County and Commissioner of the Department of Revenue for the State of Georgia, was the Keynote Speaker and gave a straight from the heart testimony of his own life that warmly surprised many and gave a spirit of hope to all. Chief Judge Brian Amero, who started Drug Court in 2010 and presided through 2018, was welcomed back to give an inspirational minute. Several former graduates were on hand to share in the moment and, as always, Judge Veal presided over a joyous occasion with those whom she personally plead into the program. Judge Veal continues to push innovation in HCAFDC as we've developed our 501(c)3, sought continued grant award opportunities through data examination, and placed a focus on needed resources for our participants.

The Henry County Resource Court had its first LIVE commencement in over two years, as well. This was equally unique because HCRC continues to utilize ZOOM for status hearings due to a lack of available courtroom space. Under the careful and shaping leadership of Judge William P. Bartles who has presided over HCRC for more than 10 years, we have graduated over 80 participants. Our keynote speaker was a former graduate, Mr. Mark Bender, who is also the vice president of our new 501(c)3, New Leaf Henry. The graduate, Tabitha Erin Witham, is a very special person and characterizes strength and determination more than the average overcomer. Her story is one of victory and defeat, personal tragedy in losing a child, rebuilding, striving, never giving up and overcoming with such a passion to help others. This was highlighted by a promise from Judge Charles Auslander, III of the Athens-Clarke County DUI Court and a strong advocate for rehabilitation, that if Erin entered and completed our program, he would personally visit the commencement. That was a bold commitment to a defendant on the other side of the bench. But after 24 months, that promise was fulfilled! Today, Erin has earned certificates as a facilitator in MRT, Prime Solutions, and Seeking Safety and will be assisting HCRC as a peer support facilitator. We further congratulate Erin on the recent birth of her baby girl!

Henry County Veterans Treatment Court held their 4th Commencement at the favorite and most appropriate location: Veterans Memorial Wall at Heritage Park in Henry County. VTC has graduated 13 veterans to date. We consider ourselves an excellent program under the leadership of Judge Pandora E. Palmer and the entire treatment team. Judge Palmer takes great care to engage with and draw out the personality and desire to succeed from each veteran participant. She says of herself, "I'm an extra-judge!" as she takes the Veteran Mentor motto as her own call to "leave no veteran behind". We've enjoyed several local keynote speakers that show the buy-in from our county leadership in many areas. The speaker for this commencement was the Chair of Henry County Board of Commissioners Carlotta Harrell. Ms. Harrell has been keenly interested in the Accountability Court programs seeking detailed information. At this commencement, she shared life goals and challenges for the veteran graduates. We are very thankful for the support of the Accountability Courts in Henry County.

Submitted by Craig Ogilvie, Director of Henry County Accountability Courts

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Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Court Graduation

The Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Court held its 12th graduation ceremony on June 30, 2022 with the Honorable Don Thompson presiding. The keynote speaker for this occasion was the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney Chris Arnt. He congratulated the graduates on their success and encouraged them to continue a life of recovery moving forward with the next chapter of their lives.

Each graduate was asked to speak on their recovery journey and to provide an overview of their respective community service projects completed during the graduation ceremony. The community service projects included volunteering time and helping collect food for the Care Mission (participant received help from this organization while in active addiction), providing transition bags for children entering foster care, and delivering doughnuts to the local community kitchen, rescue mission, and youth center.



One of the graduate's family surprised him by wearing specially ordered T-shirts that said, "Welcome to the Nope Zone". They explained that this meant "nope to the dope" and had the graduate's name on the back of each shirt. Witnessing the outpouring of love and support from the respective families was a great reminder of the restoration opportunities that the accountability courts provide and is one of the driving forces of why we do what we do!

Submitted by Gretchen Neal, Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Court Coordinator

