



Summer Issue is Here!

- National Drug Court Month in Arkansas!
- Best Practice Assessments!
- Latest hot topics!
- Gallery Pics Galore!

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Summer Issue

June/July 2016

Arkansas Statewide Best Practices Report

On June 10th, 2016 the *Arkansas Statewide Assessment of Best Practices Report* was presented to the Specialty Court Programs Advisory Committee in Little Rock. The statewide survey evaluated local specialty court programs adherence to best practices. NPC Research of Oregon conducted the survey and evaluated the results. All specialty court judges have received an electronic copy of the report. The report is expected to be published to both the NPC website and the Arkansas Judiciary Website in July.

According to the report, Arkansas' programs demonstrated consistent achievement of best practices in Key Component #1 (integration of treatment and court system) and Key Component #2 (non-adversarial approach involving prosecution and defense counsel). There were strengths demonstrated in the number of programs maintaining manageable numbers of participants, providing treatment by licensed and experienced treatment professionals, providing an array of complementary services, drug testing practices, requiring participants demonstrate skills and stability prior to graduation, as well as frequent court sessions and the time judges spend with participants per court session.

The report listed other positives and strengths of state specialty court programs, however, evaluators did note areas that programs should work to strengthen and develop. Some of the areas noted for enhancement include developing program policy and procedure manuals; reducing time from arrest to program entry; selecting and implementing the use of standardized, validated risk and needs screening and assessment tools; addressing high caseloads and decreasing the use of jail sanctions.

State Drug Court Conference Held in Little Rock

On April 13-14, 2016 the Annual Statewide Drug Court Conference was held at the Embassy Suites hotel in Little Rock. The annual training conference brought the largest attendance yet with nearly 300 professionals registered for the event. The training is a partnership between the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Arkansas Drug Court Professionals Association. This year, the training offered multiple breakout sessions in a variety of topics relating to best practices and cross-discipline areas. The conference planners worked to bring a sense of inclusiveness for the growing number of specialty courts in the state by offering presentations on juvenile drug courts, veterans courts and DWI courts as well as adult drug courts.

Check out the conference pics in the Gallery!!

May Proclaimed "Drug Court Month" in Arkansas

Governor Hutchinson issued a proclamation recognizing May 2016 as "State of Arkansas Drug Court Month." The proclamation, which was read at the Arkansas Statewide Drug Court Conference, highlights the extraordinary success of the drug courts nationally in helping to reverse the escalating prison population.

*"Each year keeps
improving upon the last.
I can't wait to see what is
in store for 2017!"*

*— Kayla Beck, Drug Court Advisor
and ADCPA Board Member*

YOU IN 10!

The *You In 10* spotlight for Summer falls on the Mississippi County (Osceola) **Drug Court Advisor Tarsha Smith– Cook**. Read the following interview to learn more about Ms. Smith–Cook.

The Line: Where are you from originally?
Tarsha Smith–Cook: *Blytheville, AR*

TL: Do you have any hobbies?

TSC: *Singing, playing volleyball and reading.*

TL: If you were stranded on a desert island what 3 things would you absolutely want to have with you?

TSC: *Water, a friend, and a tent.*

TL: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

TSC: *Managing at a state organization and/or operating my own counseling practice; married with children; living in another state.*

TL: If you could do any other career what would it be and why?

TSC: *I would like to stay in professional counseling. But if I were to stray from counseling altogether, I would have to go back to my first passion of working for the FBI. I've always had a calling to be in corrections/criminal justice since I was about 7 or 8. I told myself that I was either going to an FBI agent or a private investigator. As I have gotten older...I would prefer to be in management, or contract services for them as an instructor or treatment professional.*

TL: Do you have any pets? What kind?

TSC: *Yes. I have a pug mixed with a Chihuahua. Her name is Cheetah.*

Do you have a suggestion for an interview person or topic? Please share! Send your suggestion to **The Line** Editor at kari.powers@arcourts.gov

TL: What is your favorite part of working in a drug court?

TSC: *Working together with a judge, prosecutor, and probation officer to change behavior and thinking with the clients. Seeing the legal professionals buy-in to treating offenders and the process of treatment/recovery, and get away from the “lock-em up and throw away the key” mentality is refreshing and encouraging.*

TL: What is one thing about you that people are surprised to learn?

TSC: *Probably a tie between learning that I am a PK (preacher's kid) or sadly, that I am from Blytheville/ Mississippi County because of my status as an African American woman, from an impoverished community, with no children, and with a Master's Degree at age 30. This shocks most people from Mississippi County area who are aware of the obstacles and high risks that youth and minorities face in this area. They are surprised to see someone that beat the odds.*

TL: If you could travel to any location, where would you go and why?

