

The Line



Winter Issue is Here!

- Drug Courts In Their Communities!
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Winter Issue

January 2016

Editor's Corner: An Opinion on Specialty Courts in Arkansas

2015 brought acknowledgement from our state's law makers about the importance of Specialty Courts in Arkansas. Recent legislation highlights the growing concept of what makes a specialty court in our state. No longer are drug courts the only option for therapeutic jurisprudence. The professionals that are charged with supervising and treating the drug addicted population have more options to better address the complicated issues within this group.

Arkansas currently has Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts, DWI courts, Veterans Courts and Mental Health Courts. There are also SWIFT Courts, Alternative Sentencing Courts and a pilot HOPE model court. Each program addresses an area that has been identified as directly affecting someone's success on supervision or likelihood to recidivate.

The continued growth and development of specialty courts in Arkansas should include a focus on quality of services provided, effectiveness of procedures, and support of evidence based practices. To ensure that our programs continue within this core framework, we should strive for excellence in our individual professions through frequent training in emerging research and evidence base practices. We should also acknowledge areas of deficiency and maintain a critical eye upon ourselves so that we do not become complacent. Support of individual and system wide evaluations work to support this growth and development and keep our programs and our state moving forward.

Most importantly, when we strive to be superior in our service and quality, we change lives and shape our communities.

— Kari Powers, Editor

Legislation in Action: SCPAC

The Criminal Justice Reform Act 895 of 2015 formed the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee (SCPAC). The committee consists of representatives from the Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, judges who preside over specialty court programs, a district court judge who presides over a specialty court, a juvenile drug court judge, Department of Community Correction representatives, Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services, a prosecutor, a public defender, a member of the Senate, a member of the House of Representatives and The AR Drug Director or designee;

The committee first met in May of 2015 to begin their work. The committee is established to promote collaboration and provide recommendations on issues involving adult and juvenile specialty courts; and design and complete the comprehensive evaluation of adult and juvenile specialty court programs.

Since their initial meeting, the committee has met regularly and been involved in the Accountability Court Grant funding process. The committee is also working to develop and establish program standards for the different types of specialty courts. The committee has also begun the task of statewide program evaluations of all the specialty court programs by contracting with national experts, NPC Research. NPC and the SCPAC will be working throughout 2016 with your local programs to complete the first phase of the statewide project.

**2016 Statewide Drug Court
Conference: April 13-14 at
Embassy Suites, Little Rock**

YOU IN 10!

The You In 10 spotlight for Winter falls on to Sebastian County (Ft. Smith) **Drug Court Coordinator Shirl Page**. Ms. Page has worked many years for drug courts and been a familiar face as a member of the ADCPA Board. Read the following interview to learn more about Ms. Page.

The Line: Where are you from originally?
Shirl Page: Fort Smith, AR

TL: Do you have any hobbies?
SP: *Cooking, writing— not books, but notes and letters to people. My friends say I am a dinosaur, because very few people still use the Post Office.*

TL: If you were stranded on a desert island what 3 things would you absolutely want to have with you?
SP: *Food, shelter and a bible.*

TL: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?
SP: *Retired, traveling, doing volunteer work for my community.*

TL: If you could do any other career what would it be and why?
SP: *Tour guide. I love meeting new people and of course, I love to talk!*

TL: Do you have any pets? What kind?
SP: *Yes, a Grand Dog. A Belgian Malinois, his name is Pluto Maximus.*

TL: What is your favorite part of working in a drug court?
SP: *Getting to know the participants and seeing their life change, helping work out kinks in the system that may hinder them in the recovery process.*

TL: What is one thing about you that people are surprised to learn?
SP: *My age.*

TL: If you could travel to any location, where would you go and why?
SP: *The Holy Land, to see some of the places mentioned in the Bible, to walk where Jesus walked.*

TL: Who inspires you and why?
SP: *Mrs. Euba Harris Winton. She is 92 years old and still on fire for the rights of women, children and humanity.*

Thank you Shirl Page for sharing about yourself!

“You’re life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.”

