

FADCP

Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals

A Letter From The Chair

Dear FADCP Members:

Hello Spring!

I am happy to report we continue to build our membership! Go FADCP!

Our biggest news is the planning for our in-person, statewide conference. Thanks to the Office of State Courts Administrator, we were fortunate to retain a conference planner, who is helping us with the venue and all conference-related details. Thank you OSCA. Details should be finalized within the next few weeks, and we will be able to announce the conference date and location. Stay tuned!

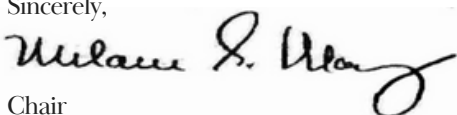
As you probably already know, Treatment Court Month/Problem-Solving Court Month is in May and it is just around the corner. We are gathering lots of great ideas for Florida's Problem-Solving Courts to celebrate. Be sure to take lots of pictures and send in articles to Ret. Judge Gisele Pollack and Cristy Altaro for our next edition of the Newsletter.

Under the leadership of Judge Susan Alspecter, FADCP now has a three-year strategic plan. We are expanding FADCP's reach to Juvenile, Mental Health, DUI, Dependency, and Veteran's Courts, and the plan includes that decision.

The Florida Supreme Court has approved the adult drug court certification process and the Certification Subcommittee of the Court's Steering Committee has finalized documents and processes. A statewide webinar will take place on April 12th at noon to explain how the certification process will unfold. In May, a decision will be made concerning the pilot programs to embark on this process.

We held our last Board Meeting for this year on Thursday, March 7th. As this year draws to a close, the Nominations Committee is working on a draft slate of board members for the upcoming two-year term. Be on the lookout for your vote on the nominations slate. If you are interested in participating as a board member, please let our Executive Director Bridget Washburn know at fadcped@gmail.com. Details are available inside the newsletter.

Sincerely,


Chair



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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

ST. JOHN'S & PUTNAM COUNTY **VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT**

Incentives are a crucial part of every treatment court. Of course, there is the ultimate incentive of freedom - both from incarceration and from the burden of mental disease or substance abuse. Beyond that ultimate reward, however, we have found that a robust interim incentive structure can support our participants in recovery.

We initiated the St Johns County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in January 2016. We have had 141 participants and 81 graduates to date. In a recent study conducted by our Veterans Justice Outreach team from the US Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA) our total recidivism rate is 17%. While this is higher than our state statistics show we are still very proud of our graduates and participants. Compare this statistic with the US DOJ report that found that 82% of incarcerated persons were back in prison in the 10 years following their release!

Most treatment courts recognize clean and sober days. We announce that as each participant comes up to the bench and give the participant a hearty round of applause. That recognition is just the baseline of our incentive program. If a participant is up to date on all of their obligations, we place them in the "First Flight" (we are dealing with veterans after all!). Once a veteran accumulates 3 (or any subsequent multiple of three) First Flights they get to spin the prize wheel. The wheel was acquired online for less than \$50.00.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

ST. JOHN'S & PUTNAM COUNTY **VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT**

It has spaces on which we have written a variety of incentives ranging from leaving early, to credit for community service hours, a small amount of reduction in court fees and some prizes provided by our local Veterans Council. These include gas cards and gift cards ranging from \$10 - \$25. The Veterans Council is a 501(c)(3) organization and purchases these incentives from donations they have received from the community in support of VTC.

We also have a structure of phased progression as do many courts. Ours is a five-level system. Each level has a theme and watchword. Phase 1, the intake phase, is called the "Honor" phase. The goal is to "show up and be honest" as a participant starts their journey. Phase 2 is the "Courage" phase where we conduct stabilization, continuing assessment, and treatment planning. Phase 3 is "Dedication to Duty" phase where we conduct treatment. Phase 4 is the "Integrity" phase where we move to treatment completion and relapse prevention. Phase 5 is the "Commitment" phase where we work with the participant to completion and graduation. Since we are a veterans' court, we have adopted a colored ID tag or "dog tag," for each phase. These are also provided by the Veterans Council. When a participant starts, they are given the silver (white) tag with "Honor" inscribed on it to wear.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

ST. JOHN'S & PUTNAM COUNTY **VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT**

When they promote to phase 2, they get a red tag with "Courage" inscribed. At phase 3 they receive a blue tag with "Dedication" inscribed on it. Phase 4 brings the gold tag - signifying "solid gold" participation - with "Integrity" inscribed on it. Phase 5 participants get the black tag with "Commitment" inscribed. Black is for "all in" signifying the participant is fully committed to the program.

