

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

September 29, 2023

Final Issue



*The National Center for State Courts and New England Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continuous support and readership of our newsletter over the last several years. This will be the final edition of Opioid-Related News and the Courts; however, we invite you to visit the [NCSC Behavioral Health](#) webpage where we will continue to post information related to this very important topic. We hope you have found this newsletter valuable and please reach out if you have any questions.*

### National

#### [The Biden-Harris Administration Awards \\$131.7 Million to Support At-risk Youth and Families](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

[\\$41.2 million for Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts](#). This program expands substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support services in existing drug courts. The program recognizes the need for treatment instead of incarceration for individuals with SUDs. These awards provide a continuum of care, including prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services, for individuals with SUD involved with the courts. Family drug court awards include an added focus on family preservation and promoting the wellness of the family.

[\\$1.8 million for Preventing Youth Overdose: Treatment, Recovery, Education, Awareness and Training](#). This program improves local awareness among youth of risks associated with fentanyl; increases access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) for adolescents and young adults screened for and diagnosed with opioid use disorder (OUD); and trains health care providers, families, and school personnel on best practices for supporting children, adolescents, and young adults with OUD and those taking MOUD.

### Kentucky

#### [Kentucky honors National Recovery Month](#)

Spectrum News 1

Elizabeth Nichols from Kentucky Specialty Courts Drug Court program shared about the road to recovery.

“We make a case plan according to the individual’s needs. We want to [ensure] that we are addressing them holistically and connecting them to the recourses needed ... not every individual is going to need the same recourses and support,” said Nichols.

## **Kentucky**

### [In Focus: A closer look at Kentucky’s Department of Specialty Courts Drug Court Program](#)

Spectrum News 1

Kentucky Drug Court operates as part of the [Department of Specialty Courts](#) at the Administrative Office of the Courts, the administrative arm of the state court system which pays for treatment, drug testing, and case management. There is no cost to participants.

During this segment, Elizabeth Nichols, a manager in Kentucky’s Department of Specialty Courts, explains how the Specialty Courts give participants the tools and support to overcome obstacles to recovery and change their lives.

“Specialty courts encompasses three different tracks. We have drug court, veteran’s treatment court, and mental health court here in the state of Kentucky. And so we serve approximately around 2,500 participants every year, and they come into our program for a minimum of 18 months. We have a multidisciplinary team that encompasses the judge being the leader, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement and treatment staff that look at each individual and make a case plan and treatment plan for them,” said Nichols.

## **Missouri**

### [Franklin County forming Opioid Settlement Committee](#)

E-Missourian

Franklin County is forming a new committee to guide the allocation of millions of dollars of opioid settlement proceeds.

Presiding Commissioner Tim Brinker said he intended to create a Franklin County Opioid Settlement Committee at a commission meeting this week.

“With these settlement dollars that we will be and have been receiving, we will be establishing a committee that has the intent to utilize the opioid settlement resources to propagate prevention, awareness, rehabilitation, and assistance through the drug court, PreventEd, and HOPE (Coalition) per the allowed uses prescribed within the terms and conditions of the national opioid settlement,” Brinker said Tuesday. “There is a rolling ball on that.”