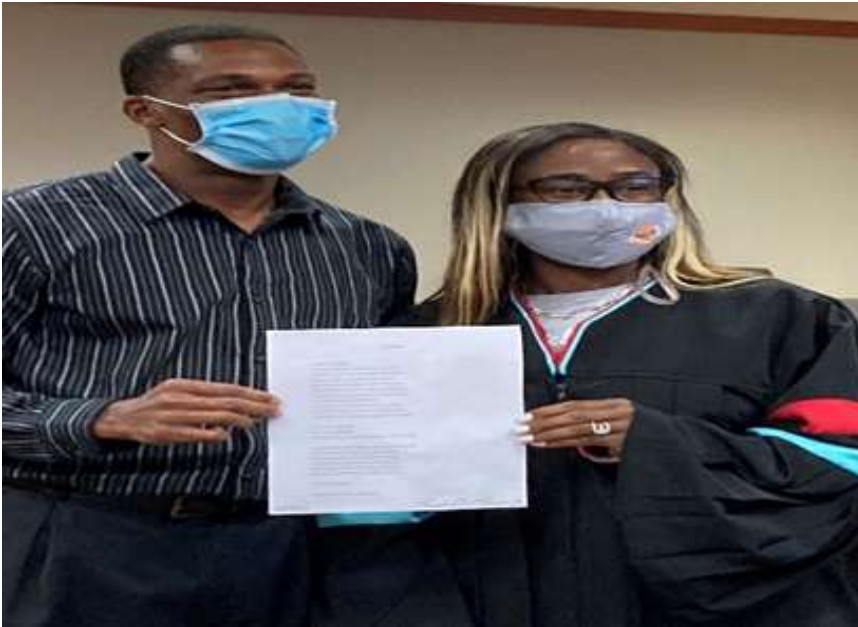
Enotah Judicial Circuit Family Treatment Court Graduation

On August 18, 2022, the Enotah Family Treatment Court, with presiding Judge Jeremy Clough, held a graduation ceremony where Ms. April Pickelsimer successfully completed the program. Throughout her time with Family Treatment Court, she was determined not to quit. She never backed down to challenges and became an overcomer. When she joined the program in December 2020, Ms. Pickelsimer didn't have a Driver's License, was living with family, and was unemployed. When she graduated, she had obtained her Driver's License and a vehicle, had held the same job for 19 months, and had independent housing. She said that she has made all these changes and will continue to stay sober so that her daughter can have a better life.

Submitted by Magdalene McDonald, Enotah Circuit Family Treatment Court Coordinator



DeKalb County Drug Court Takes 3rd Place



The DeKalb County Accountability Courts participants submitted several art contest entries for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' annual conference that was held in Nashville, TN. The NADCP received more than 150 submissions for three categories: photography, drawing/painting, and poetry. Of those submissions, Thomas Munson, a Phase 1 DeKalb County Drug Court participant, won 3rd place for his poem entitled, "Re-Arrange". Mr. Munson is a man of many talents including singer, songwriter, and poet. We are proud of Mr. Munson, as well as all the other participants who participated. The DeKalb County Accountability Courts are working to dedicate an artwork room at their treatment location to display all the participants' many talents.

Submitted by Lasheika Kassa, Director of DeKalb County Accountability Courts

Muscoogie County Drug Court Graduation



The Muscoogie County Adult Drug Court held its summer commencement ceremony on June 29, 2022. The event was held at the Cunningham Center at Columbus State University. The ceremony was led by the Honorable Maureen C. Gottfried and highlighted three successful completions of the program. After the graduates gave

their testimonies, they were presented their certificates by Judge Gottfried, their challenge coins by Mayor Skip Henderson, and their discharge paperwork by the District Attorney, Stacey Jackson.

The Muscoogie County Adult Drug Court hosts commencement ceremonies every quarter to honor

those who complete the program requirements within that quarter. The next commencement ceremony will be held at the Cunningham Center at Columbus State University on Wednesday September 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by Dayna Solomon, Muscoogie County Drug Court Coordinator

Re-Arrange
By: Thomas B. Munson, Jr.

I had to Re-Arrange.
I had to Re-Arrange myself and the way I lived.
To become more aware of my flaws and my feelings hid.
To know myself is the realest thing I ever did.
These are some of the facts, of what recovery is.
I had to fall in love with me before somebody else.
Cause no one's gonna love me like I love myself.
So, I put the ole me up on "the shelf."
Now the new me is thriving, with inner wealth.
I had to make these choices for me, nobody else.
Good choices and decisions are good for your health.

I had to Re-Arrange.
I had to Re-Arrange.
And now it makes me feel proud when I hear my name.

I went through some changes, now I'm Re-Arranging.
Once I stopped complaining, I started gaining.
Recovery helped me fix my character defects.
It taught me the skills I need to pass life's tests.
Cause life gets hard when it comes all at once.
But now I'm fully equipped, to take its punch.

I am Re-Arranged!!!

Model Courts Feature

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 strong programs that may serve as mentors for other courts. Programs identified as Model Courts are those that have met and exceeded adherence to Georgia’s Standards as dictated by strong performance on certification and peer review processes. To recognize the talent and expertise of the accountability court community, each month CACJ will recognize a model court or two and their work in the substance use and mental health fields.

