

FADCP

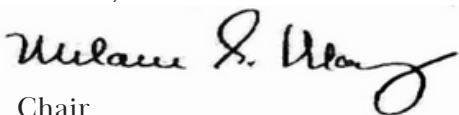
Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals

A Letter From The Chair

Dear FADCP Members:

Summer is almost over but I hope you had a chance to do something wonderful. I am happy to report we now have over 200 FADCP members and growing! Go FADCP! I have lots to report. First, Judge Michele Towbin-Singer is knocking it out of the ballpark with her monthly brown bag lunches. If you haven't had the chance to attend one, you must put it on your calendar for August 23rd at noon. Please see Judge Towbin-Singer's article on page 9. Be on the lookout for her email blast. Second, we have hired an Executive Director to keep us on track and help us prepare for an in-person statewide conference. Please see the article in this newsletter regarding Bridget Washburn. She has hit the ground running! See article on page 14. Third, Judge Susan Alspector and her Strategic Planning Committee have been working diligently on FADCP's strategic plan. It's almost done and will provide us with a roadmap for the future. Fourth, your Board has met twice this year and all committees are actively working on assigned tasks. FADCP has new energy and it shows! Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and commitment. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees, just let me know. They include Membership, Newsletter, Strategic Planning, Bylaws, and Training/Conference. The last committee will be essential as we plan for a statewide conference in the not-too-distant future. Fifth, the Florida Supreme Court Problem-solving Courts Committee was successful in getting important legislation passed this year to make our legislation consistent and tweak a few areas that needed some attention. Please see article on page 9. Sixth, the Florida Supreme Court has put its stamp of approval on the updated Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards and the Certification Program. Stay tuned for a new schedule for rolling out Florida's new and improved Adult Drug Court Certification Program. And last, but not least, I again thank our amazing newsletter committee: Retired Judge Gisele Pollack, Chair and Cristy Altaro. Please send any newsworthy items, including pictures to our newsletter committee. They love hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Chair



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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



ST. JOHNS COUNTY DRUG COURT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

St. Johns County Drug Court recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Honorable Alexander Christine, the current Drug Court judge, presided over the ceremony. Florida House of Representative Cyndi Stevenson was the keynote speaker and conveyed her unwavering support for the St. Johns County Drug Court. The celebration was remarkable in many ways, including recognizing the visionary team that persevered in implementing the program. Patti Greenough, Chief Executive Officer of EPIC Behavioral Healthcare, who was part of the initial planning and implementation team, provided everyone with a history of how it all began. Patti and EPIC Behavioral Healthcare remain a capstone for Drug Court and are recognized for their significant contributions. Also present at the celebration was the first judge to preside over the St. Johns County Drug Court, retired Judge Robert Mathis. Judge Mathis was given an award and graciously conveyed how the program was one of his most meaningful assignments as a judge. Judges Wendy Berger and Elizabeth Morris were also recognized for serving as St. Johns County Drug Court judges, as well as Michael Jewell, the first Drug Court Manager. Other supporters present were Circuit Judge Howard McGillin, County Judges Laura Blocker and Casey Woolsey, St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Department of Corrections Probation, St. Augustine Police Department, Clerk of Court, and St. Johns County Commissioners. Additional members of the original implementation team were also recognized—Ralph Cumberbatch, the first St. Johns County Drug Court coordinator, who still serves in this capacity today. Also, the first Drug Court graduate, Cindi Trinidad, attended and shared how Drug Court changed the trajectory of her life. Family members of Audrey Fields, a citizen of St. Johns County who passionately advocated for a Drug Court, were in attendance. In the late 1990s, Ms. Fields started her advocacy for a drug court by meeting with and educating the county commission, judges, and community on the disease of addiction. She had personal experience as several of her children battled addiction. At the celebration, one of Audrey's surviving sons shared his moving story of addiction and how his mother's work made a significant difference in his life. He is proud that his mother's work has helped so many overcome their fight with substance abuse. Several current and past graduates and their loved ones attended to celebrate the program's success. It was a great day, and all in attendance agreed that Drug Court works!

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

ST. JOHNS COUNTY DRUG COURT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!



By Judge Kathleen Kroll



JUDGE'S Corner

Why Have a Specialty Drug Treatment Court in the Dependency System?

