



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

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GEORGIA'S ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS NEWS

APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

"Held Accountable" Story: Scott Michaux Photos: Beth Chang
This story originally appeared in Research Magazine

The Appalachian Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court program was recently featured in the University of Georgia (UGA) Research Magazine. The feature highlights the story of Mr. Merrill's "second chance" by entering into the veterans treatment court program after a DUI arrest in 2014.

Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver and program coordinator Mr. Chris Holt discuss the advantages of the circuit's accountability court programs credited for rehabilitating program participants and reducing recidivism.

The article continues with discussion about the efficacy studies conducted by Wes Clarke, senior public service associate at UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. And also references the recently published economic impact study, conducted by the Vinson Institute in 2017.

The complete article can be accessed at: <https://ugaresearch.uga.edu/held-accountable/>.

A PDF version of the CACJ [Carl Vinson Economic Impact Study](#)



ACCOUNTABILITY COURT OPERATIONAL TUNE UP AND REFRESHER TRAININGS

March was an extremely busy month for accountability courts and CACJ staff.

CACJ hosted the second annual operational tune-up trainings in Macon, Georgia for qualified adult felony drug courts, family treatment courts, and veterans' treatment courts. CACJ also hosted a mental health court refresher training.

The adult felony drug court and family treatment court operational tune-up were facilitated by the National Drug Court Institute. Justice for Vets facilitated the veteran's treatment court operational tune-up.

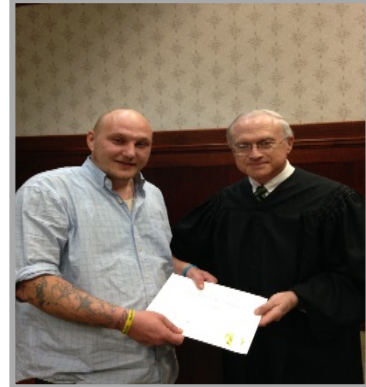
Dr. Kevin Baldwin, Applied Research Services, Judge Stephen S. Goss, Georgia Court of Appeals, CACJ staff Lasheika Kassa and Rachel Gage, Judge Jim Chafin, Henry County State Court, and Kim Jones, NAMI Executive Director, facilitated the mental health court refresher training.

For two days, 22 teams received intense team-based training that included plenary sessions and facilitated team breakout sessions. Topics covered included revisiting team roles, selecting the right participants, evidence-based treatment, and legal issues. At the conclusion of the training, each team developed an action plan for to assist with continued program improvement.

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT GRADUATIONS

ALCOVY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT RESOURCE COURT

- ❖ Submitted by Coordinator, Mr. Robert Pelfrey. Newton County and Walton County Resource Court celebrated three program graduates in March. Judge Eugene M. Benton and Judge Samuel Ozburn are photographed with the graduates.



DOUGLAS COUNTY DUI/DRUG COURT

February 7, 2019 the Douglas County DUI Drug Court celebrated ten graduates.

Photographed: Judge Eddie Barker and Douglas DUI Drug Court team, and program graduates after the ceremony.



March Graduations

Macon Bibb Mental Health Court

Rockdale County DUI Court

Hall County Family Treatment Court

Carroll County Drug Court

Cobb County Mental Health Court

Fayette County DUI Court

Newton and Walton County Resource Court

COBB COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT



Cobb County Mental Health Court celebrated four program graduates on March 28, 2019.

Photographed: Judge Mary Staley Clark and program coordinator Ms. Adrienne Bowen congratulate the proud graduates in front of their families and friends.

FAYETTE COUNTY DUI COURT

❖ Submitted by Coordinator, Ms. Martha Hall



March 6, 2019 Fayette County DUI Court celebrated the largest graduation class with six graduates. Judge Jason Thompson is photographed with the graduates.

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT RESOURCES

RISK NEED AND RESPONSITIVIY WEBINAR

SAMHSA's Gains Center will host a webinar "Effective Implementation of Risk – Need- Responsivity in Treatment Court Settings on April 22, 2019.

Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) principles have applications that benefit both criminal justice and behavioral health practitioners. The webinar will cover role-specific implementation of the RNR model, focusing on effective integration of RNR principles in treatment court settings. Presenters will provide an overview of the importance of RNR, different types of tools available, and specific considerations for treatment court professionals.

Please register for the webinar [HERE](#).

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and CACJ staff have been discussing housing resources to help serve accountability court participants. HUD 811 is a permanent supportive housing program that could serve as a valuable resource for participants diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness.

On Tuesday, April 2, 2019, DCA and CACJ Staff scheduled a session to introduce the resource via webinar to accountability courts. The webinar recording and the HUD 811 referral agent program information are available on the CACJ Coordinators AOC Intranet.

For questions about the HUD 811 program please email Ms. Ilona Nagly, DCA Program Coordinator at Ilona.Nagy@dca.ga.gov.

For a link to the webinar recording please email Kimberly.Howard@georgiacourts.gov.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FY19 CACJ EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE GRANT

The FY19 Equipment and Furniture Mini-Grant is now available.

Applications for funding are due no later than Friday, April 12th at 5:00 pm.

Grant requests for technology and furniture to support program operations should be competitively priced.

Should funds be awarded, you must be able to purchase and pay for any equipment and/or furniture no later than June 30, 2019.

The grant application and additional details are available on the CACJ website.

<https://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/grant-opportunities>

OJJDP FAMILY DRUG COURT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has announced a new grant opportunity for Family Treatment Courts (FTCs). The three categories for this grant are:

1. Enhancing/Expanding existing FTCs
2. Serving Veterans through FTCs
3. Starting new FTCs

Please see the grant announcement at <https://www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2019/FDCP.pdf> for more information about the grant and application instructions.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. ET on May 29, 2019.

Q3 Data is due April 15, 2019.

DATA TIP

Drug test comment data is an easy way to help CACJ get a more accurate picture of your drug testing data.

Please be sure to fill in the fields for drug test comment data if that field is applicable to any of your drug tests.

For more information on drug test comment data, please see the Accountability Courts Data Collection manual or contact Ms. Callie Weir at 404-463-6887 or callie.weir@georgiacourts.gov

To include a court program in the CACJ Newsletter or share an idea for a future submission, please email: Kimberly.howard@georgiacourts.gov.