Cobb County Family Treatment Court Model Family Treatment Court (2022-2025)



Cobb County Family Treatment Court Team Members

Judge - Honorable Jeffrey Hamby
Coordinator – Emma Walton
Parent Attorneys – Scott Halperin & Jessica Rhoades
Guardian Ad Litem - Catherine Lerow
SAAG - Sanders Deen
Case Manager - Kelly Lundgren
DFCS Supervisor - Candace MacKain
DFCS Case Worker - Felicia Smith
Treatment Providers - Deborah Alexander, Princess Odom, Sheryl Vaughn, Jennifer Riapos, Beth Palumbo, Bruce Cerbone
Work Source Cobb - Sherrod Jones
Courtroom Clerk - Genie Shaffer
Court Appointed Special Advocates

Court Type: Family Treatment Court

Presiding Judge: Judge Jeffrey Hamby has presided over the program since August 2016.

Coordinator: Emma Walton became the Coordinator on January 24, 2022.

Inception Date: 2006

Number of graduates to date: 127

Current Program Census: 12

Recidivism Rate: Since inception in 2006, there have been 12 out of the 127 substantiated dependency case returns.

Innovative Practices/Unique Programming:

Ms. Walton: “While these practices may not be ‘innovative or unique’, each FTC team member firmly stands by the importance of following best practice standards as they evolve, appreciating each unique perspective and expertise when it comes to the multi-disciplinary team, and trusting one another to execute the highest level of care possible for our clients in Family Treatment Court.”

Why do you choose to preside over the accountability court? What do you hope to accomplish as a model court?

Judge Hamby: “While assisting as the judge of FTC about seven years ago, I heard a mother say, ‘Judge, this will be the first time that I have been with my child sober’. I realized then the MAGNITUDE of how much we can help families and relationships and the desire to preside over FTC was born. In terms of what I hope to accomplish as a model court, I want us to continue to put best practices into effect as often as possible and (through continued training and education) grow together as a team. The court hopes to offer advice, guidance on policy and procedure, and observation opportunities when asked.”

What are you most proud of in terms of the program’s success? What do you hope to accomplish as a model court?

Ms. Walton: “I am most proud of our participants’ success. As a team, we understand that children are best suited with their family, so being able to witness family reunification in a safe, healthy home is a beautiful thing. It is our mission and why we come to work every day. It is truly an honor for the FTC team members to walk alongside participants as they obtain a sober, healthy lifestyle through rigorous treatment. As a model court, I hope we never become complacent and remain open to evolving, growing, and molding our program according to best practice standards.”

What is something you wish you knew at program inception that you hope to impart to newer courts?

Judge Hamby: “That the judges’ relationship with the SAAG and with the Department’s representatives is CRUCIAL. Additionally, the judges’ words/demeanor/voice inflections, etc. have more impact and meaning – positive and negative – to participants and team members than you think.”

Anything else you would like to add?

Judge Hamby: “To the judges, rely on your team and on your therapists. They know more than you do.”

**Atlantic Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court
Model Veterans Treatment Court (2020-2023)**



Atlantic Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court Team Members

Judge – Honorable Robert L. Russell, III
Assistant District Attorney – Alexis Antonucci
Chief Community Supervision Officer – Denise O’Neal Hodges
Asst. Chief Community Supervision Officer – Brandon Long
Veteran Justice Outreach Coordinator – Shanta Barron-Millan

Coordinator – Shundrekia Taylor
Public Defender – Donnie Pulliam
Supervision Officer – Shawn Fields
Treatment Director – Kasey Ifill
Treatment Counselor – Dexter Newby

Court Type: Veterans Treatment Court

Presiding Judge: Senior Chief Judge Robert L. Russell, III has presided over the program since inception in July 2016.

Coordinator: Shundrekia Taylor became the Coordinator in April 2020.

Inception Date: July 2016

Number of graduates to date: 25

Current Program Census: 24

Recidivism Rate: 9%

Innovative Practices/Unique Programming:

Ms. Taylor: “Our program utilizes our current treatment provider Recovery Place’s ‘Sober Living’ program which houses some of our displaced veterans, as well as those who struggle with their addictions while living in the community. Veterans can attend this program if they are homeless while in an accountability program. We also utilize their ‘CORE’ program. This program is more intense than the Sober Living program. It is used for those participants who may be struggling with their sobriety during Phase I or Phase II of the VTC program. A minimum of six months is needed to enroll in this program. This is an intense in-house program used to provide more hands-on treatment to those participants needing it. They are still allowed to work and complete community services outside of the facility.

Incentives are used during every court session to celebrate our participant’s progress. We use the following incentives: verbal praises, \$20 gift cards for fish-bowl drawings and pledges, extended curfew hours, and certificates of completion for all phase movement.