Of course, at successful completion, the participant receives the legal confirmation of their success. These include completion of probation or pretrial agreement, early term of probation, and other negotiated resolutions to their legal challenge. We try to include the team in the announcement by having the Public Defender make the motion for relief, or having the State Attorney announce they are dismissing the charge.

Each participant also receives a certificate and a Veterans Treatment Coin. The coin, produced as well by the Veterans Council, has a seal on one side which combines the logos of the military services, the VA, and the Court into one emblem. On the reverse side is an eagle and the inscription "Welcome Home." Finally, at the end of the ceremony, I add a unique gesture. It's unique because of my own status as a veteran.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

ST. JOHN'S & PUTNAM COUNTY VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT

At the completion of the ceremony, I am proud to offer that graduate a crisp military salute with the greeting "welcome home." I can tell you that, to a person, as they return the salute, I've seen the spark of the young soldier, sailor, airman, guardsman, or marine come back into their eye. They all stand a little taller as they come to "attention" to return the salute. It's a small gesture, but to veterans it reminds them of the positive aspects of their service. They also know that a salute is only exchanged between military members. It is a silent recognition of their return home. If your judge is not a veteran, you may want to consider having another person, like their mentor, execute the salute.

Positive reinforcement is powerful tool in your treatment court toolkit. Hopefully this article will give you some ideas on tailoring your reward structure to the community you serve!



**PRIZE
WHEEL**

**DOG
TAGS**



ONE AA MEMBER'S STORY...

Who would have thought the angel sent to me would be a Judge in a juvenile court?

By age 14 I was an alcoholic. While I had been put in all "gifted" and "honors" classes in Junior High, I was soon out of them due to my behavior and failure to complete assignments. Drinking and getting drunk was my most important task.

As I read in a young woman's story, most people change their drinking to reach their goals, I changed (lowered) my goals to allow my drinking.

At 14, I ended up in juvenile court and met a judge who did not seem to fall for my blame game. My dad an alcoholic, my parents divorced, a crazy household, I used them all often with Guidance Counselors and Principals.

While I don't know when this judge heard about Alcoholics Anonymous, it was before he met me. Someone had informed him that it was quite possible for a young teenage boy to be an alcoholic. He made a very strong suggestion that I needed to attend Alcoholics Anonymous. From the point on, I have attended AA meetings, however I would not say I became an AA member. I finish editing this on my 58th birthday, that's a long history with AA.

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ONE AA MEMBER'S STORY...

I was a rebellious teenager. I went to AA meetings and got my slips signed, I was around AA for many years but never in AA, there is a huge difference. Numerous suspend and revoked drivers licenses, violations of probation, incarcerations in County Jail due to my violations of probation, and numerous tragic events due to my alcoholism. Finally a long period in custody and a longer period in sobriety without the privilege to drive.

I am thankful that Judge planted the AA seed in my life. Who knows where it would be today. Why did it change, it changed because I finally decided to be in AA and not around it. That meant I had to join a homegroup. Sure I attended lots of meetings but it was critical that I learned what it meant to be a committed member of an AA group. I had to get a sponsor, a man to take me through the 12 Steps of AA and explain to me what AA was and what it was not. I had to learn about service and what it meant to be of service for fun and for free. I had to become what we call a member in good standing.

I write this now 34 years sober. I have lost the old titles of defendant, client, probationer, patient, and inmate. Today in my professional career they call me a Managing Director and Executive Vice President, but that is simply what I do for a living. The most important title I have in my life today is AA member in good standing.

Over the years I have been sober I have realized how grateful I am that a judge planted the AA seed, especially being from a family that did not even believe in alcoholism. I have learned in my service cooperating with judges, probation officers, and other professionals how we can improve the court card status quo.

