

# Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 2

June 2022

## *Executive Committee*

The Honorable Melanie G. May  
Acting Chair /Vice Chair, 4th DCA

Jennifer Grandal, Treasurer,  
Statewide

The Honorable Michele Towbin-  
Singer, Secretary, 17th Judicial Cir-  
cuit

The Honorable Jeri B. Cohen  
Past Chair, 11th Judicial Circuit

Eve Janocko, At-Large, 7th Judicial  
Circuit

Jennifer L. Bassett, At-Large, 16th  
Judicial Circuit

## *Board Members*

Cristy Altaro, 15th Judicial Circuit

Stephanie Coberly, 17th Judicial  
Circuit

Anita Cocoves, 19th Judicial Circuit

Audra Cohen, 11th Judicial Circuit

Kristin Pickens, 8th Judicial Circuit

Frank C. Rabbito, 11th Judicial Cir-

Dear FADCP Members:

I hope you had a wonderful Memorial Day and a celebratory Drug Court Month!

I am happy to report and congratulate our newly elected board of directors. Welcome aboard! We will be having our first Board meeting on July 7, 2022 at noon. The next step in our reorganization will be to select our Executive Committee and establish our committees. Please let me know if you have any interest in serving on Membership, Training Conference, or Strategic Planning Committees.

This newsletter is filled with great happenings and accomplishments during Drug Court Month from around our State. Read and see the exciting news inside. I am so proud of all the wonderful work you are all doing. Keep up the good work!

We hosted our webinar on April 6, 2022, during which Matthew Henderson, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office of Statewide Intelligence, educated us on the latest information on the prevalence and drug types affecting our state. Stay tuned for our next webinar to be announced soon.

And last, I want to congratulate Judge Janeice Martin and her drug court for becoming a Mentor Court for NADCP! Kudos!

Sincerely,

Acting Chair

## “NEW NADCP MENTOR COURT NAMED”

*By Melanie G. May  
Fourth District Court of Appeal*

In this age where drug courts are aspiring to comply with Best Practice Standards, Judge Janeice Martin’s adult drug court was recently named a Mentor Court by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. To acquire this status, the drug court must be an exemplary adult drug court, Tribal healing to wellness court, co-occurring disorder court or veterans treatment court that serves as a national model for three-year terms. These top-tier programs play a significant role in NADCP’s training, technical assistance, and research efforts. Mentor courts:

- Host team members from other jurisdictions for both in-person and web-based visits
- Participate in research and media opportunities
- Serve as national models
- Provide peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- Receive fee waivers and travel costs for two program representatives to attend RISE for each of the three years.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW FADCP BOARD!

Maria Johnson, Correctional Probation Senior Officer, First Circuit  
 Arianna Leone, Assistant State Attorney, First Circuit  
 Eve Janocko, Trial Court Administrator, Fourth Circuit  
 Alina Stoothoff – Court Operations Consultant, Fifth Circuit  
 Crystal G. Watkins, Drug Court Manager, Fifth Circuit  
 Howard O. McGillin, Jr., Circuit Judge, Seventh Circuit  
 Jamee Whited, Drug Court Manager, Seventh Circuit  
 Julia Schilling, Director, Problem-solving Courts, Thirteenth Circuit  
 Cristy Altaro, Juvenile Operations Manager, Fifteenth Circuit  
 Melanie G. May, Fourth District Court of Appeal, Seventeenth Circuit  
 Michele Towbin-Singer, Circuit Judge, Seventeenth Circuit  
 Stephanie Coberly, Treatment, Seventeenth Circuit  
 Susan L. Alspector, Circuit Judge, Seventeenth Circuit  
 Joanna Greene, MS-MH, Juvenile, and Drug Courts, Nineteenth Circuit  
 Jessica Holberton, Assistant Public Defender, Nineteenth Circuit  
 Josephine Gagliardi, County Judge, Twentieth Circuit  
 Leslie Weidenhammer, Lieutenant, Collier County Sheriff’s Office, Twentieth Circuit  
 Jennifer Grandal, Chief, Office of Problem-Solving Courts, OSCA  
 Gisele Pollack, Retired County Court Judge

## ***THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSOR***



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 our next statewide training conference.

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## ***A Little Drug Court History Statewide Drug Court Graduation 2000***



Governor Jeb Bush addresses statewide drug court graduation streamed throughout the state.



Governor Jeb Bush signs important legislation expanding drug courts in Florida during the statewide drug court graduation.

***Hear Ye, Hear Ye  
The Proclamations Are Here***

Chief Justice Charles Canady signed a proclamation in honor of the great work you are all doing and supporting Drug Court Month. Governor Ron DeSantis also signed a Resolution supporting Drug Court Month. Find the proclamations at the web addresses below.

