

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

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National

[Treatment Court Family Nights: An Accessible and Adaptable Support for Families Engaging in Recovery](#)

Substance Abuse: Research and Treatment

Online support events may serve as a model for other programs that seek ways to increase accessibility, promote inclusion, and remain connected to individuals with SUD or in recovery and their families. Online Family Nights successfully engaged [Drug Court (DC)] participants that would not otherwise participate in in-person programming and should be offered alongside in-person social support events for greater inclusion. This model may also be of interest for [DCs] in resource-sparse and geographically isolated, rural communities that seek ways to provide connection and support for their participants who have barriers to attending in-person events. Topics for discussion and education at DC Family Nights are best chosen by consulting participants and their supporters. While future research is needed, the results of this data provide support for a multi-pronged, multi-disciplinary and adaptable approach to recovery and stigma reduction that respects and honors the “voice” and lived experience of the individuals in recovery.

Michigan

[Andy's Place partners with Michigan Health Improvement Alliance](#)

Midland Daily News

The original Andy's Place in Jackson was completed in 2020 and was the first housing project in the nation to address long-term recovery needs of drug court participants.

Andy's Place Midland, a 50-apartment facility to be built at 1510 Bayliss St., will be modeled after the one in Jackson. Its 50 apartments will provide affordable housing and on-site recovery support for local residents who are participating in an intensive rehabilitation and probation program.

Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Beale, who oversees the Midland County Recovery Court, has been a vocal supporter of the sober living housing project. Tenants will be referred from his court, and many will be recovering from opioid, methamphetamine, or cocaine addiction.

“Andy’s Place will create a healthy, thriving living environment for participants in our county’s specialty courts,” Beale said. “It will provide ongoing support for those in recovery, even after they are off court supervision, as they work to rebuild their lives.”

Minnesota

[End the stigma: Substance use disorder a medical issue, not a moral one, advocates say](#)

The Globe

After attending inpatient treatment, Beth Hoekstra entered the local drug court program, an experience that “saved her life” by putting her in an environment of strong accountability where she couldn’t deny her reality of substance use.

“I had a lot of shame and guilt, and it took me a long time to get over that, and I was definitely ashamed of some of the things I did to get opioids,” Hoekstra said. “I think when you’re living in rural areas, (addiction) is hidden a lot more because there is that stigma and everyone talks when you live in a small community.”

Nevada

[City Council to put opioid funds toward recovery court](#)

Boulder City Review

Staff presented a series of options to the council including purchasing NARCAN, training city employees in use of the drug, paramedic training for firefighters, and a series of possible uses related to the city’s Recovery Court program. The Breaking the Cycle Recovery Court program was originally started in 2014 and referred to as the Drug Court until 2019.

Judge Victor Miller, who oversees the court, reported that approximately 90 percent of people who start the program in Boulder City complete it successfully, compared to a success rate of about 75 percent nationally.

“The advantage of our smaller, more personal approach is that when we have one of our graduates get re-arrested, we [are] able to help with more appropriate counseling to help avoid future problems,” he said in a 2019 story in the Boulder City Review.

After a short discussion, Councilwoman Cokie Booth said she would like to see all of the funding go to the Recovery Court program. Councilman Steve Walton made a motion to do that, and the council voted unanimously to use all of the settlement funds for the Recovery Court.

New Hampshire

[How NH is using its opioid lawsuit payouts: ‘That money has to go back to helping those people hit the hardest’](#)

Keene Sentinel

Cheshire County plans to use some of its funds for drug court programming and to host trainings on substance use for local police. It’s also giving \$20,000 grants to two local recovery organizations.

South Dakota

[Butte Co. Commission allocates National Opioid Settlement](#)

Black Hills Pioneer

[State’s Attorney LeEllen McCartney] gave the commission four recommendations: ABC [Action for the Betterment of the Community], the New Dawn Center, drug court, and training for first responders.

“Action for the Betterment of the Community is an absolutely fantastic organization, and they have drug and alcohol counselors and treatment,” she said. “We use them frequently with criminal defendants that need drug or alcohol referrals. We use it with juveniles as well.”

“The New Dawn Center, over by Newell, is a treatment center as well. They do a lot of treatment with veterans as well as others with drug addictions,” she continued. “That is now run by ABC.”

“Another option is to provide funding for our drug court,” said McCartney. “Drug court is for someone charged with a felony drug offense. It’s kind of like a last chance court,” she said. “They are heavily supervised on requirements for treatment.”

McCartney mentioned the recidivism rate with drug court is much better than with defendants who are incarcerated.