TSC: *I would go to the Bahamas. A great place to vacation and retire.*

TL: Who inspires you and why?

TSC: *Personally, my parents inspire me. They give me something no one else has. They taught me about Christ and faith....I hope that one day my faith is as strong as theirs. Locally, Myra Woolfolk of ACC Residential Services inspires me....something about her demeanor and personality stood out. She is confident and believed in what she did....I have her to look to for an example of what hard work looks like and the benefits of hard work. Nationally, the Obamas inspire me.... To be an African American family with such prestige, class and extensive education and community ties motivates me daily.*

Thank you Tarsha for sharing about yourself!

Local Drug News

Batesville DWI Court Holds Annual Bike Ride

The Batesville DWI Court held their eighth annual out-and-back ride, which raises money for the Independence County DWI Court Program. The event allows participants to bike up to 100 miles.

The ride is held in May to recognize National Bike Riding Month and National Drug Court Month. The program received a grant to purchase three bikes for program members to use for transportation due to loss of their driver's license privileges. Bikes are not required for the program. The annual ride usually raises between \$500 and \$1,000.

For a link to the full article visit <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2016/may/25/batesville-ride-support-dwi-court-program/>



Lawrence and Randolph County Drug Courts

On May 26th, 2016, the Drug Court teams in Lawrence and Randolph Counties held a Drug Court BBQ at Old Davidsonville State Park located outside of Pocahontas, Arkansas. The event was held to celebrate National Drug Court Month and to honor the hard work and progress made by both active drug court participants and those that have graduated the Drug court programs. Approximately 50 individuals enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch that was prepared by Smokin' Butts BBQ in Horseshoe Bend, AR. Some of the graduates gave their testimony about how the Drug Court program changed their lives and helped them to see that a life of drug abuse was not the life they wanted for themselves. One graduate was able to share with everyone how he was able to receive a Governor's Pardon and no longer has a felony record. The Drug Court teams in both counties are very proud of the participant's hard work and dedication and of the goals they have accomplished in their lives since entering the drug court program. It is Judge Phil Smith's desire to make this an annual event during National Drug Court Month.

16th Judicial Drug Court- Cleburne County

The National Drug Court Professionals Association recognized the 16th JD Drug Court at Cleburne County during May's National Drug Court Month. The program nabbed the first National Drug Court Month headline for 2016. County Judge Jerry Holmes signed a proclamation designating May as National Drug Court Month in Cleburne County. (Pics in Gallery)

Pope County Drug Court Community Action

The Pope County Drug Court in Russellville was active in their community during National Drug Court Month and National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. On May 6th, the program hosted a Community Outreach and Education event free to the public. The event provided education about the drug court program, relapse and recovery, drug recognition and trends. Continuing education hours were provided for attendees. Members of the drug court also partnered with local city, county and state law enforcement to conduct a Prescription Drug Take Back day. (Pics in Gallery)



Sebastian County Drug Court

Sebastian County Judge David Hudson issued a local Proclamation for Drug Court Month in May. On May 20th, the Sebastian County Drug Court held a balloon release in celebration of National Drug Court Month. Names were read aloud of those who were lost to addiction and those who are still struggling with addiction. The ceremony concluded with the Serenity Prayer and balloon release. (Pics in Gallery)

Local Drug News

Hope County Drug Court :

The Hope Drug Court held multiple events in their area to celebrate National Drug Court Month. The staff assisted program participants and graduates in learning about city and county government processes. The participants travelled the area to meet with Mayors, County Judges and Quorum Courts giving presentations about the program. Counselor Teresa Pribilski stated that she was impressed by the interest the program participants expressed in learning more about governmental processes.

Below- Hempstead County Judge Haskell Morse and drug court participants. More pics in Gallery



SAVE THE DATE!

**2017 STATEWIDE DRUG
COURT CONFERENCE
APRIL 12-13
EMBASSY SUITES
LITTLE ROCK**

Hot Springs Drug Court:



On April 27th, Hot Springs Drug Court hosted its annual bowling night for drug court participants. The event is a pro-social activity and serves to kick off National Drug Court Month in May. (Pics in Gallery)

Bentonville Drug Court

More than 70 people graduated from the Bentonville drug court in a May ceremony. Several graduates from Benton County Veterans Court also were recognized at the ceremony. Graduate Jay Wheeless shared his story with those in attendance. "My name is Jay, and I'm an alcoholic," Wheeless said as he addressed the graduation crowd. The journey to graduation was tough for Wheeless. Now sober, Wheeless wants to share his experience with other people. "I learned how to deal with grief and not turn to drugs or alcohol," Wheeless said. "I had never done that before." Bryan Matthews, director of the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, said drug and veterans courts are changing lives. Matthews said thousands of veterans are in prisons and on parole, but he praised veterans courts for not adding to the numbers.