It is no secret that drug overdoses are on the rise in Florida. Repeat overdoses are more common, and although actual deaths may be slightly lower due to increased medical and technical advances, there is no doubt there is a need for concern about the impact this has on our families and children. Not all communities have enough treatment facilities, enough supplies of Narcan or fentanyl test strips readily available.

The 15th Judicial Circuit's Family Treatment Court (formally called the Family Dependency Drug Court) is a voluntary court program designed to help parents in the dependency system work towards a goal of reunification with their children while addressing substance abuse issues and other challenges. Once children have been removed due to safety issues, primarily caused by the parents' drug and/or alcohol addiction, the only safe return for permanency is to solve the substance abuse issue. Not unlike the long-standing criminal drug courts, this takes a special team approach.

The members of the team must have patience, work well together, and be willing to learn an area they were not taught at law school, in social work programs, or while getting social science degrees. This creates a need for continuous education. These courts require a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to serve the family so "buy-in" from many court partners is crucial. Constant work at maintenance is required.

The world of substance abuse is complicated and unique. Just when you think you are successful, there is often a relapse. Safety plans need to be flexible. The team members must be creative. The normal timelines in a dependency case may not work well for this specialty court. What the treatment providers want, or think is necessary, may not coincide with what the court team legally has to do or wants to do.

Parents' attorneys may resent the added information the Court has about their clients or the increased time the specialty court takes. They may resist participation because of financial loss to them. Treatment providers may not get paid for the extra work in reporting and participation with the Court. Thus, the team needs to be sensitive to that and take time for team building and get to know each other. Reaching out for support on a state level or to other treatment courts for possible solutions to individual roadblocks is helpful. We are here to help, so do not hesitate to contact us.

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JUDGE'S Corner

Illegal drug manufacturers always seem to be one step ahead of the law. Continuous educational presentations on drug science and testing was beneficial for everyone. We are fortunate in Florida to have OSCA, The Office of the State Court Administrator, that provides many opportunities for both tips on procedural improvements to court teams as well as hard science educational opportunities. Many of these take the form of webinars but in-person assistance is also available. Our Circuit has taken advantage of both.

Looking locally for experts willing to assist is also a good way to find resources. Of course, there are many national associations and educational opportunities that offer a wide variety of assistance too. Because the data is so powerful concerning the successful outcome of drug treatment courts, there is a fair number of funding sources to assist dependency treatment courts.

One of the important advantages our Circuit has is a nonprofit organization created to add extra support to our families and children. "Making Every Day Count" is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, which has allowed us to really cement our parents' success by providing things to our families that neither the Department of Children and Families nor the Guardian Ad Litem could fund.

For example, it paid off traffic tickets and funded insurance so parents could get their driver's licenses restored. It paid for transportation to job interviews and helped fund a startup business. It helped a parent complete her nursing school degree. It paid for extra testing for children.

It is working with us to help our clients get stable housing to allow reunification more quickly. We are so grateful to Making Every Day Count and urge every dependency drug court to look at working with their community to create a similar 501(c)(3).

In the end, it is about stopping the addiction cycle not only for the parents, but for their children too. Following the core principles of drug courts and working with community partners improves the lives of children and families involved in the court system. It can also improve your community.



SUCCESS STORIES

MARION COUNTY CELEBRATES DRUG COURT MONTH

MARION COUNTY CELEBRATED NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH BY HOSTING A VENDOR FAIR AND NETWORKING EVENT. DURING THIS EVENT, TWO PAST GRADUATES WERE AWARDED WITH THE 2022 DANIEL TRAVIS NOWLIN LEGACY AWARD. THIS AWARD IS GIVEN TO PAST OR CURRENT ADULT DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE HAD AT LEAST 8 MONTHS IN RECOVERY AND WHO DISPLAY THE QUALITIES USED TO DESCRIBE THE LATE DANIEL TRAVIS NOWLIN: KIND, GENEROUS, HILARIOUSLY FUNNY AND STRONG, WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE FOR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CHILDREN, A GREAT LISTENER, ASSISTING THOSE STRUGGLING TO GET BACK ON TRACK AND WILLING TO HELP OTHERS THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES.



Pictured is Judge Gary L. Sanders
with one of the winners –
Heather Wilson



AROUND THE STATE



COLLIER COUNTY PROCLAMATION!

In May, at the Naples City Council meeting, the Mayor and Council presented the Collier County Adult Drug Court with a Proclamation declaring May as National Treatment Court Month. Pictured are several members of the Team, as well as several current participants and alumni.