ONE AA MEMBER'S STORY...

Counting the number of meetings someone goes to let's you know if they are around AA, but there is a better way to help understand if the person is in AA. Why not ask them to supply the following:

- Name
- Homegroup Name
- Do you have a sponsor (Y/N)
- What step are you currently working?
- What service position do you have at your home group?

If you are not familiar with AA and you don't understand the importance of these things I would suggest you contact your local AA District or Intergroup/Central office and speak with the Cooperating with the Professional Community Committee (CPC). I would also suggest you go to a few Open AA speaker meetings to hear members stories and meet some local AA members. You can go to www.aa.org [aa.org] to find local contact information.

With a ton of gratitude,

Anonymous AA Member





SUCCESS STORY

A SHINING STAR

MINDI ENTERED THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FAMILY DEPENDENCY TREATMENT COURT (FDTC) IN NOVEMBER OF 2016. HER DAUGHTER HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM HER CUSTODY DUE TO HER SUBSTANCE MISUSE. SHE HAD A HISTORY OF USING DRUGS INTRAVENOUSLY AND HAD BEEN USING SINCE SHE WAS ABOUT 18 YEARS OLD. SHE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN COMPLETING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT, BUT WAS READY TO MAKE SOME CHANGES. MINDI FULLY ENGAGED IN HER TREATMENT PROGRAM AND WORKED WITH THE FAMILY DEPENDENCY TREATMENT COURT TEAM TO COMPLETE HER CASE PLAN TASKS. DURING HER TIME IN FDTC, SHE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ALL PHASES OF HER SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT, FOUND STABLE HOUSING, AND OBTAINED STABLE EMPLOYMENT AT THE PORTICO CAFE. HER CASE CLOSED SUCCESSFULLY WITH HER BEING REUNIFIED WITH HER DAUGHTER IN JUNE OF 2018.

SINCE COMPLETING THE PROGRAM, MINDI HAS CONTINUED IN HER RECOVERY JOURNEY BY HELPING OTHERS IN RECOVERY AS WELL. SHE IS NOW THE OPERATIONS MANAGER AT THE PORTICO CAFÉ, A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WHICH OFFERS PEOPLE TRANSITIONING FROM HOMELESSNESS, ADDICTION, AND INCARCERATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT, AND SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING. SHE HAS WORKED THERE FOR OVER SIX YEARS AND SHE GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY IN ANY WAY THAT SHE CAN. SHE IS ALSO PART OF THE ALUMNI TEAM AT COVE, WHERE SHE COMPLETED TREATMENT DURING HER DEPENDENCY CASE. LAST YEAR SHE PURCHASED AND HELPED BUILD HER HOUSE FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY. CURRENTLY, SHE IS A STRAIGHT A STUDENT AT HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WHERE SHE IS EARNING A DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING, AND IS ALSO THE TREASURER FOR THE HILLSBOROUGH RECOVERY COALITION. THIS YEAR SHE PARTICIPATED IN THE GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN AND TAUGHT HER DAUGHTER'S CLASS ABOUT HER EMPLOYMENT. MINDI IS DEFINITELY EMBRACING MOTHERHOOD AND RECOVERY. GO MINDI!! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU AND EVERYTHING YOU DO TO HELP OTHERS!



AROUND THE STATE



FADCP MEMBERSHIP

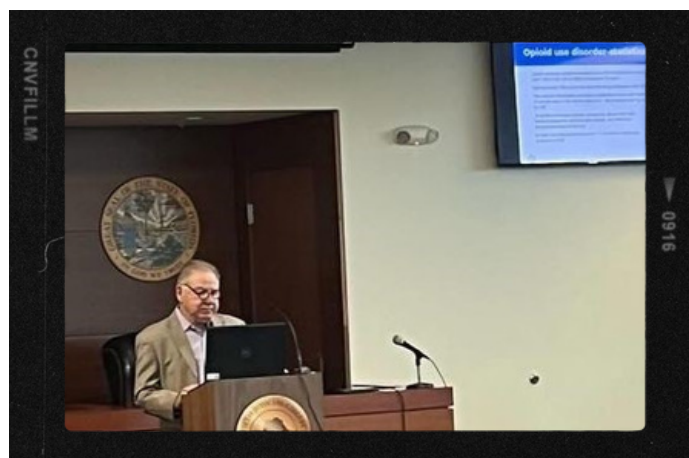


The FADCP membership drive went very well, we received several registrations, mostly renewals, but some new memberships as well. At this time we have **193 members** for 2023/2024. We closed last fiscal year at 215 members. We need just 23 more to surpass last year!

