

FADCP

A Letter From The Chair

Dear FADCP Members:

I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season and that this message finds you healthy, happy, and ready for the New Year!

We had a wonderful networking session on November 9, 2022. Director Doug Simon of the Florida Office of Drug Control joined us. He gave us his perspective on the issues facing Florida and was greatly appreciative of the work that all of Florida's drug courts are doing. He advised us of the ongoing work to determine the distribution of the opioid settlement funds. Hopefully, we can get an update soon. We look forward to working with Director Simon in the future.

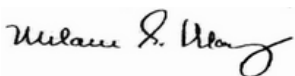
We had another great meeting of your board on November 3, 2022. You will be happy to learn that the committees are hard at work organizing and planning for FADCP. If you have any interest in participating in these committees, please let me know. Once again, our committees are Membership, Newsletter, 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.

You may notice the new and improved version of this newsletter thanks to our newsletter committee: Gisele Pollack, Chair and Cristy Altaro. Kudos to them for the wonderful improvement.

I am happy to report we now have 163 members! We are really going strong. But it is never too late to join or renew your memberships.

And last, please send any newsworthy items, including pictures to our newsletter committee. They love hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Chair



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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

17th Circuit

MISDEMEANOR DRUG COURT PROGRAM

The 17th Judicial Circuit's Misdemeanor Drug Court Program (MDCP) is a therapeutic court that is designed to assist people with substance use problems and to help them succeed in living a substance-free life by promoting positive change through treatment and education. Drug Court endeavors to intervene with eligible individuals by offering a viable and positive alternative to incarceration. Individuals with co-occurring disorders are welcomed to the program. Eligible charges are dismissed upon successful completion of the program.

There are only about 30 clients in drug court at a time. The cases come from non-violent misdemeanors where the defendant admits they have an issue with drugs. They are not coming from drug offenses and this is why the number of clients is low. However, we are able to spend a good amount of time with each individual. We meet on zoom weekly and show the court's support for each person.

Misdemeanor Drug Court is a voluntary program. The Defendant must volunteer to be in the program. Drug testing is random and many times twice a week. When a person comes into the program the amount of work with testing, counseling and other requirements becomes a challenge but I make every effort not to lose them. I have seen a dramatic change in most of the people who come through the program and the smile when they complete is priceless. I really love being a drug court judge and will make every effort to help the lives of people negatively affected who come before me.



For more information, contact Judge Kenneth
Gottlieb: jgottlieb@17th.flcourts.org

By Retired Judge Gisele Pollack

JUDGE'S Corner

A decade has passed since I presided over the first misdemeanor drug court in the country. Yet, my passion for that work and the privilege of helping others still remains vibrant. I am pleased to say that Judge Kenneth Gottlieb has picked up the mantel and he and this court are the subject of the spotlight section of this newsletter, page 2.

When elected to the Broward County Court, one of my first priorities was to create the misdemeanor drug court. While legislation had been enacted for this purpose, it had yet to become a reality. In September 2005, with the help of the state attorney; the public defender and private bar; the Broward Sheriff's Office Day Reporting and Reentry Division's Probation Office, a wonderful team of treatment providers, and the one and only Dr. Guy A. Wheeler, providing education for the participants, the program came into existence. (See page 7 of this newsletter for more information.)

The court grew to over 1,100 participants in just eight years. Most participants were charged with marijuana possession under 20 grams. We all know what it feels like to watch a participant recover and thrive. Lives were improved, recidivism was reduced, and taxpayers saved money. We kept statistics and they revealed a recidivism rate two years following graduation of 18% or less.

Then, in 2016, Florida passed its medical marijuana law. It did not take long for law enforcement and the state attorney to stop arresting and charging people with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana in Broward County. This resulted in a drastic reduction of participants in the misdemeanor drug court. For me, this marked a sad day for many young adults, and others in the criminal justice system, especially minorities. There was no longer a successful treatment way out of the criminal justice system.

But justice was to succeed. Chief Judge Jack Tuter and Judge Kenneth Gottlieb had the willingness and leadership to ensure the misdemeanor drug court survived. Thank you to them both! Broward's citizens are lucky to have them serving in our justice system because the door to opportunity and recovery remains open at entry level offenses. Because of the hard work of these judges Broward County continues to embrace the misdemeanor drug court. And perhaps with a little bit of luck and ingenuity the misdemeanor drug court and Broward's citizens can avoid the detrimental concomitant effects of marijuana use.