SARASOTA COUNTY ADOPTS ROADS!

The Sarasota County DUI Court adopted two roads to keep clean as part of the Keep Sarasota County Beautiful campaign. Program clients and staff have been cleaning up these roads for over 10 years. It is a fun way for clients to serve the community and bond with each other at the same time. This year's event was scheduled in May in honor of National Drug Court month.



AROUND THE STATE



CERTIFICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED!



Recently, the Florida Supreme Court approved revised Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards and our Certification Program. As many of you know, this has been a work in progress for many years. Anything that is worth doing is worth doing right, regardless of how long it takes. The Certification now has the Court's stamp of approval and what lays ahead is a schedule for its rollout. As soon as that has been determined, it will be shared. There will be regional trainings set up and we hope to have our statewide, in-person conference focus on the best practice standards for adult drug courts, the certification process, and the latest and greatest for all of our problem-solving courts: Adult, Juvenile, Dependency, Veteran's, DUI, and Mental Health Courts. Stay tuned!

BROWARD COUNTY PROCLAMATION

The 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida celebrated the Drug Court Team on May 11th in honor of Drug Court Month. The Honorable Hope Tieman Bristol, Honorable Susan L. Alspector, Honorable Kenneth A. Gottlieb and General Magistrate Rudy Morel were presented proclamations from the Broward County Commission with Drug Court Manager Russell Edwards and Early Childhood and Dependency Drug Court Coordinator Trent Baker.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



2023 Problem-Solving Court Legislation Passes

For many years the Florida Supreme Court Steering Committee on Problem-solving Courts has been working on legislation to make the laws concerning our problem-solving courts as consistent as they can be. Under the able leadership of Judge Steve Leifman, the Committee was able to get the legislation passed this year. For full details, please click on the hyperlink below.

[SB\[JMG1\]_508](#)

Here are the highlights:

- Revises 397.334, 948.08, and 948.16
- Section 948.08(6) changes minimum of one year participation to a period of time to be determined by the court, based on the clinical needs of the defendant.
- Amends section 948.08(6)(b)3, Florida Statutes, to change “Has never been charged” with a crime involving violence to “Is not also charged” with a crime involving violence.
- Deletes the provision that allowed the court or state attorney to deny defendant’s admission into the program if the defendant previously rejected an offer of admission to a pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program at any time before trial.
- Strikes the provision requiring no felony convictions to be admitted to a pretrial mental health court program to be consistent with the 2019 expansion of pretrial drug court program eligibility to include persons with two or fewer felony convictions.
- Limits type of data collection to be sent to OSCA.
- Expands eligibility for misdemeanor drug courts.

brown bag **"bites"**

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AT THE "BROWN BAG" LUNCH SESSIONS. AT THE MOST RECENT SESSION, THIRTY-SIX MEMBERS ATTENDED AND DISCUSSED VARIOUS LESSONS FROM THE ALL RISE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING HOW TO IMPLEMENT INCENTIVES, RAISING MONEY FOR GIFT CARDS, ETC. TO USE AS INCENTIVES, THE 10 TO 1 INCENTIVE TO SANCTION RATIO ESPOUSED BY ALL RISE, INTEGRATION OF PEER SUPPORT, UPCOMING CHAMPIONS SUMMIT, AND THE TENDENCY TO USE JAIL TOO OFTEN AS A SANCTION. THERE WAS ALSO A DISCUSSION OF WHEN TREATMENT FOR "CRIMINAL THINKING" SHOULD OCCUR, AS SOME EXPRESSED DISTASTE FOR THE LABEL, "CRIMINAL THINKING." ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER HOLBERTON SUGGESTED THE TERM, DECISION POINTS. THE AUDIENCE LIKED THAT REPLACEMENT TERM.