Please help FADCP meet its membership goal by encouraging your team members, colleagues, and treatment providers to join so they can benefit from all that FADCP membership has to offer! 14 of the 20 circuits have representation at this time. The membership committee will be reaching out to the 6 circuits that we have not heard from.

FIFTH CIRCUIT HOSTS TRAINING

On February 9th, the Fifth Judicial Circuit Problem Solving Court hosted a substance use disorder training for treatment providers, family care managers, general magistrates, and local attorneys. Stephen Straubing, M. D., addictionologist, and consultant for the Opioid Response Network presented the interactive training and spoke about the status and challenges surrounding opioids and stimulants, treatment options, disorder statistics, and shedding light on their impact on families and communities.



AROUND THE STATE



FLORIDA DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT UPDATES

In December 2023, the Florida Supreme Court approved the Florida Dependency Drug Court Best Practice Standards. Members of the Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Courts developed the standards based on the National Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards and in alignment with the Florida Supreme Court-approved Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards and Early Childhood Court Best Practice Standards. Once drafted, the standards underwent a full alignment process with other problem-solving court draft best practice standards and guidelines and were ultimately approved this past December. The development of the Florida Dependency Drug Court Best Practice Standards could not have been possible without the leadership of Judge Jeri B. Cohen (ret.), Chair of the Florida Supreme Court Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Court Charge 1 Dependency Drug Court Subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee are also recognized for their hard work and dedication. Subcommittee members include Judge Shawn Crane, Magistrate Randi Glick Boven, Stephanie Zimmerman, Mark Fontaine, Laurie Blades, and Ita Neymotin. Training and technical assistance will be provided in the future regarding these best practice standards which can be found here: <https://www.flcourts.gov/Resources-Services/Office-of-Problem-Solving-Courts/Florida-Problem-Solving-Courts-Best-Practices>

In January 2024, there was an in-person Florida Dependency Drug Court Coordinator retreat held in Tallahassee, FL. All the coordinators gathered for networking and discussion regarding important topics happening in dependency drug court. For the past few years as the dependency drug courts have started to feel more connected, there had been several requests for a statewide logo. During this retreat, the new Florida dependency drug court logo was unveiled. Courts may continue to use their current local logo, but every court is welcome to start using this new statewide logo. For any questions related to the newly approved Florida Dependency Drug Court Best Practice Standards or the logo, please reach out to the Karima Anderson, statewide coordinator for dependency drug courts, at andersonk@flcourts.org!

NEW LOGO



AROUND THE STATE



FADCP UNVEILS 2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision:

The Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals (FADCP) supports Florida's problem-solving courts in their efforts to expand, operate, and institutionalize the most effective treatment-based model to address substance use and mental disorders for individuals in the justice system.

Mission:

FADCP seeks to reduce substance use, encourage treatment for mental health issues, and reduce crime and recidivism in Florida by promoting and advocating for the expansion and funding of problem-solving courts, and providing for collection and dissemination of information and mutual support to association members.

Problem-Solving Courts:

Problem-solving courts address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non-adversarial approach. Offering evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, and accountability, problem-solving courts provide individualized interventions for participants, thereby improving public safety, reducing recidivism, restoring lives, and promoting confidence in and satisfaction with the justice system process.

Problem-solving courts provide a direct cost benefit to the state by reducing substance use and acute mental disorders across various populations involved in the justice system through treatment services instead of sole reliance on incarceration or other punitive measures.

