



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

APRIL 2018

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National Drug Court Institute: Adult Drug Court Planning Initiative

Council of Accountability Court Judges welcomes three new Adult Felony Drug Court programs. Lookout Mountain Adult Felony Drug Court, Dodge County Adult Felony Drug Court, and Rome Adult Felony Drug Court were implemented during FY18. March 12-14, 2018, the new court programs participated in an implementation training facilitated by NDCI. Meghan Wheeler along with Christine Swenson-Smith, Julia Roguski, Mark Leider, Judge Gregory Pinski and William DeLisio facilitated the three- day training which included plenary sessions and team breakout sessions. The training agenda discussions included: Ten Key Components of Drug Courts, Identifying Drug Court Populations, Determining Court Structure, Responses to Client Behavior, and Sustainability. Teams discussed during the jurisdictional breakout session how to develop a treatment plan and drug court entry processes for program participants.



Above photo: A team photo of the three Adult Felony Drug Court programs and training facilitators. Left Photo: Judge Gregory Pinski facilitates a plenary session. Right Photo: Meghan Wheeler facilitates a plenary session.

SAMHSA Sponsored Strengthening Families Program Training

On March 19-20, 2018 CACJ hosted a SAMHSA grant sponsored training for Family Treatment Courts. Through a partnership with CJCC. Various Family Treatment Court team members attended the two day training facilitated by Ms. Hope Hefernan. The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is an evidence-based prevention program for parents and children ages 3-5, 6-11 and 12-16. SFP curriculum consists of parenting skills, children's life skills, and family skills training. A few of the topics covered in the training included the basis and origins of SFP, structure and operation of SFP, overview of the parent, child, and family curriculum, and group leading skills. Jurisdictions participating in the SFP training included Appalachian Family Treatment Court, Athens-Clarke Family Treatment Court, Enotah Family Treatment Court, Fulton County Family Treatment Court and Savannah-Chatham Family Treatment Court.

CACJ Operational Tune- Up Trainings

CACJ held the annual Operational Tune –Up trainings for Adult Felony Drug Courts, Family Treatment Courts and Mental Health Courts March 15-16, 2018 at the Macon Marriott City Center. NDCI facilitated the trainings for Family Treatment Courts and Adult Felony Drug Courts. Mental Health Court training was facilitated by Judge Stephen Goss, Lasheika Kassa, Dr. Kevin Baldwin and Amanda Day. Several Accountability Court teams from across the state attended the two day trainings. Adult Drug Court teams in attendance included Atlantic Judicial Circuit, Muscogee County, Griffin Judicial Circuit, Cobb County and Macon-Bibb County. Family Treatment Court teams in attendance included Cobb County, Fulton County, and Savannah-Chatham. Mental Health Court teams in attendance included, Alcovy (Newton and Walton) Resource Court, Dougherty SA/MH Court, Hall HELP Court, Fulton Behavioral Health Treatment Court and Gwinnett County Mental Health Court. Operational Tune-Up trainings provide a refresher for teams that have been in operation for at least three years and have not attended a group training during the last two years. Topics for each court specific session included overview of best practices, responses to client behavior, and team structure.

COBB COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Cobb County Veterans Treatment Court was featured in the Marietta Journal Daily.

Cobb County Veterans Court (VTC) graduated two veteran participants during a ceremony on Friday March 2, 2018 This was the fifth graduating class of veterans, bringing a total of 17 local participants who have completed the 18-month intensive treatment program. The Cobb County VTC began June 13, 2014, joining a nationwide surge of accountability courts specifically tailored for veterans, addressing issues of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance abuse and other mental health issues via counseling, job training and additional services to achieve success.

The mission of the Veterans Treatment Court is to increase public safety by reducing recidivism; alleviate the tax burden of incarcerating law-breaking veterans by assisting participants to become productive taxpayers versus inmates; to provide intensive case management to address mental health issues, and offer the familiarity of structure and accountability, similar to what they encountered during military service.

“On average, one veteran is arrested daily in Cobb County,” said VTC Presiding Judge Reuben Green. “Many of these veterans have sacrificed greatly for our country, and are suffering from post-service issues that have not been addressed or treated.”



Together with the Atlanta VA, Cobb County VTC participants receive alcohol and drug treatment in Decatur and are given additional treatment locally via WestCare on Roswell Street in Marietta.

Photo: Judge Rueben Green is photographed with Cobb Veteran Treatment Court graduates and Accountability Court team.

APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS

Appalachian Judicial Circuit Accountability Court’s graduation ceremony was featured in Ellijay’s local newspaper Times Courier. Below, the graduates who spoke and had others come onstage and speak on their behalf are photographed in the fellowship hall of Ellijay First Baptist Church.

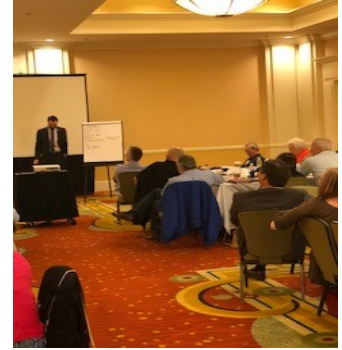


Judge Brenda Weaver (left photo) and Judge Jan Wheeler (right photo), presided over the Accountability Courts Commencement Ceremony recently in the fellowship hall of Ellijay First Baptist Church. Judge John Worcester and District Attorney Alison Sosebee also attended, as well as other court and program officers.



VETERAN TREATMENT COURT OPERATIONAL TUNE -UP

Justice for Vets facilitated a Veteran Court Operational Tune-Up training March 26-27, 2018 at the Macon Marriott City Center. Veteran Court teams in attendance at the 2018 Operational Tune-Up included Appalachian Judicial Circuit Veterans Court, Fulton County Veterans Court, Macon-Bibb County Veterans Court and Muscogee County Veterans Court. Scott Swaim along with trainers Kathleen West and David Pelletier facilitated the two -day training. CACJ Staff Chief Certification Officer, Josh Becker and Certification Officer, Sacha Green were also present. The highlights of the training included plenary sessions about military and veteran culture, trauma treatment, and maintaining a VTC mentor program. To obtain additional information about Veteran Treatment Courts please visit <https://justiceforvets.org/>.



Congratulations to Participants of all the March Graduations!

Dawson County Treatment Court

Gwinnett County Drug Court

Cobb County Veterans Treatment Court

Appalachian Judicial Circuit Drug and Family Treatment Court

Fayette County DUI Court

Dekalb County Drug Court

Macon- Bibb County Mental Health Court

Newton and Walton (Alcovy) Resource Court

Hall County DUI and Drug Court

Troup County Adult Felony Drug Court



Photo Grid: Judge Ozburn and Judge Benton congratulate Newton and Walton County Resource Court graduates. Right Photo: Judge Thompson is photographed with Fayette County DUI Court graduates.