A SUCCESS STORY

20TH CIRCUIT CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY

THE 20TH CIRCUIT HOSTED A SPECIAL VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION FOR VETERANS TREATMENT COURT (VTC) PARTICIPANTS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022. GRADUATES AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION. THE COURTROOM WAS DECORATED IN ALL RED, WHITE, AND BLUE! VETERANS TREATMENT COURT JUDGE, JUDGE GAGLIARDI, SPOKE TO EACH PARTICIPANT IN TURN, FOLLOWED BY A GUEST SPEAKER, ONE OF THE 20TH CIRCUIT JUDGES WHO IS ALSO A VETERAN, WHO SHARED SOME OF HER STORY WITH THE ATTENDEES. ALL VTC PARTICIPANTS WERE GIVEN GOODIE BAGS, A PERSONALIZED THANK YOU CARD FROM THE TEAM, AND AN ART PROJECT COMPLETED BY ONE OF THE STAFF'S DAUGHTER.





A SUCCESS STORY

5th Circuit Veteran Treatment Program Graduation on Veterans Day





A SUCCESS STORY

After years of planning and collaboration with other key stakeholders, the Honorable William Wallace in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit was excited to announce the implementation of the new Okeechobee Veterans' Treatment Court (VTC) on September 7, 2022. Similar to other problem-solving courts, VTC is designed to address the underlying causes of a veteran or service members' involvement with the judicial system and to reduce recidivism by emphasizing treatment and rehabilitation as alternatives to incarceration while requiring offender accountability and increasing public safety.

Since he took office in 2019, Judge Wallace continues to preside over Okeechobee Mental Health Court, Okeechobee Felony Drug Court, and now the new Okeechobee Veterans' Treatment Court. He has been very instrumental in trying to address the needs of veterans in the rural area of Okeechobee County while being faced with limited resources.

Okeechobee VTC is specific in helping defendants who have a service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance use disorder, psychological problem or have experienced military sexual trauma. By presiding over several problem-solving courts in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Judge Wallace quickly identified the unique needs of veterans and focused his energy on implementing a program that would address those needs through a specialized docket. VTC helps to identify underlying issues of a veteran and assists in addressing those issues through substance use and/or mental health counseling to help equip the veterans with the skills and tools needed to be law abiding citizens and live the best life possible.

Different to other problem-solving courts, VTC incorporates a few additional interdisciplinary team members such as the VJO, a representative from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a mentor coordinator and volunteer veteran mentors known as "Battle Buddies" that are paired with a veteran upon entering the program. Coordinating and guiding all the veteran mentors for Okeechobee VTC is Marty Faulkner, who has graciously agreed to be the Mentor Coordinator. Marty has devoted many hours in helping to identify several mentors for this program. Veteran mentors volunteer their time and energy to assist their fellow veterans with peer support by engaging, encouraging, and empowering their fellow veterans to change their lives. As well, Odetta Gintoli joined the team as the VJO from the VA who assists the veterans with VA benefits, housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment services, as well as assisting with many other services in the area. The added component of the VJO, a mentor coordinator and veteran mentors helps increase the likelihood that participants will remain in treatment which helps improve their chance of success and sobriety even after they have successfully completed the program.

A veteran once told Judge Wallace, "the government taught him how to turn the switch on, but they never taught him how to turn it off". When a veteran returns back to civilian life, they are forced to try to learn to function in society again. "I'm happy," said Judge Wallace. "Every time I get on the bench, I remind myself I am dealing with people's lives, and I try to do the very best I can. Veterans' Treatment Court is another step the judiciary is taking in the right direction."



RESOURCES

H.E.A.T. & More

Florida resident Guy A. Wheeler and Darryl Turpin of Kentucky are the co-authors of Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy for youth (H4Y), and Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy (HEAT). H4Y is a therapeutic program designed for Black males, ages 13–17, and HEAT for adults, 18–29, who are/may be involved in the Juvenile and/or Adult Criminal Justice system(s). Both programs apply a holistic, culturally relevant, and responsive, strength-based model that emphasizes a positive and engaging approach to treatment. When implemented as designed, it takes six months(H4Y) to nine months (HEAT) to complete the entire curriculum. Features of H.E.A.T/ H4Y that distinguish it from traditional treatment interventions, are its focus on Black culture, historical strengths, and treatment of the whole person. The value of its design crosses different cultures as well results in a unique, inclusive approach that benefits all participants.