AROUND THE STATE



FADCP UNVEILS 2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

Operating Tenets:

The FADCP is organized to:

- (a) Promote and advocate for the establishment and funding of effective problem-solving courts in Florida;
- (b) Encourage development of other judicially supervised treatment programs, where appropriate;
- (c) Collect, provide, and disseminate information related to the purposes of the organization;
- (d) Perform such other related activities necessary to accomplish the stated goals and objectives;
- (e) Provide a communications network among problem-solving court professionals throughout Florida;
- (f) Serve as a liaison to the Congress of State Drug Court Associations and All Rise f/k/a the National Association of Drug Court Professionals;
- (g) Assist problem-solving court professionals in the creation and implementation of policies governing problem-solving courts;
- (h) Provide a forum for sharing ideas and concerns impacting problem-solving courts; and
- (i) Report and make recommendations to the Supreme Court of Florida regarding problem-solving courts.

AROUND THE STATE



FADCP UNVEILS 2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

Recognized Principles:

FADCP acknowledges that problem-solving courts employ the following principles, tailored to the varying relative needs of the participants of individual jurisdictions:

- (a) Integration of treatment services with justice system case processing;
- (b) Use of a non-adversarial approach between prosecution and defense counsel to promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights;
- (c) Early identification of eligible participants and prompt placement into a problem-solving court program;
- (d) Assure access to a continuum of treatment and rehabilitative services;
- (e) Where applicable, monitor abstinence and compliance with frequent alcohol and drug testing;
- (f) Offer a coordinated strategy to govern problem-solving court responses to participants' compliance;
- (g) Foster ongoing judicial interaction with each court participant;
- (h) Regular evaluation of outcomes to measure and maximize attainment of program goals and gauge effectiveness;
- (i) Promotion of continuing interdisciplinary education to achieve effective planning, implementation, and operations; and
- (j) Forging of partnerships among problem-solving courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations to generate funding, increase local awareness and support, and enhance problem-solving court effectiveness.

AROUND THE STATE



FADCP UNVEILS 2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

Three-Year Strategic Plan (2024-2027):

FADCP establishes a three-year strategic plan that addresses its central tenets to promote, advocate and advance problem-solving courts.

I.State Level

A. Goal 1 - Training and Education: FADCP should continue to develop training and education programs for problem-solving court team members including: judges, coordinators, prosecutors, defense counsel, law enforcement officers, treatment professionals, supervision officers, and other justice system personnel, to keep them abreast of recent developments and advances relating to substance misuse, mental health, and problem-solving court best practices.

Objective 1. Offer one statewide training conference every two years and two virtual training and education sessions annually as funding permits.

Objective 2. Training will include adult drug court, juvenile drug court, DUI court, dependency drug court, veterans court and mental health court training topics.

Objective 3. Garner optimal support for problem-solving courts by educating the judicial, executive, and legislative branches; the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems; treatment professionals; private foundations; corporations; and the general public on the benefits of problem-solving courts.

Objective 4. By January each term, initiate planning stages for developing a statewide training conference for problem-solving court professionals every two years.



AROUND THE STATE



FADCP UNVEILS 2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

- A. Goal 2 - Legislative: Support and promote legislation that will expand and enhance problem-solving courts.
- B. Goal 3 - Funding: Advocate for sustained, stabilized funding for problem-solving courts through legislation and other funding solutions.
- C. Goal 4 - Fidelity and Accountability: Support the implementation of best practices and provide guidance and training through membership networking and peer input.
- D. Goal 5 - Drug Testing: Explore access to a state drug testing contract.
- E. Goal 6 - Program Implementation and Expansion: Encourage and support implementation and expansion of problem-solving courts.
- F. Goal 7 - Court Program Staffing: Encourage courts to comply with best practice staffing goals.
- G. Goal 8 - Encourage Integration of Necessary Behavioral Health Services: By July 2027, encourage problem-solving courts to incorporate best practice standards.
- H. Goal 9 - Statewide Transfer Protocol: Review transfer protocols between problem-solving courts and formulate recommendations to ensure consistent transfer policies and practices statewide, in accordance with applicable law.
- I. Goal 10 - The FADCP Board shall annually review the plan's goals and objectives to ensure compliance and guarantee the organization's growth and stability.