ATTENDEES AGREED TO EMAIL GISELE POLLACK AND CRISTY ALTARO THE INCENTIVES USED TO BE SHARED IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER. DRUG COURTS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE AND INCREASE THE INCENTIVES UTILIZED. AN EXCELLENT POINT WAS RAISED BY JUDGE MARTIN - SOME PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE NOT GETTING INCENTIVES GET DISCOURAGED AND FEEL MORE HOPELESS WHEN THEY SEE OTHERS REACHING GOALS AND GETTING INCENTIVES. ATTENDEES DISCUSSED WAYS TO ALLEVIATE THAT EFFECT SUCH AS: HELPING PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFY REALISTIC SHORT TERM GOALS SO THAT THEY TOO CAN RECEIVE PRAISE AND INCENTIVES, IF NOT DURING THAT STATUS HEARING, THEN HOPEFULLY FOR THE NEXT STATUS HEARING, AND MAKING SURE THE PARTICIPANT AGREES THAT THEY CAN REACH THAT SHORT TERM GOAL BY THE NEXT STATUS HEARING.

THE NEXT "BROWN BAG" ZOOM LUNCH WILL BE **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23RD AT NOON**. THE HONORABLE RUDY MOREL AND HONORABLE GISELE POLLACK WILL LEAD A DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER AND HOW DRUG COURTS SHOULD ALLOW PARTICIPANTS TO USE PRESCRIPTIONS AND OTHER MEDICATIONS. GENERAL MAGISTRATE MOREL WILL ALSO SHARE THE ALL RISE BEST PRACTICES ON THIS ISSUE. THE HONORABLE RUDY MOREL IS NOT ONLY A MAGISTRATE BUT ALSO A MEDICAL DOCTOR AND WAS THE LEAD ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER IN FELONY DRUG COURT FOR MANY YEARS. THE HONORABLE GISELE POLLACK WAS A DRUG COURT JUDGE FOR MANY YEARS AND HELPED LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DEAL WITH THEIR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS. SHE IS ALSO IN ACTIVE RECOVERY HERSELF AND CONTINUES TO HELP PEOPLE WITH THEIR RECOVERY AS WELL! HOPEFULLY, THERE WILL BE TIME TO REVIEW THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE DRUG COURT STATUTES WHICH TOOK EFFECT ON JULY 1ST. THERE ARE SOME INTERESTING CHANGES.



IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING EMAIL INVITES TO THE "BROWN BAG" LUNCH, EMAIL JSINGER@17TH.FLCOURTS.ORG



RESOURCES

Reflective Consultation for Dependency Drug Courts: A New Way to Support Florida's Coordinators

In November 2021, I accepted a position to serve as the statewide coordinator for dependency drug courts (DDCs) in the Office of Family Courts within the Office of the State Courts Administrator. Each month, I convene virtual meetings with all of the DDC coordinators to provide opportunities for networking, sharing successes and challenges, and discussing best practices. As the meetings progressed, I quickly began to recognize all the incredible and challenging work the coordinators were facing on a daily basis with these court-involved families.

Unfortunately, in January 2022, one of the DDCs experienced a traumatic loss when a child passed away. Of course, this was devastating to the family and the entire DDC team. After hearing that Dr. Kimberly Renk was providing regular virtual reflective consultation to other court teams, the DDC coordinator reached out to request this same emotional support opportunity for the devastated court team. Providing immediate support to the team became a priority, and we worked quickly to get these sessions in place. After the first reflective consultation session, I remember telling my supervisor that being in this space with the coordinators has been the most rewarding part of my job so far. Hearing how difficult this unfortunate circumstance was for the team to process only amplified the need to me for implementation of ongoing reflective consultation opportunities at all DDC sites. Every time a reflective consultation session was held, I realized just how valuable this space was for the DDC team.

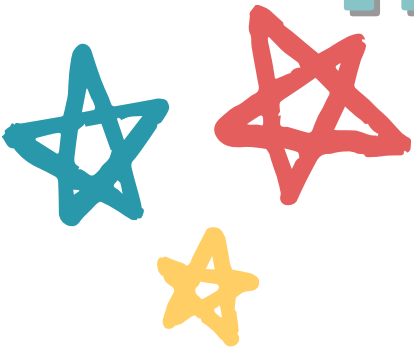
Reflective consultation is a relationship-based approach to consultation that allows for the exploration of the feelings, thoughts, and interactions that can occur when working with high-risk families who have experienced trauma. A particular focus of reflective consultation is the parallel process, in which the transmission of feelings, thoughts, and interactions that occur sequentially between the consultant and participant are examined closely. Reflective consultation is helpful for team building for all DDC professionals within a site. Reflective consultation has positive benefits for those who participate and can be a help in warding off the vicarious trauma that can occur for professionals working with families like those being served by DDCs.

