

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

March 17, 2023



National

[FY 2023 Adult Treatment Court Planning, Training, Technical Assistance, and Resources Center Initiative](#)

Bureau of Justice Assistance

With this solicitation, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) seeks providers to deliver a range of training and technical assistance (TTA), resources, and information to BJA-funded adult treatment courts, veterans treatment courts, community courts, and to the treatment court field at large, as well as to the statewide drug court coordinators who lead this work in their states. Providers for all categories in this solicitation are expected to participate in the [BJA Adult Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Collaborative \(TTA Collaborative\)](#) and work together to assist local, state, and tribal courts to plan, implement, and enhance the operations of treatment courts.

National

[Opinion: People Have a Right to Nonreligious Rehab](#)

New York Times

When it comes to opioid use disorder, religious elements of 12-step programs can be especially harmful. Narcotics Anonymous, the group focused on opioid addiction, is philosophically opposed to the most effective medications — methadone and buprenorphine. The group says in its literature that N.A. is a program of total abstinence — so people using these medications are not considered “clean.” This is an article of faith, not a principle based on data.

National

[Peers recognize Rock County, Wis. opioid settlement plan](#)

National Association of Counties

As counties debate how to allocate money from the national opioids settlement, a national leader among counties stresses listening to those who have experienced the brunt of substance use disorder.

Settlement plans developed by Rock County, Wis. and the state of Colorado were the inaugural honorees recognized by faculty at Johns Hopkins University and a coalition of national organizations steering The Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation.

“The most important thing is to really listen to the people that are most impacted, involve them in the process, because that’s how you’re going to make the change that’s going to matter,” said Shari Faber, a Rock County public health strategist who has participated on the county’s settlement task force.

National

[Ensuring Sustainability: Funding Strategies for Drug Courts](#)

Ohio Northern University Law Review

The long-term viability of drug court programs can be a challenge for problem solving court practitioners. Once implementation funds are exhausted, devising a plan to ensure program stability must be accomplished in an effort to maintain much needed client treatment services, court services, and supervision protocols. Although this article focuses primarily on the monetary aspects of sustainability — and to a lesser extent addresses the need for capacity building, educational efforts, and leadership development — it cannot be emphasized enough that sustainability means more than money.

National

[Examining Perceived Coercion in Drug Treatment Courts](#)

International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology

While perceptions of voluntary consent have been studied among participants in Mental Health Courts (MHC), little is known about coercion among participants in Drug Treatment Courts (DTC), the most common type of specialty court. The purpose of the present study was to examine perceptions of coercion at enrollment among participants (N = 85) in two Massachusetts DTCs. Results indicated that, on average, participants reported low levels of perceived coercion (M = 1.67, SD = 1.23), which suggests that most individuals did not perceive their decision to enroll in DTC to be coercive. However, further research is needed to delineate whether clinical or procedural variations exist within DTCs, if levels of perceived coercion predict DTC participant outcomes, and if subpopulations experience higher or lower levels of coercion.

Pennsylvania

[Westmoreland to bank another \\$26 million from 2nd opioid lawsuit settlement](#)

Trib Live

Tim Phillips, executive director of the Westmoreland County Drug Overdose Task Force and a member of the group that is preparing a preliminary spending plan for the commissioners, said the money will have an effect on the ongoing impacts of opioid abuse.

“This is going to be a great opportunity to expand our capacity to save lives,” Phillips said. “Year one will be a trial period to see what works.”

He suggested funds could be allocated to drug education programs, prevention efforts, rehabilitation services, drug court and expanded use of lifesaving medication such as Narcan.

Wisconsin

[Facing opioid crisis, Milwaukee County installs vending machine stocked with free Narcan, Fentanyl test strips](#)

Journal Sentinel

Every 16 hours someone dies from an overdose in Milwaukee County — a sobering data point that led officials to install new vending machines that contain free Fentanyl test strips, nasal Narcan, [and] gun locks, among other harm reduction and prevention supplies across the county.

The first vending machine was installed Monday on the first floor of the Marcia P. Cogg Human Services Center, 1220 W. Vliet St. This year, the county plans to install 11 of the 25 purchased vending machines in locations across Milwaukee County, with the goal of eventually having one in each of the 19 municipalities.

“We’re seeing a record-setting epidemic,” Milwaukee County’s chief health policy advisor Dr. Ben Weston said. “These harm reduction vending machines are a new and novel means to distribute the essentials of harm reduction.”