



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

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FROM CACJ STAFF

As we close out of 2017 and move into a new year, may each day of 2018 bring happiness, excitement and sweet surprises to your doorstep!

Happy New Year!

CARROLL COUNTY ADULT FELONY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

The Carroll County Adult Felony Drug Court Program spread holiday cheer by decorating Christmas trees for the 15th annual Night in Lights. The Carroll County Drug Court tree was auctioned off for the top bid of \$250! The proceeds benefited the West Georgia Prevention and Advocacy Resource Center. According to Court Coordinator Susan Davenport, The director of PARC decided to make the Drug Court's tree the "traveling tree" and will display it all over the county. The ornaments were made by Drug Court participants and the Court has decided to continue to participate yearly as an opportunity to give back to the community.



Pictured the left: Carroll County Drug Court participants Light of Hope tree. Each of the round and bulb shaped ornaments were decorated by the court participants and tagged with a word that best describes what they have gained in recovery.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DECEMBER GRADUATES!
Henry County Drug Court, Cobb County Mental Health Court, Colquitt SA/MH Treatment Court, Muscogee Adult Felony Drug Court, Lowndes Accountability Court, Hall Family Treatment Court, Chatham Family Treatment Court, Rockdale County Adult Mental Health Court

ATHENS-CLARKE ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

Chief Probation Officer, Dale Allen shared a wonderful story about the amazing things accountability courts do to support participants and their families. Senior Probation Officer, Jason Kelley assigned to support Athens-Clarke Accountability Courts had an idea to gather up some toys for families participating in the programs. Judges and coordinators came on board rapidly to support this idea. A generous donation from the Accountability Courts Foundation with the assistance of Laura Welch and Sarah McKinney provided the financial support to move forward and help purchase presents from Toys R Us. The store managers, went above and beyond to help allow our funds to go farther. Elves from all over came to the rescue, including coordinators and Phoenix Project interns from the UGA School of Social Work. Here is a picture of the small Christmas miracle.





MACON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

The Macon Judicial Circuit held their 4th Annual Accountability Courts Partners Celebration Luncheon on December 11, 2017. The annual luncheon is a way to thank our community partners for the services they provide throughout the year. Each Court recognized a few outstanding partners with an award. Mental Health Court, presided over by Honorable Verda M. Colvin, honored Sherita Jones, Macon-Bibb County Finance, Nick Campbell, Christian Family Center and Laurie Simmons, River Edge.

Drug Court, presided over by Honorable Howard Z. Simms honored Emory Pitts, counselor, Honorable Tommy Day Wilcox and Honorable Thomas Matthews.

Veterans Treatment, presided over by Honorable David L. Mincey, III, honored Honorable Tilman E. Self, III and Senator John F. Kennedy, Victoria Burdeshaw, Bibb County Law Enforcement Center and Michael Bland, VJO Coordinator Dublin VAMC.

Honorable Tommy Day Wilcox was the special Guest Speaker and Todd Robinson from Next Step Men's Home was the Moderator.

A great time was had by all and from the Coordinators of the Macon Judicial Circuit a big THANK YOU to all of our partners for all you do for our participants.

PEER REVIEW UPDATES

FELONY DRUG COURTS

Rachel Gage

The goal of the peer review process is not to serve as an audit or "gotcha" moment, rather it is to allow accountability court teams to observe other programs and share challenges and success stories. While the process may appear intrusive (e.g. individual staff interviews, observations of staffing and status hearings, focus group with participants), peer reviews allow teams to spend time getting to know each other's programs and offer guidance and support to ensure alignment with state standards and best practices. Further, not only does the team being reviewed benefit from this process, but the reviewers also learn alternative ways of doing things and often "steal" ideas for incentives and sanctions, and even policy and procedures. The peer review process creates a learning community in Georgia among drug court teams.

As a Certification Officer, it is within my role to conduct peer reviews. Since joining the team in November, I have co-conducted two reviews. The process described is exactly what I observed. While each peer review is different in and of itself, the learning environment and camaraderie is the same. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each team and feel that we all left each review a little wiser. I look forward to continuing to work with Georgia's adult felony drug court teams and cannot wait to start the peer review process in 2018 for family treatment courts. In fact, my first FTC review is this month! You can learn more about peer reviews on our website at www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/peer-review.

Upcoming CACJ Training & Meetings

January 22-23, 2018	Seeking Safety Training for Treatment Providers	Macon Marriott City Center
February 5, 2018	Winter Coordinator Training Forum	Macon Marriott City Center



LEVEL OF SERVICE INVENTORY-REVISED (LSI-R)

LSI-R training was held December 11, 2017 in Gainesville, Georgia at the Hall County Government Center. The class was facilitated by Treatment Fidelity Support Specialist, Lasheika Kassa. LSI-R is a risk/need assessment instrument designed to assist correctional agencies classify an offender based upon risk of re-offending, thereby allowing accountability court programs to assign appropriate levels of risk or need and develop appropriate treatment plans.

The class of almost 40 participants were taught the steps to complete the assessment and reviewed each key area measured by the assessment. Those areas include: criminal history, education, employment, finances, leisure, companions, alcohol/drug use, personal attitudes and family. Each class attendee received a certificate of completion for attending the training.

Accountability Courts that need additional LSI-R assessment uses can request more at <http://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/participant-books-lsir-uses>.

DUI COURT TUNE-UP

December 8, 2017 The National Center for DWI Courts hosted a DUI Court Tune-Up training session in Athens, Georgia. Teams in attendance included Coweta DUI Court, Douglas DUI Court, Fayette DUI Court, Chatham DUI Court and Richmond DUI Court. Training sessions were facilitated by Shannon Carey, Julie Seitz, Shane Wolf and Paul Carey. The training agenda consisted of plenary sessions, team discussions and an update on Georgia's current legislation impacting DUI Courts, presented by DDS' Ms. Angelique McClendon.

Although the training was cut short by Georgia snow, CACJ staff would like to thank each attendee and training facilitator for attending the training despite the weather.

Do you have news to share or would like to include an entry in the monthly CACJ newsletter?

Contact Kim Howard at Kimberly.howard@georgiacourts.gov.

Reentry Partnership Housing

RPH applications are now being accepted!

The Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) has partnered with the Department of Community Supervision (DCS), the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and the Department of Corrections (GDC) to support the Reentry Partnership Housing (RPH) program in an effort to enable certain offenders' participation in accountability courts when housing is an issue. Two Q/A webinars were hosted in December. The second recorded webinar will be shared via the CACJ Court Coordinators intranet in early January. RPH Applications can also be found on the CACJ Website and Coordinators intranet platform.

Accountability Court program participants eligible to apply for RPH housing include Felony Drug Court, Family Treatment Court, Mental Health and Veterans.

Court Coordinators are encouraged to locate potential housing providers in their jurisdiction. Once a potential housing provider is located, the site can begin the process to become an approved housing provider. The more housing providers we have the more successful the initiative can be!

Questions concerning potential housing providers or applications can be sent to <https://dcs.georgia.gov/housing-programs>.