Our program usually has graduation celebrations for each VTC participant. During this celebration, on participants invite their loved ones into the courtroom for a celebration party. They are given a certificate of completion and a medal coin. They are allowed to give speeches honoring themselves and family, as well.

During Veterans Day, our VTC court celebrates our veterans with thank-you cards and \$25 gift cards.”

Why do you choose to preside over the accountability court?

Ms. Taylor: “Our judge loves all our VTC participants and genuinely wishes them all nothing but the best. He believes that making a difference in their lives by providing them with opportunities for a second chance at life will make them better fathers, husbands, mothers, sisters, brothers, and overall citizens. Judge Russell finds comfort in being a part of such a pivotal point in these participants’ lives and enjoys being able to guide them down a better path in life.”

What are you most proud of in terms of the program’s success? What do you hope to accomplish as a model court?

Ms. Taylor: “As the program coordinator, I would say that I am most proud of our round table of staff members who dedicate their all to ensuring we are providing the necessary and appropriate care for our veterans. Our staff members are not afraid to advocate for our current participants and even go the extra mile to ensure those who do not complete the program still have a chance at forgiveness and getting back on the right track.

As a model court, I hope that AJC VTC can be a light for anyone in need. We realize that each court is different, each judge is different, and each participant is different. We must ensure we as a staff is doing our best to give our best to every person (family) we encounter. We just hope to make a difference in the participants’ lives.”

What is something you wish you knew at program inception that you hope to impart to newer courts?

Ms. Taylor: As judge and coordinator of this program, we can both agree that you have to go into these types of programs with an open mind and open heart. If worked correctly, this program can change the lives of not only the participants but of their family members, as well.”



Important Date!

October 3

FY24 Court Operating Profile Survey Released - The CACJ FY24 Court Operating Profile will open on Monday, October 3, 2022 and is due no later than Friday, October 28, 2022.

October 2022 Newsletter Submissions

Please send submissions for the October 2022 newsletter to Debbie Mott (Debbie.Mott@GeorgiaCourts.gov) by Wednesday, September 28. 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 Career Opportunities

Please see the Career Opportunities tab (under About Us) on the CACJ website for information about these job postings:

- *CACJ Treatment Fidelity Monitor
- *Hall County Drug Court Coordinator
- *Fulton County DUI Court Associate Licensed Clinician
- *Forsyth County Accountability Court Case Manager
- *Fulton County Behavioral Health Clinician II
- *Henry County Behavioral Health Clinician
- *Forsyth County Contract Counselors
- *Cherokee County Case Manager
- *DeKalb County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Social Worker
- *Gwinnett County Behavioral Health Court Coordinator (Juvenile Court)
- *Barrow County Accountability Court Coordinator
- *Hall County Drug Court Counselor
- *Fulton County Compliance Coordinator
- *Griffin Judicial Circuit Contract Counselors
- *Henry County Case Manager
- *Cherokee Judicial Circuit Mental Health Counselor
- *Glynn County Lead Clinical Director

JOB OPENING

Virtual Office Hours

Wondering about something? We are here to help Wednesday! Join CACJ Staff for virtual office hours!

Who: CACJ Teams – Data, Executive Director/Legal/Grants, Standards & Certification, Training, and Treatment

When: One Wednesday of the month from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (times changed as of August 1, 2022)

Where: Zoom – We are pleased to offer this new form of technical assistance!

Why: Virtual office hours give you the opportunity to ask your questions and receive support in a streamlined fashion. You can meet with CACJ Staff on a regular basis to stay informed and get the answers you need.

Meeting Schedule

September 7, 2022 Cancelled!

October 5, 2022 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Rachel Meyer will answer your Data questions

Nov. 18, 2022 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Staff will answer questions about Certifications

Dec. 7, 2022 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Staff will answer Treatment Session questions

February 8, 2023 (*Register in advance: [Here](#)) 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

- Staff will answer questions about the FY23 grant application





After two years of hosting events as completely virtual or hybrid, CACJ is excited gather with the accountability court community and return to Athens for the 2022 Annual Training Conference.

Overview

The CACJ 2022 Annual Training Conference will feature over 45 training sessions in different subject tracks presented by nationally recognized speakers, partner agencies, and accountability court professionals. CACJ anticipates a full line-up of vendors offering services to your accountability court that attendees can connect with.

Logistics

The CACJ 2022 Annual Training Conference will be an in-person only event. Participation is limited to eight team members per adult and juvenile accountability court; however, family treatment courts can register ten team members. State-funded accountability courts received funding in the program's FY23 Operating Grant Award to support conference attendance.

