



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

JANUARY 2017

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Here are a few things to remember. If not released already, specific dates will be announced via the listserv for the following.

JANUARY

- FY18 Court Profile Reports released and due back (details coming soon)
- CY 2017 – 2019 Certification Applications Due
- Q2 CACJ Profile Reports Due
- Thinking for a Change Training (Registration is Closed)
- LSI-R Training (Registration is Closed)

FEBRUARY

- FY18 Grant Solicitation Package Released
- FY18 Grant Application Webinar
- Family Treatment Court Tune-Up Training (Limited Spaces)
- Mental Health Court Tune – Up Training (Limited Spaces)
- CY2017 – 2019 Certification Applications reviewed by the Committee, results will be mailed mid –Feb

MARCH

- FY18 Grant Solicitations Package due end of the month

- CBI Training
- Felony Court Tune – Up Training
- 2017 CACJ Training Conference Dates Announced!

APRIL

- Q3 CACJ Profile Reports Due
- FY18 Grant Applications will be reviewed by the Funding Committee for all courts requesting funding

MAY

- Courts, make sure you are on you Board of Commissioners Calendar for this month or early June for Grant Award Approvals
- CJCC Mails Grant Award Letters to courts.
- FY17 Training Calendar released

JUNE

- Signed Award Acceptance Letters and Special Conditions Due to CJCC

MACON-BIBB COUNTY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Each year, the Accountability Courts in Macon host a Community Partners Appreciation Luncheon. The luncheon is to pay a special thanks to the community partners for their tremendous support and involvement in the accountability courts and the local community. Each court- Felony Drug, Mental Health and Veterans - honored and thanked three partners each. Award recipients ranged from the probation office, budget office, Veteran’s Justice Outreach and the local community service board. In the words of Judge Colvin, each individual’s “heart loves beyond a job.”



Judge Simms and Sherrelle Mitchell, Felony Drug Court



Judge Self, III and Kathy Smith, Veterans Treatment Court



Judge Colvin, Mental Health Court



L to R: Robert Gamboa, Stephanie Mooneyham, Kathy Smith and Sherrelle Mitchell

**Congratulations to
Participants of all
the December
Graduations!**

Rockdale County Drug Court
Jackson County Drug Court
Barrow County Drug Court

CONGRATULATIONS!

**SAVANNAH-CHATHAM
ADULT FELONY DRUG
COURT HAS BEEN SELECTED
AS ONE OF NINE NADCP
MENTOR COURTS!**



Rome Mental Health Court had the pleasure of visiting a drug court in Stone County, Missouri. Pictured L to R: Judge Niedrach (Rome MH Judge), Chief Dabbs, Karen Tovey (Rome MH Coordinator), and Judge Alan Blankenship.

JUDGES CORNER: JUDGE N. STANLEY GUNTER

Program Beginning: When Stanley Gunter was the District Attorney of the Enotah Circuit, he helped start the original Drug Court program for the Enotah Circuit 8 years ago. He decided, in 2013, he should start another Drug Court Program, creating Drug Court on both sides of the circuit because a large mountain range divides the circuit, creating interference of treatment for participants and a disruption of accountability. In 2013, after his induction as a Superior Court Judge on June 7, 2012, he began the North Enotah Drug Court. Today, he is the North Enotah Drug Court Superior Court Judge, and Barbara Honaker is his Court Coordinator, encompassing Union County and Towns County.

Current Participants: North Enotah's capacity is approved for 45 participants. After graduating 5 participants during our latest graduation on December 22, we now have 39 active participants.

How many participants have graduated? Since our first graduation in June of 2015, we have had 23 graduates. Our recidivism rate is 11% to date.

What was your initial interest in being an Accountability Court Judge?

Judge Gunter's father was a Superior Court Judge and recognized that there was not a way to address the dire need of drug addiction. So many crimes being committed were drug related, and were also being committed by repeat offenders. The only sentencing at that time was prison. Judge Gunter had seen other circuits' success by treating those who had such a bondage. He has believed for years, just as his father believed, that there is a better way to deal

with such criminal activity. To Judge Gunter, Drug Court is the answer.

Was there a specific moment/event that happened that let you know you were doing something right for your program?

Reading so many touching letters written by our participants, testifying how Drug Court has saved their families and their lives. This is our mission for Drug Court, and we are witnessing miraculous transformations every day.

To date, what do you think is your court's biggest program accomplishment?

Taking on the high risk, high needs, and being proud of the low recidivism rate.

Does your program have any sort of special involvement in community?

We are very involved with our community, as our participants are required to complete 50 hours of volunteer (not community service) work. They decide what their Give Back Project will be, and after being approved by the Court Coordinator, they work on the project during the end of Phase 4, complete a journal of the project in essay form which is reviewed by the staff, and they are encouraged to continue volunteering long after their graduation. So far, this has been a success, as many of the graduates have continued with their involvement to date.

Special events your participants take part in?

We have an annual Run for Recovery 5 K run/walk; we also have a Family Day Picnic with fun activities and games for the whole family, then ending the day with a Kick Ball Game against the entire staff; another event we have for our participants

is a beautiful Christmas Party for all participants and their family. A full dinner is catered by the Court Coordinator, Santa visits and talks with all the children (some a little older than others), games are played promoting fun and laughter without the need for negative influences, and the pastor of Fellowship of the Hills Church (a regular supporter of the program) sings, tells the Christmas Story, and leads in caroling.

Judge Gunter's staff has the highest of respect for him; everyone on his Team enjoys working with such an open-minded and attentive judge. The participants consider him to be fair yet firm. They appreciate his praise when earned, yet they understand his reproach when deemed necessary. Judge Gunter cares deeply about the North Enotah Drug Court, and his compassion for the participants is obvious every time he sits on the bench or passes them by in the grocery store. He looks at each person as an individual, keeping into account the lives he is touching and affecting from day to day.