Drug Courts, treatment courts, prisons, jails, juvenile centers and most recently schools are currently implementing both curriculums. In Alabama, H.E.A.T demonstrated amazing success in a Gun court resulting in no recidivism since its implementation 3 years ago. To augment HEAT and H4Y, two additional curricula have been recently added: one focusing on women called H.E.R. (Habilitation Empowerment Recovery), and Her 4 girls(H4G). Both formats are culturally and female specific, using diverse strategies to maintain engagement and retention of participants.

The H.E.A.T. intervention has been supported by Bureau of Justice Administration, (BJA) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, (OJJDP), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), evaluated over the past 10 years, and is a promising practice. Its design meets standards established by the National Institute of Health, (NIH) in that it is curriculum driven.

Florida's own Mr. Wheeler assisted in the implementation of the second drug court in the country with both the Honorable Judge Melanie May and Honorable Judge Gisele Pollack throughout the years. He also conducts outpatient services in Broward County and travels the country providing treatment services to mental health providers, athletes, and entertainers. Guy was formerly an Assistant Director of Community Control for two years and spent almost 20 years working for Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC), and Broward County Sheriff's office. Having implemented the HEAT program all across the country, Guy stated "I would like to see Florida support the implementation of H.E.A.T. especially since the dire rates of incarceration (juvenile centers, jail and prisons), and high recidivism rates of Black males continues to be out of control". Wheeler states that "its painful to see the low numbers of blacks in drug courts with the high number of Fentanyl deaths in Florida".

For more information, contact www.HeatTime.org or mrguywheeler@gmail.com

RESOURCES

FADCP Brown Bag Get Together



A new benefit to FADCP membership: THE MONTHLY "BROWN BAG" LUNCH GET TOGETHER.

Every third Wednesday of every month starting March, 22, FADCP members can eat lunch "together," network, discuss drug court issues, give and get advice from other drug court members throughout the state, or just vent!

It's the chance to share with each other our challenges, frustrations as well as successes and hopefully get and give some answers to what are probably common drug court issues.

"What should I do with a participant who keeps lying about their drug use?" "What other types of incentives and sanctions can my Drug Court offer?" "How can I increase the number of participants in our Drug Court?" "What do I do when a treatment provider doesn't have a report on a participant?" "What can I do to help a participant who has transportation problems?"

Each lunch session will begin with a 5-10 minutes presentation on a common drug court issue. Our first lunch session will be Wednesday, March 22 from 12-1 p.m. Stay for the whole session or just zoom in for a few minutes to say Hi!

The March 22 session will begin with a short presentation on Narcan which will be arranged by Alina Stoothoff, the Court Operations Consultant for Problem Solving Courts in the 5th Judicial Circuit.

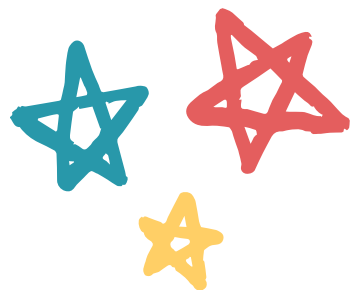
Hope to see you there! Zoom link for every session will be:

<https://zoom.us/j/91926028850>



Come
Join
us!

HAPPENINGS & EVENTS



ON NOVEMBER 9TH, FADCP MEMBERS HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING AND SPEAKING WITH DIRECTOR DOUG SIMON OF THE FLORIDA OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL. DIRECTOR SIMON HAS A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH DRUG COURT AND IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THEM AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DRUG COURTS CONTINUE TO EXPAND IN FLORIDA. THANK YOU DIRECTOR SIMON FOR JOINING US!

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

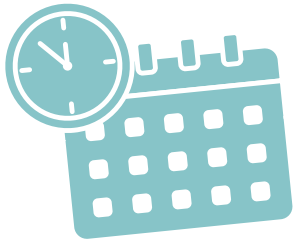
- **3/17:** Webinar on Latest Drugs Types & Trends
- **3/22:** FADCP Virtual Lunch Get Together
- **6/26:** NADCP Rise 2023 conference

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.



upcoming 2023
MEETINGS

• **May 4** **12pm**



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

GOT INFO?

We want to hear from YOU! Submit an article or share upcoming events for the next newsletter



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