Proclamation. <https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/836458/file/Proclamation%20%20Drug%20Court%20Month%202022.pdf>

Resolution. [https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/836459/file/Drug%20Court%20Month%20\\_%20May%202022%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/836459/file/Drug%20Court%20Month%20_%20May%202022%20(002).pdf)

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## FLAGLER COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT CREATES A FISHING CLUB FOR PARTICIPANTS

*By: John Dioguardi  
(Seventh Circuit)*



Who knew my passion for fishing and my day job had something in common?

When I was a juvenile probation officer, I would often hear probationers complain there was nothing to do in our small town. This was one excuse they claimed led them to abuse substances. So, I thought, I know something to do.

I had the good fortune to work with a very progressive judge, who encouraged me to apply for a small grant to purchase fishing equipment. I used the equipment to invite five young probationers fishing at the beginning of summer. By summer's end, our fishing group had grown to twenty participants, who fished with me every weekend. It was a huge success!

Fast forward to my current job as an adult drug court coordinator. It was like *déjà vu*. The adult drug court participants echoed the complaints of the juvenile probationers: "Nothing to do" - "That's why I use." So, I reached out to one participant and asked if he would come fishing with me. Once again, our fishing team grew to a half dozen participants every Sunday afternoon. We now have one participant, who brings his entire family.

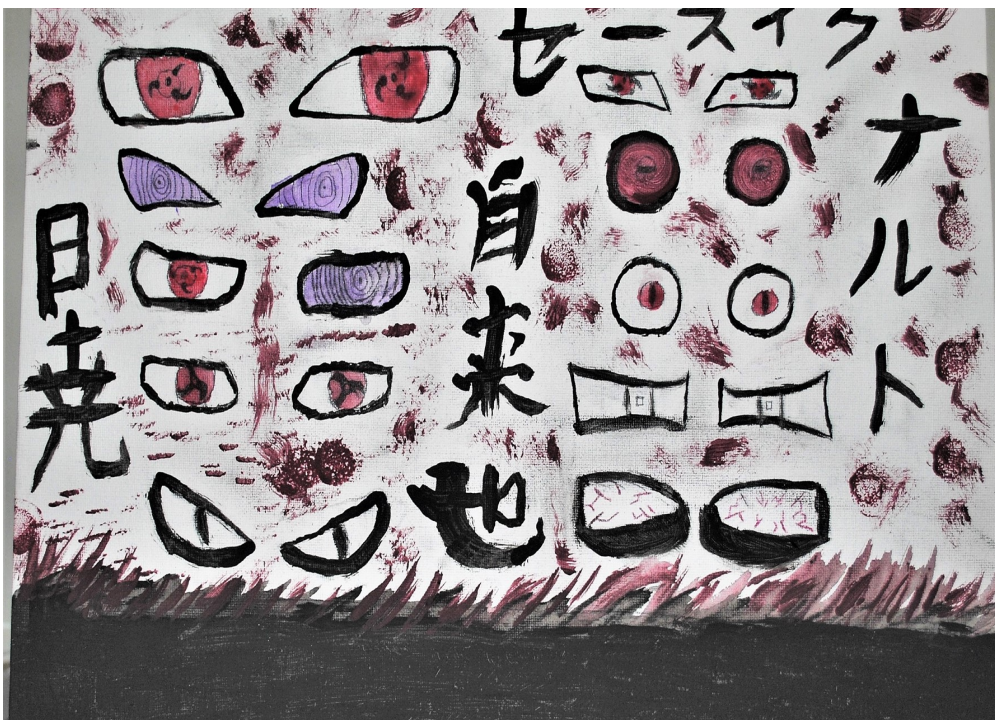
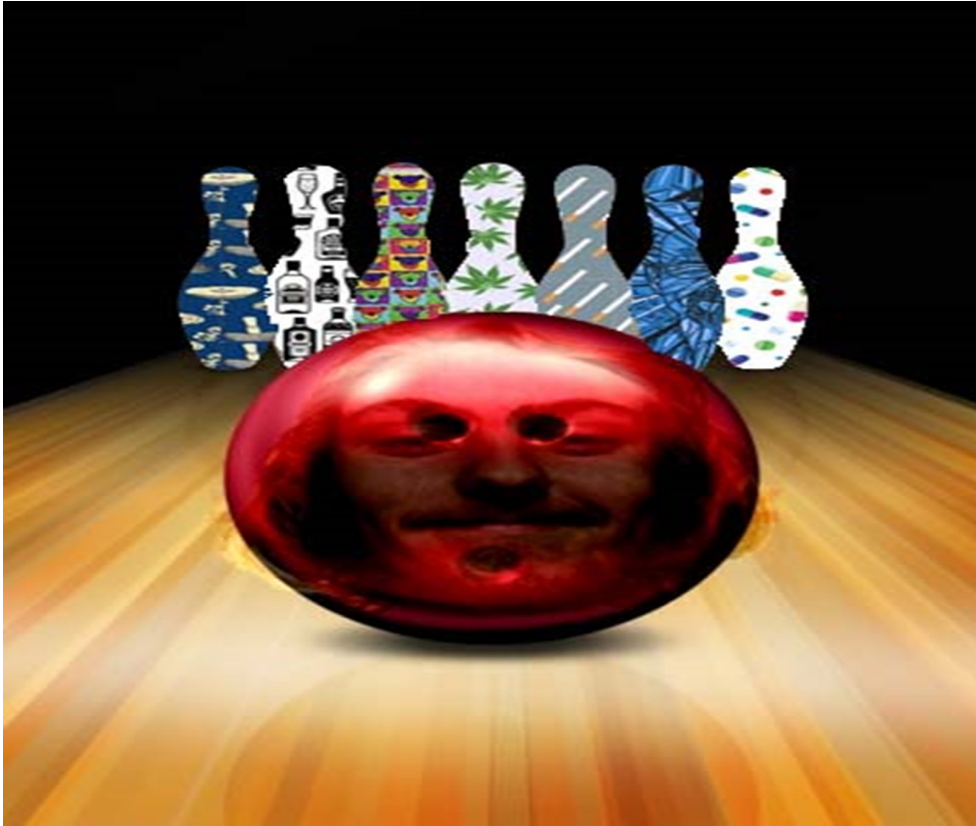
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**The Eighteenth Judicial Circuit  
Celebrates Drug Court Month  
“The Art of Recovery”**



