

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

September 23, 2022



National

[FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions and Funding to Address the Overdose Epidemic and Support Recovery](#)

White House

Investing \$20.5 Million to Increase Access to Recovery Supports. HHS through SAMHSA, is awarding \$20.5 million in grant funding to organizations that help connect individuals who have substance use disorders with community resources. This funding will help individuals with substance use disorders who are moving through the drug court system restabilize their lives by expanding prevention and treatment programs and increasing access to community behavioral health promotion services.

National

[Tribes, City Officials Address the Opioid Crisis in Northern Minnesota](#)

Native News Now

Jackson has been in recovery since 2016 when he was sentenced to wellness court, a program specifically designed for drug offenders and non-violent criminals to help reduce substance abuse in the community and enhance public safety. The Itasca County Wellness Court is one of only two drug courts in the nation that have a Joint Powers Agreement with a Tribal Court, which is the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

North Carolina

[County detention center installs free Narcan vending machine, combats drug overdose](#)

Daily Tar Heel

Seven counties have adopted naloxone vending machines in their detention centers. These machines hold Narcan kits — Narcan being a brand name for naloxone — which reverse opioid overdoses by slowing rapid breathing. This provides time for emergency responders to administer medical treatment.

The Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative grant funded the free administration of vending machines in North Carolina detention centers, as well as in centers in other states.

The National Center for State Courts pushed for vending machines to be installed in detention centers to target vulnerable post-incarceration individuals, NCSC Consultant Tara Blair said.

Ohio[Chief Justice Delivers Her Last State of the Judiciary](#)

Court News Ohio

Among the top issues Ohio courts have addressed in recent years is the opioid epidemic. The chief justice praised the judicial officers for their roles in trying to deal with the crisis.

She noted that in 2013, Ohio began certifying specialized dockets to tackle cases involving offenders with drug and alcohol abuse and mental health disorders. With more than 263 specialized dockets, Ohio is a national leader in using these programs to find treatment and solutions for offenders while also holding them accountable.

While courts are driving solutions to cope with opioid and synthetic drug issues, Chief Justice O'Connor cautioned judges not to let down their guard. As she leaves the Supreme Court, her role in the effort will end, she said, and she urged others to continue to improve the system.

Ohio[Judges: 'Specialized dockets' key resource in battle against drugs in Marion County](#)

Marion Star

The Supreme Court of Ohio defines a specialized docket as “a particular session of court that offers a therapeutically oriented judicial approach to providing court supervision and appropriate treatment to individuals.” The Supreme Court provides certification for the following types of special dockets: mental health courts, drug courts, OVI/DUI courts, drug-domestic violence courts, drug-re-entry courts, veterans courts, and family dependency treatment courts.

In Marion County, the Marion Municipal Court and Marion County Common Pleas Court each have a drug court that is available to select offenders. The Common Pleas Court drug court was established in 2013 and the Municipal Court drug court was reinstated in 2014.

Municipal Court also has specialized dockets for mental health (Wellness Intervention Court) and veterans treatment courts. Common Pleas Court also has a specialized docket for drug re-entry court.