—— Jim Rohn, author

Local Drug News

Faulkner Co Juvenile Drug Court:

A pilot project placing juvenile drug court participants with Occupational Therapy graduate students at UCA is progressing well. The students are working with the drug court participants on goal setting, including their drivers licenses. UCA is allowing the participants to practice in the driving simulator with the assistance of the mentor graduate students.

In January, Baptist School of Health Occupational Therapy students will begin working with program participants as well. The hope is to expand the drug court to bring in more participants.

Little Rock Drug Court :

The Little Rock Drug Court joined with other ACC staff to celebrate National Recovery Month in September. ACC hosted a community Recovery Fun Walk to promote awareness about mental health and substance abuse treatment services available to Arkansas residents. The event was held at Riverfront Park in Little Rock.

Pope County Drug Court Judge:

Pope County Drug Court Judge Dennis Sutterfield was the honored guest speaker for Arkansas Tech University-Ozark's Constitution Day celebration in September.

Judge Sutterfield has served as a Fifth Judicial District Circuit Judge for fourteen years. He is the founding judge for the Pope County Drug Court and presided over the program for ten years.

Sebastian Co Drug Court:

The Sebastian County Drug Court recently held a graduation ceremony. One of the program graduates, Levita Haws, provided the ceremony attendees with testimony of her story of recovery. Haws later spoke at length to the *Southwest Times Record* as part of a feature interview. Ms. Haws, who has now graduated the drug court program, is enjoying her stable life and success as a restaurant manager. She candidly discussed her addiction and the path it lead her down and subsequent life decisions that brought her to drug court.

Upon being released from a correctional facility, Haws was homeless and had no place to go. Through the efforts of her parole officer, she was able to secure a residency at Esther House, which is run by the Next Step Homeless Services in Fort Smith. Haws told the *Southwest Times*, "I was able to work on finding a job and also work on growing and changing on the inside because I didn't have to worry about where I was going to sleep, if I was going to eat, or if someone was going to steal my stuff.

Having a safe and secure living environment at the Esther Home was a huge weight lifted off my shoulders." Haws credits a number of factors that helped her achieve the recovery and stability she now enjoys. Having the desire to change, following a 12- Step Program and participation in the Drug Court Program all worked to provide Haws with the tools to meet her goals. "It took all of them for me to grow spiritually and become who I am today. I could not have done this on my own" Haws said.





Hope Drug Court:

The Hope Drug Court was selected to receive a Farm to School Award.

The program also participated in the local county fair, by submitting their garden vegetables. The program placed first in sweet potatoes, butternut squash, and yellow squash. They placed second place in green bean category with an entry of their butter beans.

If any other program is interesting in starting a similar community gardening project they are welcome to contact the Hope Drug Court team. Our slogan is "To eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art." - Rochelfoucaulod



Hope Drug Court participants and staff with the ribbons from the District Fair. Nikki Crowe, Sandy Martin (organic farmer and mentor), David Patterson, Mike Adkins, Brody Joyce, Justin Martin (no relation to Sandy), Arlice Pettit, Joe Phillips and Teresa Pribilski.



"To eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art." - Rochelfoucaulod

National News

What is “Flakka”?

According to a Fox News report, a drug known as “flakka” is one of the latest synthetically developed drugs of abuse to concern public health experts. Flakka is a derivative of bath salts. Cases of the drug causing heart palpitations and aggressive behavior have been reported. Use of the drug can also affect the kidneys, leading to kidney failure or death. Flakka use has been documented in Florida, Ohio and Texas but believed to be available in many more states. The name is derived from the Spanish word “flaca”, which means “skinny”. In other states, the drug may also be sold under the name “Gravel”.

According to Jim Hall of Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, flakka contains alpha-PVP. Alpha-PVP is a substance that provides euphoria and boosted physical strength. The effects are similar to other stimulants such as ecstasy and cocaine, Hall said. “One of the reasons we think alpha-PVP is such a problem is because it is extremely dose-specific, and even just a little dose will give a person the desired effect they want,” he said. “Just a little more can create a number of serious adverse effects to the point the user doesn’t even know.”

