

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: February 14, 2020



National

[Managing a Crisis: State Courts Respond to the National Opioid Epidemic](#)

2020 NACM Midyear Conference

Speaker: Deborah Taylor Tate, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts for the Supreme Court of Tennessee

The opioid epidemic is hitting our courtrooms and communities hard. Access to treatment is critical but often non-existent. Deaths and suicides continue to rise. Babies are born with NAS (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome) and removed to an overwhelmed child welfare system. This session will provide an overview of the work of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force including their just launched extensive online resource center which houses practical tools, bench cards, webinars, expert videos, and other educational resources for the entire court system. Learn what you can do as a Court Administrator to save lives and educate not only the court system but your community.

Alabama

[Report calls for statewide standards of Alabama drug courts, prison alternatives](#)

Montgomery Advertiser

Last year, the Montgomery Advertiser reported on a drug court program in Walker County, a northwest Alabama county plagued by a stunning influx of opioids in the past 15 years. Kirsten Shaw, the executive director of a Walker County treatment center, said she knows drug courts are attempting to help people, but the financial obligations were overwhelming for people working minimum wage jobs: "\$100 for an assessment, \$75 for a monthly report, \$35 for a drug test."

"... We're trying to dig them out of the negative all the time," Shaw said of trying to help the women in her homes pay for child support, build up savings, buy a car to get to and from work. "If they have all these things piled up on top of them, all we're doing is just trying to keep them above water."

Ohio

[Local governments working together to get funds following opioid settlement](#)

WKRC

"Whatever we can get to come back to this community to help us with that, would be huge," said Hamilton County Commission President Denise Driehaus.

This week, local leaders from around the state met in Columbus to work toward getting a settlement. Driehaus and many believe it's the best way to get money, by unifying and possibly getting to the top of the settlement list.

"I think we're close though. I think the idea is local governments have suffered a lot because of what we do. The jail, the court system, JFS, children's services. These are the organizations that have borne the brunt of the addiction crisis," said Driehaus.

Washington

[County gets \\$750,000 over two years to stem opioid epidemic](#)

The Daily World

Superior Court Judge Stephen Brown said he is looking forward to working with the other members of the executive committee and is invested in improving outcomes in the county.

"One issue that I'm interested in is how this response can impact our therapeutic court program, the adult drug court," he said. He hopes the money will help "extend the therapeutic courts to child welfare cases where kids are taken into foster care from parents who are impacted by substance use disorder and opioids."