



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

APRIL 2017

WWW.GAACCOUNTABILITYCOURTS.ORG

MACON-BIBB VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Kathy Smith, Treatment Court Coordinator

Veterans Treatment Court participants sponsored, participated, and funded a community event. In an effort to establish more community unity and remove blight, an event was held on February 25th in the Mill Hill neighborhood in Macon. Five veterans from our Court were attempting to bridge the gap between the community, its children, and law enforcement. The event was attended by local stakeholders including Sheriff David Davis and his Deputies, Macon Housing Authority, Commissioner Schlesinger, Macon Arts Alliance, the Macon Roving Listeners, The Flaming Knights Motorcycle Club, and News Channel 24.



Congratulations on the March Graduations!

Fayette County DUI Court

Gwinnett County Drug Court

Hall County Family Treatment Court

Hall County DUI Court

Rockdale County Adult Drug Court

South Enotah Drug Court

CACJ UPDATES

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DATA ENTRY SPECIFIC TRAINING

The ongoing Case Management Trainings are scheduled through the end of April. All court coordinators that registered their courts to attend have received their training date, time, and location. If your court has not, please email Erica Cawood.

MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) PILOT PROGRAM

Initial planning efforts are underway. The 9th and 10th Judicial Administrative Districts are currently mapping out the project overview, writing and reviewing program polices and referral packets, and setting up training with Alkermes. If your court resides within those Judicial Districts, reach out to your District Court Administrator for more information. Identifying the largest pilot catchment zone is ideal for this project. Additionally, it is anticipated that this pilot will have an opportunity to grow throughout the state in the coming months.

CACJ RECIDIVISM REPORTS AND WEBSITE ACCESS

By now, each accountability court director and/or coordinator should have received an email from ARS that grants access to a custom built website to retrieve their report. The website will act as a repository for current and future recidivism reports.

Additionally, a summary report of the analysis performed, to include data exceptions, will be made available to courts. Please reach out to Erica Cawood if you completed a historical report but have not received your access to the website. Some of the content contained within the recidivism reports includes: the court's participant demographic profile, number of participant admissions by year, and the average number of arrests by offense type. Additionally, the CJCC and ARS analyzed the reported participant SID numbers against Georgia's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) database to determine the percent of participants arrested after program start date, after program termination, and after program graduation within 12, 24, and 26 months. If your court did not complete the Historical Recidivism Report or did not report SID numbers to the state, you court will not have a report or website access at this time. Please contact Taylor Jones if you have questions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FAMILY TREATMENT AND DUI COURTS THAT RECENTLY RECEIVED CERTIFICATION!

A list of all certified courts can be found on the CACJ website: www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/cacj-certification

USEFUL RESOURCES

VECTR CENTER RESOURCE

The Georgia Veterans Education Career Transition Resource Center (VECTR) opened in August 2016 in Warner Robins, GA. Their mission is to successfully transition veterans and their families into Georgia's public colleges, universities, and the state's workforce. They serve as a gateway for veterans' re-entry into Georgia's public postsecondary educational systems and workforce. The services offered stem from a partnership between the University System of Georgia and the Technical College system. Academic courses and workforce training are offered by Middle Georgia State University and Central Georgia Technical College. Other services offered include full-time veteran service officers from the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, employment assistance through the Georgia Department of Labor, and links to many other community resources. The staff at the VECTR center also have links to schools and other resources available to veterans that live outside of their service area. For more information, please visit their website:

www.gavectr.org

DEPARTMENT OF DRIVER SERVICES (DDS) ACCOUNTABILITY COURT PROJECT

Beginning on July 1, 2016, the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ), Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), and Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) entered into an MOU for DDS to provide assistance to Accountability Courts to facilitate the implementation of O.C.G.A 40-5-76 (DDS provides suspension, reinstatement, or issuance of limited permits of driver's licenses for participants in drug, mental health, veterans, operating under the influence, or family treatment court divisions). The DDS Full-Time Team Member will be available to assist Accountability Courts during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). Their scope of assistance will be to help courts and current participants with access to driver histories, processing court orders, and general issuance eligibility questions.

JUDGES CORNER: HONORABLE SAMUEL D. OZBURN

Newton County Mental Health Court

WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL INTEREST IN BEING AN ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGE?

While practicing law in the Newton County area for nineteen years and then serving as a Superior Court judge, I saw many examples of criminal conduct driven by mental illness and families struggling to deal with the devastating effect of repeated incarceration without effective treatment. I recognized mental health court as an opportunity to address this problem, stop this revolving door of incarceration, and restore lives.

WAS THERE A SPECIFIC MOMENT/EVENT THAT HAPPENED THAT LET YOU KNOW YOU WERE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT FOR YOUR PROGRAM?

I knew we were doing something right when I witnessed the graduation of a participant who was barely accepted into the Court due to a history of criminal conduct and instability that started when he was a child and which continued as he aged out of foster care and went almost immediately into the prison system. He graduated as a stable and caring husband with a family that was proud of him. This was one of the proudest yet humbling experiences I have ever had as a judge.

TO DATE, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR COURT'S BIGGEST PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENT?

This court's biggest program accomplishment has been finding creative solutions for court participants using local resources to supplement our state grant. For example, the lack of public transportation led to the donation of the use of a van by a local car dealer. A twelve step program has been organized specifically for court participants, and a local police department has provided funds to pay for incentives provided to court participants.

NEWTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT:

STARTED: JULY
2013

CURRENT
ENROLLMENT: 20

GRADUATED
PARTICIPANTS: 13