For a link to the full article visit http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2016/jul/05/drug-court-changes-lives-20160705/?news-arkansas-nwa#.V3v_rs9PC4.email

National News

Marijuana “Dabbing”

The New York Times reports (via Join Together News) that experts are becoming increasingly concerned about marijuana “dabbing”, a way of using the drug. Dabbing is a technique popular among young users. The DEA states that dabbing is a method used to convert marijuana into a concentrated form. The process requires the use of the flammable chemical butane and has resulted in violent explosions. In addition, the wax from the dabbing contains up to an 80 percent concentration of THC versus the traditional smoking methods of approximately 20 percent. Dabbing is reported popular with both the teenage crowd and Wall Street workers. People typically use vaporizers and vape pens, similar to e-cigarettes to smoke the waxy substance. The marijuana extract is also known as shatter, butter and honey.

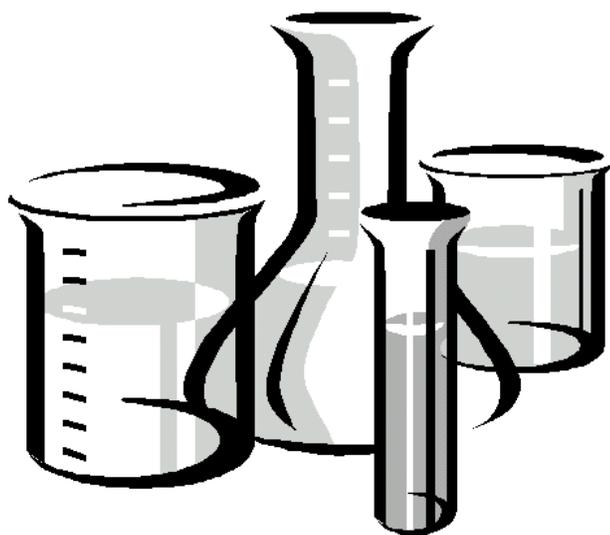
For more visit : http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/13/nyregion/chasing-bigger-high-marijuana-users-turn-to-dabbing.html?_r=2



Wristband Biosensors For Tracking Opioid Relapse

A recent study suggests wristband biosensors may be useful in tracking relapses in people in recovery from opioid addiction. The biosensors work by tracking how the body reacts to opioids. The study included 30 patients in a given opioid painkillers for acute pain. Each patient received a wristband biosensor that measured the body's response to the drugs. Some participants used opioids daily, while others rarely or never used the drugs. According to *Medical Daily*, researchers used the biosensors to identify when an opioid was injected into a patient, by detecting less body movement and an increase in skin temperature. People who used opioids daily had fewer changes in movement, compared to people who rarely or never used opioids. Advocates and researchers hope this information could be used by doctors to track patients' tolerance to painkillers, which could help prevent them from becoming addicted when they are being treated for chronic or acute pain. The sensors could also be used to alert doctors or family members when someone is in relapse. The biosensors are still in the new development stage and further study will be required before the tools can be integrated into treatment programs.

For more information and the full article visit: <http://www.medicaldaily.com/wearable-tech-wristband-sensors-drug-abuse-rehab-opioid-addicts-390401>





What's New with Your ADCPA Board?

The Arkansas Drug Court Professionals Association (ADCPA) and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) hosted the annual conference in Little Rock in early April. At this training conference, our general membership elected new members to fill vacancies on our ADCPA board. Listed below are the current ADCPA board members listed by congressional district.:

Congressional District 1: Judge Phillip Smith, Attorney Eric Bray, Officer Tara Sharp, Treatment Professional Toni Baker, At Large Tammy Harris

Congressional District 2: Judge Bobby McCallister, Attorney Andy Gill, Officer Deborah Gorham, Treatment Professional Susan Hathcote, At Large Margaret Linker

Congressional District 3: Judge Cristi Beaumont, Attorney Robert McClure, Officer Elizabeth Carter, Treatment Professional Kayla Beck, At Large Shirl Page

Congressional District 4: Judge Jerry Don Ramey, Attorney Lisa Parks, Officer Michael Hall, Treatment Professional Teresa Pribilski, At Large Lisa Wells

Our board member officers are :
 President- Judge Bobby McCallister
 Vice President- Tara Sharp
 Secretary- Officer Lisa Wells
 Treasurer- Kayla Beck.

Please feel free to contact your local board members with any major concerns for review by our board. Our board meetings are held quarterly with our next meeting scheduled for September 2016.

Our ADCPA board is hard at work planning our conference for the year 2017. Mark your calendars for the annual conference on April 12 -13, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock, AR.

