

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

May 12, 2023



National

[Allocation of Federal Funding to Address the Opioid Crisis in the Criminal-Legal System](#)

Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment

More than 590 million dollars were allocated across 517 grants by 10 federal agencies in FY 2019. About half of states received less than \$100.00 dollars per capita in the state corrections population. Funding generosity ranged from 0 % to 504.2 %, with more than half of states (52.9 %, n = 27) receiving fewer dollars per opioid problem than the US average. Further, a dissimilarity index indicated that about 34.2 % of funding (~\$202.3 million) would have to be reallocated to distribute funding more evenly across states.

Indiana

[Marion County court offers wheel of incentives for drug users charged with felonies](#)

WRTV

Though the program is intense for all of the participants, the court is doing what they can to make it lighthearted.

Everyone who is called up before the judge receives a thundering applause.

Participants who are in good standing with the court, get a shot at the “wheel of fun.” The prize wheel offers an incentive for offenders to stay on track toward sobriety.

If a defendant is passing regular drug tests, showing up and doing all that is asked of them, they can spin the wheel.

Indiana

[Indiana judge says her drug court is bringing positive effects](#)

95.3MNC

Indiana’s chief justice wants every county to adopt a drug court to help people get treatment and stay out of prison.

Madison County Drug Court started in Anderson in 2000 and, after 23 years, just over 1,300 people have participated. It’s the type of program that Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush wants to see statewide.

Madison Court Circuit Court Judge Angela Sims said, “I do think that the fact that we do have these resources in our community makes our community better.”

Sims is one of 58 problem-solving judges in the state. Her court in Anderson presides over the county’s adult drug court, mental health court, and reentry court. The goal of the three courts is to address the root causes of crime, such as addiction, and encourage people standing in front of her court to make positive changes in their lives.

“Certainly, when you’re dealing with those that come into the criminal justice system, it’s a very multifaceted problem you’re dealing with. Certainly, the drug use is kind of the gateway that gets you here, but with what we learn about these people and those [who] are typically addicted to drugs ... their lives are kind of ... in shambles. ... It’s chaotic on lots of levels, with employment, with education, with their social economic status... Their family unit is usually destroyed or in disrepair, and so we really work in a very holistic approach to these people... to people that [say], ‘Well, judge. I’ve been sober for six months. I’ve been sober for a year,’ I often look at them and say, ‘you know, being sober [may be] the easiest thing you will do in this program.’”

Kansas

[Drug court helps Abilene resident kick 12-year addiction](#)

Abilene-RC

Editor’s Note: This is part four of an eight-part series of stories looking at Dickinson County’s drug court and a few of the personal stories of addiction and recovery. Drug court is a program designed to help people kick addiction and reclaim their lives.

The day Caleb Woodcox slammed his motorcycle into a deer resulting in multiple injuries was the day he had his wake-up call — the drugs had to stop.

While lying in a hospital bed with a plate and 10 screws in his neck and a broken hand, he had time to contemplate where his life was going.

“I thought this wasn’t worth losing my life over,” he said. He was just planning to go to Salina, get his drugs and get back home when the accident happened. “If I wouldn’t have been going to get that it never would have happened,” he said.

Virginia

[Winchester seeks alternatives in fight against substance abuse](#)

Virginia Public Media

A little before 2 p.m. on a recent Tuesday, just over a dozen people milled about in the Winchester Circuit Courthouse. An officer opened the courtroom doors, and the group filed in, lining the wooden benches.

When Judge Alexander Iden mispronounced someone’s name, everyone laughed — including Iden — because this was not a typical hearing or a trial. This was drug court, a program designed to help people with nonviolent charges and a substance-use disorder get sober and get their lives back together.

Iden asked the participants, one by one, “So — what’d you learn this week?”

Virginia

[A Phenomenological Study of Lived Experiences of Drug Treatment Court Judges](#)

Liberty University

The purpose of this phenomenological study is to describe current judges’ experiences presiding over drug treatment courts in Virginia. These experiences include the factors that led them to serve as a drug court judge, their training (if any) in behavioral health, and their perspective on how they apply therapeutic jurisprudence and procedural justice... The lived experiences of the judges constructed a conceptualization of common themes that provided a basis for reflection and analysis, which may ultimately contribute to improved practice and treatment outcomes for individuals with substance use disorders. The findings were summarized in three themes: judges’ experiences with drug court participants, judges’ experiences with the drug court team, and judges’ experiences as learners.

West Virginia

[Legislature reviews drug court and home confinement](#)

Register-Herald

Presentations regarding drug court and home confinement were among the business before the West Virginia Legislature’s Oversight Committee on Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority during the final day of May interim sessions Tuesday.

First to present was the honorable Gregory Howard, judge of West Virginia’s Sixth Circuit Court, who spoke about the state’s adult drug court program.

Howard began his presentation by telling committee members, “I had the honor of serving in the House (of Delegates) from 2002 to 2006, so I know what you folks got through – it’s a lot,” before providing a brief overview of the drug court program.

“This is one tool you have in your toolbox to try to get people out of incarceration and into the court system in a different avenue to reduce the number of people who are actually incarcerated,” Howard said. “The first drug court in West Virginia was here in Cabell County. Since then, they’ve blossomed out all over the state. We have juvenile drug courts all over the state and the adult drug courts.”