

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

May 5, 2023



National

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

Substance Abuse: Research and Treatment

While public health measures including physical distancing and stay-at-home orders have clear benefits in COVID-19 mitigation and prevention, they have provided unique challenges for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD), including Treatment Court (TC) participants.

This study involved a qualitative evaluation of TC Family Nights; one series of Family Nights was conducted before the COVID-19 pandemic and the second series was adapted and held remotely due to COVID-19 distancing requirements.

Several important themes emerged, including general positive experiences, accessible session logistics, naloxone training, attention to stigma, building recovery capital, group engagement, social interaction, and community action. These themes will help inform future SUD recovery education.

Online recovery support events provide a new model for courts and recovery organizations that seek multiple ways to provide connection and support for their participants and families during times when accessibility is prioritized, in-person activities are discouraged, and in resource-sparse and geographically isolated communities.

Arkansas

[Gurdon addiction center among 13 in state to receive opioid settlement funding](#)

Arkadelphian

Selected coalitions will receive \$25,000 in funding to attend personalized training with CADCA, an international organization created to strengthen the capacity of community coalitions to create and maintain safe, healthy and drug-free communities globally.

Locally, the Gurdon-based Harvest House was among the recipients. According to Alice “Darlene” Mosley, recovery advocate and secretary of the organization’s board, Harvest House is a transitional chemical-free housing in Gurdon, Arkansas, for those who are ready to become substance-abuse free.

Some current programs associated with the Harvest House:

- Peer mentoring
- Employment assistance
- Transportation to medical facilities and court/drug court
- Court advocacy
- Childcare during work hours with two meals provided
- Child and parent reunification

Indiana

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

WISH TV 8

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.

Minnesota

[Opioid recovery options available in rural areas like southwest Minnesota, but with 'big gaps'](#)

The Globe

"There's a big need for that, educating people about what opioid use disorder is and how quick an overdose can happen and how to stop it," said Beth Hoekstra, director of operations at Project Morning Star. "When other people know more, I think that helps people trying to recover too."

Hoekstra describes project Morning Star as a sort of transitional stepping stone for people who might be coming out of drug court or local outpatient treatment and are in the process of recovery but aren't quite ready to be on their own yet.

New Hampshire

[Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts expands to support federal program](#)

NH Business Review

The [Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts](#) is expanding its services to participants in the federal drug treatment program known as the LASER docket.

With the expansion, the organization – which works to give drug offenders the chance to enter treatment rather than going to jail or prison – will award grants to help those in the federal program gain employment, access transportation, sober housing, health and dental care, similar to how it supports state drug court participants.

The U.S. District Court in Concord created the LASER (Law-Abiding, Sober, Employed and Responsible) docket in 2010 as a court rehabilitative program for defendants whose qualifying crimes or criminal history are attributable to drug abuse or addiction.

Ohio

[Twelve graduate from drug court](#)

Times Gazette

Opioids and methamphetamine are the most prevalent drugs that have plagued members of the drug court program, according to [Highland County Probation Department Director of Programming and Clinical Services Tony Sturgill]. She said she saw a shift to more use of meth in 2015 when she administered Vivitrol, a drug used to prevent a relapse to opioid dependence, to people in jail before they were released.

“Then again, just the death rate was so high, I think honestly addicts scared themselves, and we saw a huge shift to meth,” she said. “We’re seeing some of the opioids come back now, but when you ask my participants about their drug of choice, most of them will say opiates, and then they’ll say they switched to meth.”