During individual one-on-one coordinator meetings, as well as group coordinator meetings, I often hear about challenging, complicated, and heart wrenching cases. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I have recognized the need to provide a safe space for coordinators to process all the feelings that can come up for them, as well as with the DDC team, when working with these families. Because the coordinators are often juggling so many things throughout their workdays, it can be difficult for them to find time to reflect on their work.

Because reflective consultation has been provided to early childhood court teams for the last few years, we were very fortunate to already have a partnership in place with Dr. Kimberly Renk. Dr. Renk's expertise in reflective consultation, as well as her experience in working with problem-solving court teams, made her the ideal provider to begin working with DDCs in this capacity. In November 2022, the first reflective consultation session for DDC coordinators was held. These sessions now occur virtually once a month on Friday afternoons for all DDC coordinators. Dr. Renk has also continued to provide reflective consultation to individual DDC teams as they are needed. It is our hope to be able to provide ongoing sessions for the entire DDC team on an ongoing, as-needed basis.

For information, contact Karima Anderson:
andersonk@flcourts.org

HAPPENINGS and EVENTS



Mark YOUR Calendar

- **8/23:** BROWN BAG LUNCH
- **9/1:** CHAMPIONS SUMMIT – SESSION #1
- **9/8:** CHAMPIONS SUMMIT – SESSION #2
- **9/15:** CHAMPIONS SUMMIT – SESSION #3
- **9/22:** CHAMPIONS SUMMIT – SESSION #4
- **9/27:** BROWN BAG LUNCH
- **9/29:** CHAMPIONS SUMMIT – SESSION #5
- **10/25:** BROWN BAG LUNCH

Champions Summit: virtual learning opportunity featuring Judges, Magistrates and key court staff who have been appointed as subject matter leaders on opioids, stimulants and their effects on the courts as well as to champion awareness and solutions

ALL ABOUT FADCP



MISSION:

The corporation seeks to reduce substance abuse, crime and recidivism by promoting and advocating the establishment and funding of drug courts and providing for collection and dissemination of information, technical assistance, and mutual support to association members.



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING FADCP,
CONTACT: CRYSTAL WATKINS
CWATKINS@CIRCUIT5.ORG

ALL ABOUT FADCP



*Hip Hop Hooray!
FADCP has a new Executive Director!*



For many years FADCP was fortunate to have Eve Janocko serve as our Executive Director. Without her, we would have been lost. She did an amazing job of keeping us on track and coordinating many statewide drug court conferences with the help of OSCA. Alas, we lost her to the Fourth Circuit where she now serves as the Trial Court Administrator.

The good news is that we recently hired Bridget Washburn as our new Executive Director. When we asked her how she became involved in drug courts and what she thought about them, she told us:

"I lucked into treatment courts! A coworker suggested that I put in for an open position that would be a promotion for me. I decided to give it a chance and entered the completely unknown world of Treatment Courts. It has felt like home since day one! From the collaborative spirit of the programs to the individualized treatment plans the participants receive to the extended judicial interactions, it all just made sense! I have become so passionate about these programs and the participants we serve, I truly can't imagine being anywhere else!"

We knew she was the perfect person for us.

Ms. Washburn currently works as Lee County's Treatment Courts Manager where she provides leadership, coaching, counseling, and performance planning and review of subordinate professional and support staff. She received her Bachelor and Masters degrees at the University of South Florida.

Previously, Ms. Washburn was a Senior Probation Officer, a Dependency Case Manager, a Child Protective Investigator, and a Juvenile Probation Officer. She comes to us with a wealth of experience; her enthusiasm is boundless.

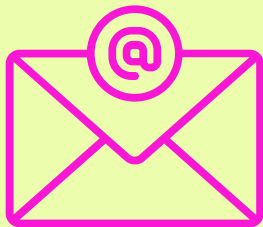
She started on June 12th and was able to plan a FADCP meeting at the NADCP Conference. You may be receiving emails from her new FADCP email address: FADCPED@gmail.com as she assumes her new duties.

GOT INFO?

We want to hear from YOU!



Submit an article or share upcoming events for the next newsletter



- gipoll.7777@gmail.com
- caltaro@pbcgov.org



SCRAM[®]
S Y S T E M S

*We wish to recognize and thank **SCRAM Systems** for their bronze level corporate membership. Scram Systems support of the Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals will help our efforts to coordinate the next STATEWIDE training.*