Flakka, sold in crystalline rock form, can be snorted, swallowed, injected or vaped in an e-cigarette. While its effects are generally felt for three or four hours, they can continue for days. It is inexpensive to purchase in small amounts, similar to crack cocaine.



The Fentanyl Threat

In November, DEA Acting Administrator Chuck Rosenberg announced results from the 2015 National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA), which finds that drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of injury death in the United States, ahead of motor vehicle deaths and firearms. In 2013, over 46,000 people in the United States died from drug overdose and more than half of those were caused by prescription painkillers and heroin.

“We must stop drug abuse before it begins by teaching young people at an even earlier age about its many dangers and horrors. Law enforcement must continue to have the tools it needs to attack criminal groups who facilitate drug addiction. More Americans need treatment options so they can move forward living drug-free lives. We cannot continue to accept these lives lost without serious future action.”

Other 2015 NDTA findings include:

- Heroin availability is up across the country, as are abusers, overdoses, and overdose deaths.
- Heroin overdose deaths are also a result of high-purity batches unknown to the user, as well as heroin adulterants such as fentanyl.
- Since 2002, prescription drug deaths have outpaced those of cocaine and heroin combined. Abuse of controlled prescription drugs is higher than that of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, MDMA, and PCP combined.
- Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 25 to 40 times more potent than heroin, has caused over 700 deaths in the U.S. between late 2013 and early 2015. Fentanyl is sometimes added to heroin batches, or sold by itself as heroin, unknown to the user.
- Synthetic designer drugs from China continue to wreak havoc in the United States, particular synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones, and phenethylamines.

The National Drug Threat Assessment can be found at www.dea.gov



What's New with Your ADCPA Board?

The Arkansas Drug Court Professionals Association (ADCPA) Board of Directors has been hard at work planning activities for our membership in 2016. Our annual Drug Court Conference will be held on April 13th and 14th in Little Rock at the Embassy Suites. We will have two full days of training again this year with speakers from across the state and the nation. The conference will also include the popular "One Minute Innovations" and Drug Court Professional of the Year awards. A new addition to our conference this year is the "Parade of Transformation." Our board has chosen successful Drug Court graduates to come and be recognized and to serve as living proof that "Drug Court Works!!"

Don't forget to get your membership and conference registration forms in! Also, don't forget to send in nominations for Drug Court Professional of the Year to recognize extraordinary individuals in our state that go above and beyond for their drug courts! Our board hopes that everyone enjoyed the one day "Regional Flash Trainings" in 2015 and we are actively working towards having this training opportunity available again this year in Fall 2016. These one day trainings are FREE to our membership so even if you are not attending conference, join our association for this learning opportunity. Thank you all for your continued support and we hope to see you all very soon at our annual conference!

**Register for the Annual
Statewide Drug Court
Conference at:**

**[https://
courts.arkansas.gov/
courts/circuit-courts/drug-
court-programs](https://courts.arkansas.gov/courts/circuit-courts/drug-court-programs)**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LINE

A bi-annual publication by the Division of Drug Courts at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Contributions, comments, and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to *The Line*, A.O.C., Justice Building, 625 Marshall street, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel. (501) 682-9400.

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The Administrative Offices of the Court (AOC) supports the information technology, training, juvenile support services, drug court services, language and advocate services of the Arkansas court system. The courts served include the District Court to the Arkansas Supreme Court and its boards and committees.

Webinars and Resources

American University Drug Court
Practitioner Webinars at:

<http://www1.spa.american.edu/justice/videos.php>

“Translating Drug Court Research into
Practice” at:

<http://research2practice.org/>

NDCI’s “Tune In Tuesdays” Webinar series:

[http://www.ndci.org/training/online-trainings-webinars/
webinars](http://www.ndci.org/training/online-trainings-webinars/webinars)

And other useful links.....

<http://www.courtinnovation.org/topic/drug-court>

www.drugfree.org

We're On The Web!
<https://courts.arkansas.gov/>