Registration

Registration for the conference opened on Monday, July 11, 2022. **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) received the 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 conference attendance will end on September 16, 2022.**

Early registration is encouraged as classes and hotels are booked on a first come, first served basis, and can fill up quickly. If there are questions about your registration or you experience technical difficulties, please email for assistance. A summary of conference FAQs is found [here](#).

Most Popular Sessions

Monday, October 10, 2022

- Fentanyl In Treatment Courts
- Relapse/Recurrence Prevention and Response in Treatment Courts
- Importance of The First 90 days of Treatment

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

- Mistakes Courts Make in Drug and Alcohol Treatment and How to Fix Them
- An Overview of Psychotropic Medications for Mental Health Disorders

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

- Georgia Drug and Gang Trends

Hot Topic Sessions

Monday, October 10, 2022

- Working With Personality Disorders in Addiction Treatment
- Welcome to the Matrix! Roles, Responsibilities and Expertise to Strengthen the Treatment Court Team
- "I'm Not Sick, I Don't Need Help"- Mental Illness, Anosognosia, and How to Help Someone Accept Treatment

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

- The Evolution of Teleservices: Developments and Emerging Opportunities
- Judicial Ethics: Challenges Unique to Accountability Courts
- Recidivism Rates of Accountability Courts in Georgia

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

- TRUST: An Integrated Behavior Model for Treatment of Stimulant Use (Treatment for Individuals who use Stimulants)





Alcohol and Substance Abuse Self-Paced Online Courses



Announcing NEW Drug ID and Recognition Courses!

*Learn online when it is convenient for you 24/7
Setup your NCJTC profile and you are ready to learn*

NEW [Drug Identification and Recognition: Hallucinogens](#)
NEW [Drug Identification and Recognition: Dissociative Anesthetics](#)
[Drug Identification and Recognition:
Depressants, Anti-depressants, and Inhalants](#)
[Drug Identification and Recognition: Stimulants](#)
[Drug Identification and Recognition: The Opioid Crisis in America](#)



Register Now for Regional Treatment Provider Training!

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

Trainings are virtual for 2022. Spots are limited; enroll today!

Two-day training (12 continuing education hours, including 2.75 hours of ethics):

- October 5-6 (Pacific Time)

One-day training (6.5 continuing education hours, including 1.25 hours of ethics):

- September 26 (Eastern Time)

Juvenile Treatment Provider Training

Registration deadline: September 9

NADCP's National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) is bringing [world-class training](#) to adolescent substance use disorder (SUD) treatment professionals working with youth involved in the juvenile justice system. This training is presented in partnership with the American Society of Addiction Medicine and supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. [Juvenile treatment provider training](#) is offered virtually and 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, juvenile drug treatment court (JDTC) team member, or student, this program is for you!

OJJDP Listening Sessions: Submit Your Feedback Now

Administrator Liz Ryan of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has been hosting a series of [listening sessions](#) this summer with youth justice stakeholders, national partners, and justice-involved youth and families. Feedback from these sessions will inform OJJDP's work in advancing three priorities:

- Treat children as children.
- Serve children at home, with their families, in their communities.
- Open opportunities for young people involved in the justice system.

OJJDP would like to hear from you!

New Training Series to Advance Equity and Inclusion in Treatment Courts: Register Now for Session 3

The third session of NADCP's cutting-edge training series on equity and inclusion is coming up on **Thursday, September 8**. Don't wait to register for these important trainings; space is limited! All webinars are free for attendees, will provide an opportunity for questions and answers as time allows, and will be recorded for future use. [Click here to catch up](#) by viewing "Session 1: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Participants in Treatment Court" and "Session 2: Gender Identity and the Participant of Transgender Experience in Treatment Court" now!

Session 3: How to Organize and Conduct a Focus Group

The [NADCP Equity and Inclusion Toolkit](#) recommends treatment courts conduct focus groups to better understand the experiences of staff, participants, and community members. In this webinar, participants will learn how to prepare, organize, and conduct a focus group.

Date: September 8, 2022 | 2:00 p.m. ET

Presenter: Dr. Anne Janku, NADCP Consultant

Session 4: How to Identify and Host an Advisory Board

Advisory boards can assist treatment courts in better understanding the experiences of participants and community members. They can also assist in the change process for effective engagement of minority communities. This session will help participants develop an effective advisory board that helps their treatment court team assess resources, risks, and consequences of program changes on their communities.

Date: December 8, 2022 | 2:00 p.m. ET

Presenter: Carolyn Hardin, NADCP Chief of Training and Research