Another exciting set of events the ADCPA board is providing for **FREE** for its membership again this year are the **“Arkansas Regional Flash Trainings.”** The training sessions this year will be based on Incentives and Sanctions. We will only have two dates of training this year in two training sites.

The one day flash trainings will take place on **November 3, 2016 and on November 4, 2016.** The training sessions will begin at approximately 8:30am and conclude at approximately 4:30pm. We will announce the locations as soon as all the details are worked out. We will be sending out registration information as soon as possible so be on the lookout to get registered for the training day in your region!

The ADCPA hopes you all are having a spectacular summer and we look forward to seeing you all at our Arkansas Regional Flash Trainings!



Drug Court Month Celebrations



Sebastian County Drug Court Team and County Judge



16th Judicial District Drug Court Team and Cleburne County Judge

Drug Court Month Celebrations



Mayor Dennis Ramsey signs proclamation with support from Hope Drug Court participant

City of Prescott City Council Meeting. Mayor Terry Oliver signs drug court month proclamation.

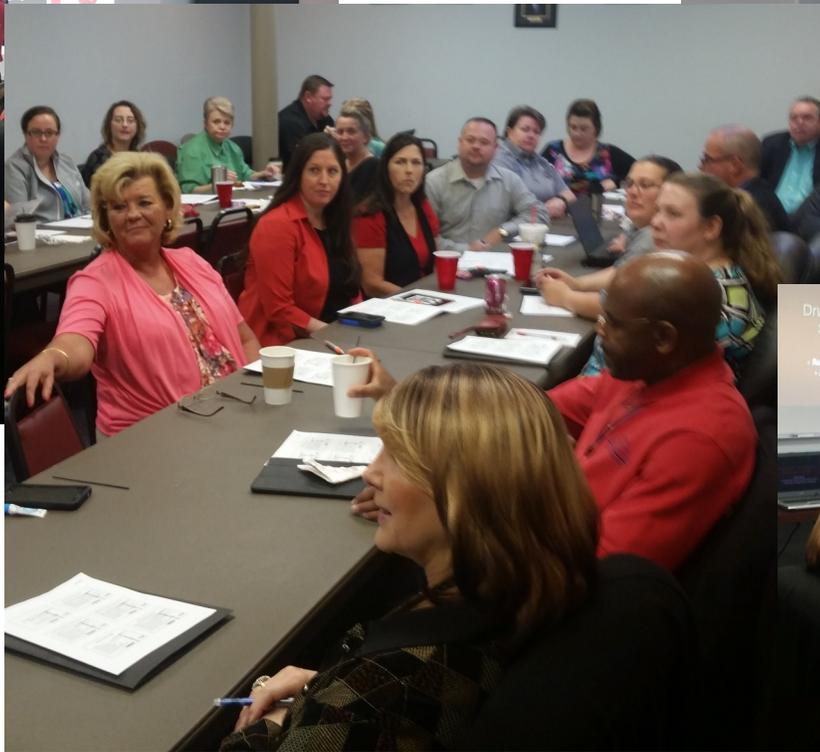


Hot Springs Drug Court bowling night include Judge John Homer Wright, Drug Court Advisor Chris Skrivanos, Admin Specialist Kelly Smith and PPA Michael Hall.

Drug Court Month Celebrations



Left, Right and Below: Pope County Drug Court Community Education Event



Sebastian County Drug Court Balloon Release

2016 State Drug Court Conference



Above– Dr. Terrence Walton with NADCP; Top Right– conference attendees; Right– Dr. Teresa Kramer with UAMS

2016 State Drug Court Conference



Left to Right– ADCPA President Judge Jerry Don Ramey, Attorney of the Year Lisa Parks, Counselor of the Year Frank Farmer, Officer of the Year Yolande Watson, ADCPA Vice President Judge John Dan Kemp.



Pictured Left are nominees for Drug Court Judge of the Year (L to R)- Judge Earnest Brown Jr., Judge Hamilton Singleton, Judge Phil Smith. Not Pictured is Judge Troy Braswell.

2016 State Drug Court Conference



Nominees for Administrative Professional of the Year: Cindy Dickey, Molly Garay, Linda White



Nominees for Drug Court Attorney of the Year: Robert McClure and Lisa Parks

2016 State Drug Court Conference



Nominees for Drug Court Counselor of the Year: Venita Banister, Tammie Dewey, Annette Dixon, Frank Farmer, Steven Free, Angela Harness, Greg Marshall, Toni Baker, Teresa Pribilski, and Zabrina Weaver.



Pictured Left: Parade of Transformation Guest Speakers

Pictured below: Nominees for Drug Court Officer of the Year: Alsie Greer-Blackmon, Dudley Crossland, Maurice Gollatt, Tracey Risley, Yolande Watson, Lisa Wells and Candy West



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



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