In the 18<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Brevard County, the Adult Drug Court created a theme for Drug Court Month, “The Art of Recovery.” Drug Court participants created their own project: paint, sketch, write poetry on it, put photos on it, use it as a base for a sculpture or 3D art, pretty much anything that is considered art. These were displayed and celebrated on the May 27th court date.

SOME OF THE WONDERFUL ARTWORK





## More Wonderful Artwork





## **National Association of Drug Court Professionals**

### [NADCP 2022 Annual Conference](#)

NADCP's 29Th Annual Drug Court Training Conference

Location: Nashville, Tennessee

Dates: July 25-28, 2022

NADCP provides training to over 6,000 treatment court professionals annually at its national conference – the largest training conference in the nation addressing substance abuse and mental health disorders in the justice system. RISE21 is specifically tailored to enhance the skills, leadership, and training of the treatment court team with approximately 180 cutting-edge sessions, opportunities to connect and learn from colleagues around the world. You will come away educated and energized! RISE21 offers courses for the new practitioner and team members who have been in the field for years. The sessions will be a blend of providing what to watch for now and in the future and practical ways to implement these concerns at a minimal cost. The focus will be on the highest risk areas given how stretched our resources are.



The OSCA has scheduled the following webinars on the topics you asked for through a Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant to provide training and technical assistance to Florida's adult drug courts on the Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards. The educational content being provided in the upcoming webinars will be valuable for other problem-solving courts. Relevant webinars are also being offered through the Florida Courts Opioid and Stimulant Initiative including replays from past webinars. Please take advantage of these educational opportunities!

**Upcoming Webinars for Adult Drug Courts and Other  
Problem-Solving Courts**

<https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Problem-Solving-Courts/Upcoming-Events>

**Florida Courts Opioid and Stimulant Initiative Upcoming  
Webinars  
and Event Replays**

<https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Problem-Solving-Courts/Opioid-Stimulants-Initiative>

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**MEMBERS ONLY— WEBINAR ALERT**

*By Judge Melanie G. May  
Fourth District Court of Appeal*



Calling all FADCP Members! Stay tuned. We are working on a new webinar for our members only.

**BE A CONTRIBUTOR  
To the FADCP Newsletter**

We know lots of exciting things are happening in your drug courts and we want to hear about them. If you have a graduation, open a new problem-solving court, encounter some new obstacle, or stumble upon a successful idea in handling issues facing drug courts, our newsletter is a place to share. Please send any pictures and newsworthy items for inclusion in our next newsletter to [Maymg@flcourts.org](mailto:Maymg@flcourts.org).

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# FADCP SNIPPETS



## FADCP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE Always Open



We look forward to you joining or renewing your FADCP membership. We encourage drug court team members to become FADCP members. The FADCP welcomes your input as we look forward to supporting you and your drug courts and other problem-solving courts. Your membership supports our statewide association - - the voice of Florida's problem-solving courts.

Visit the [FADCP Website](#) for more information on initiatives and training opportunities.