



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

DECEMBER 2018

WWW.GAACCOUNTABILITYCOURTS.ORG

Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Drug Court Celebrates One Year of Operations!

On November 1, 2018, the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit celebrated the One-Year Anniversary of the LMJC Felony Drug Court Program. This program serves participants in Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade and Walker Counties. The LMJC Drug Court program currently has 25 participants and is seeing many positive results in the growth of their participants.

Photographed are: (left to right) Captain Patrick Stanfield/ Walker County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Chambers/ Dade County Sheriff's Department, David Dunn/ Public Defender, Sheriff Steve Wilson/ Walker County, Don Thompson/ presiding Superior Court Judge,



Chief Judge Kristina Graham, Sheriff Mark Schrader/ Chattooga County, Charlotte Speed/ Treatment Provider, Kelley McCahill/ Treatment Provider, Gretchen Neal/ Drug Court Coordinator, Chief Bo Payton/ Department of Community Supervision, (2nd row left to right), Deanna Reisman/ Assistant District Attorney, (left to right back row), Officer Adam Lee/ Department of Community Supervision.

Georgia's Veterans Treatment Courts Evaluation

A recent study of Georgia veteran's courts by Applied Research Services was featured in the Daily Report. The article "Veterans Courts Mix Success With Big Challenges" discusses the study's findings that, of 890 defendants referred into Georgia's VTC programs from October 2014 to September 2017, 529 enrolled in the accountability court program, and 51 percent graduated successfully. To access the article please visit:

<https://www.law.com/dailyreportonline/2018/11/09/veterans-courts-mix-success-with-big-challenges/>

Newton and Walton County Resource Court Stepping up Initiative



Newton and Walton County Resource Courts hosted visitors from the Council of State Governments Justice Center. On the visit they observed Newton and Walton County Justice & Mental Health Collaboration Program work groups, presented stakeholders with information on the national Stepping -Up Initiative, and toured the Newton County Detention Center. The Stepping -Up Initiative is a national effort to divert people with mental illness from jails and into treatment.

Georgia's newest Family Treatment Courts received implementation training

Four Family Treatment Court programs recently attended the FY19 Family Treatment Court Implementation Training facilitated by the National Drug Court Institute in Peachtree City, Georgia. Atlantic Judicial Circuit and Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit Family Treatment Courts, both implemented July 2018 were in attendance. Also in attendance were Forsyth County and Rockdale County Family Treatment Court.

CACJ SECOND QUARTER NEWS

FY19 SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT REVIEW

The Council of Accountability Court Judges Funding Committee met November 9, 2018 to review FY19 Supplemental Grant applications. Two additional first time grant opportunities were also reviewed, the Law Enforcement Officer Support (LEO) grant and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA) grant for Family Treatment Courts. Three new implementation programs were also awarded during the FY19 Supplemental Grant review.

- Dawson County Family Treatment Court
- Rockdale County Juvenile Mental Health Court
- Mountain Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court
- Gwinnett State Veterans Treatment Court

The new programs will increase the number of accountability courts in Georgia to 160 as of January 1, 2019!

Also, the FY20 Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for funding is available. Each currently CACJ funded program is required to complete the form. In addition, if a circuit has planned to implement a new program during FY20, a NOI is required for the planned program. Notice is due by 5:00 pm on December 14, 2018. Please visit the CACJ website to view and submit the form. <https://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/fy-20-notice-of-intent>

CACJ PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

The Council of Accountability Court Judges and Staff (CACJ) released the CACJ Processes and Outcomes report. The publications were created by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and include valuable information about Georgia's Accountability Courts.

A copy of the report can be found at <https://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/processes-outcomes-report>

Thank you to all of the accountability court programs - without your commitment and hard work these results would not be achievable!

CACJ FAMILY TREATMENT COURT AND DUI COURT CERTIFICATION

CACJ Certification Applications will be available December 3, 2018. Certification is required to receive state funding from CACJ. This year, primarily DUI Courts and Family Treatment Courts will be required to recertify. However, please review your program's most recent certification letter to see when your certification expires. If there are questions about a program's certification status or application, please contact Mr. Josh Becker at Josh.Becker@georgiacourts.gov.

FY19 MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) GRANT OPPORTUNITY

A new competitive opportunity is available to support currently funded Accountability Courts. Limited funds ARE available to assist programs seeking to implement a Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. The services may include but are not limited to: medication screening and education, medical medication assessments, and medication administration. If your court is interested in applying for these funds please visit the CACJ or CJCC website for additional details.

TRAINING COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Council of Accountability Court Judges Training Committee met in October to discuss the 2018 Annual Training Conference and begin planning for the 2019 Annual Training Conference. CACJ Staff welcomes suggestions for training topics and breakout sessions for the 2019 Annual Training Conference. If there is a topic you would like to see at the upcoming conference, please contact a CACJ Staff member.

CACJ STAFF NEWS

Ms. Sacha Greene, Certification Officer has recently been promoted to Certification Officer II!

Sacha has served as a Certification Officer since 2016. Please congratulate Sacha for her commitment to CACJ and hard work.

ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS GRADUATIONS

SOUTH GEORGIA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

The South Georgia Judicial Circuit recently celebrated a graduation and was featured in the local news outlet, The Cairo Messenger.

Second class graduates from Drug Court

The second class of graduates of the South Georgia Judicial Circuit Accountability Felony Drug Court was recognized during a ceremony last Thursday at the Grady County Courthouse.

Graduates Dustin Fain, Robert Kelly and Albert Buford were honored for com-

pleting the 18-24 month intensive program designed to help addicts kick the habit and stay out of jail.

The drug court has been spearheaded by Superior Court Judge J. Kevin Chason and is grant funded. Coordinator Mary Brown manages the day-to-day operations of

the court in consultation with Judge Chason.

In order to graduate, the students must participate in the program at least 18 months, pay \$30 per month, test negative for any drugs during random testing, meet curfew requirements, and attend special training

classes.

The first class of graduates was recognized in July. The first five to graduate were Sam Frisbie, Bryant Horton, Chris Maples, Brandon Osborn, and Morgan Ulm.



Coordinator Mary Brown and Judge J. Kevin Chason are photographed with program graduates.



SAVANNAH-CHATHAM FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Savannah Chatham FTC recently celebrated a special graduation. Ms. Cons was introduced to the FTC program during her stay in the local jail while completing a 28 day Substance Abuse program. During her time in the FTC she has gained custody of her children, pursued a GED, resides in stable housing and been employed in a stable job for 5 months. She will continue as a Peer Support Specialist and has a goal to work with other women in recovery. Ms. Cons is photographed with Judge Tom Cole.

OGEECHEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Mental Health and Drug Court recently celebrated a milestone. The program recently expanded the Drug Court program circuit wide. The largest group of new participants entered the Drug Court Program on November 5th. Seven new participants entered into the program and will begin a journey to recovery.



Congratulations to Participants of all the November Graduations!

Troup County DUI Drug Court

Clayton County Drug Court

Appalachian Judicial Circuit Accountability Courts

Dawson County Treatment Court

Hall County Drug Court

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

CACJ DATA REVIEW & TIPS

CACJ Staff and AOC Data Analyst Callie Weir thanks Ms. Melissa Johnson, Cherokee Judicial Circuit Drug Court Coordinator. Melissa's sharp eye found a technical glitch that CACJ has been able to fix. Thank you Melissa!

December Tip

Please report the treatment session type.

- The treatment session type is the type of treatment session offered to the program participant.