Objective 1. By October 1 of each year, provide an annual report with the Association's recommendations to the appropriate Supreme Court committee or to the appropriate personnel of the Office of the State Courts Administrator, pursuant to section 397.334(7), Florida Statutes (2023).

Objective 2. Annually increase FADCP membership by 10% by targeting problem-solving professionals, treatment professionals, and justice system partners.

Objective 3. By September of each term, identify three areas for the FADCP Board to concentrate its efforts to advance and promote problem-solving courts.

Objective 4. Monitor and support the initiatives of the Supreme Court's Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Courts.

Objective 5. Ensure that the FADCP, as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, timely complies with all applicable State and federal tax laws to maintain its tax-exempt status

AROUND THE STATE



FADCP UNVEILS 2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

II. Local Level

A. Goal 1 - Maximize Capacity of Problem-Solving Courts: Encourage problem-solving courts to expand the number of participants served.

Objective 1. Encourage problem-solving courts to evaluate their capacity and develop a plan for expansion of program capacity by maximizing resources.

Objective 2. Encourage problem-solving courts to evaluate their staffing needs to effectively support court, supervision, and treatment needs.

B. Goal 2 - Best Practices: Encourage problem-solving courts to implement best practices by 2027.

Objective 1. Develop education and training on state and national best practices.

Objective 2. Create networking opportunities to assist with implementation of best practices.

C. Goal 3 - Judicial Education: Encourage problem-solving court judges to educate non-problem-solving court judges on problem-solving court key components and best practices to improve case processing and outcomes for justice-involved individuals with substance use and mental disorders.

Objective 1. Identify judges within the court's jurisdiction to shadow the problem-solving court judge.

Objective 2. Introduce judges inside the jurisdiction to problem-solving courts' key components and best practices.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT: BRIDGET MASHBURN
fadcped@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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2024 Problem-Solving Court Legislative Bills of Interest

SB 910 Public Records/Veterans Treatment and Mental Health Court Programs by Senator Darryl Rouson. Companion bill to HB 715. This is a Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Courts proposed bill. This bill amends sections 394.47891 and 394.47892, F.S. to ensure that details about individuals either participating in or being evaluated for eligibility in veterans' treatment court or mental health court programs are kept confidential, thereby making them exempt from public records laws. The types of information protected include documents generated or gathered during the initial assessments for program eligibility, substance abuse screenings, behavioral health evaluations, and follow-up treatment progress reports. Disclosure of this confidential information is permitted only if there is a written request from the participant, their legal representative, or governmental bodies as part of their official duties related to the evaluation or treatment process.

SB 960 Outpatient Mental Health Services by Senator Lori Berman. Companion bill to HB 915. This bill amends the Baker Act by consolidating the procedures for courts to mandate involuntary outpatient services and involuntary inpatient care, enhancing the efficiency of securing involuntary treatment and offering courts greater adaptability to address the treatment needs of individuals. The bill proposes definitions for certain terms. The bill permits advanced practice registered nurses within their specialty of psychiatric nurse to prescribe psychotropic medications to treat mental illness disorders. The bill clarifies that the 72-hour examination timeframe starts upon the patient's arrival at the facility for adults and must initiate within 12 hours for minors. Assessments of minors must be performed under the direct supervision of a professional licensed under chapter 491.

SB 1434 Pretrial Intervention Programs by Senator Lauren Book. This bill amends section 948.08, F.S., revising the eligibility to voluntarily enter into pretrial substance abuse to exclude defendants charged with any specified offenses to include sexual intent or motive.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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SB 1626 Mental Health of Minors by Senator Bobby Powell. This bill amends section 394.462, F.S., to include options of transporting minors to mental health facilities not involving marked police vehicles or uniformed police officers and section 1001.212, F.S., for new reporting duties for the Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools. This bill creates section 394.4635, F.S., to guide the conditions and process regarding involuntary examination of a minor. Law enforcement officers may transport a minor who meets the criteria for involuntary examination to the nearest appropriate facility. The law enforcement officer must execute a report detailing the circumstances for taking the minor into custody. The bill defines what circumstances can result in involuntary examination such as serious bodily harm, requiring mandatory reports from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and law enforcement, requiring the reports and court records to be made part of the minor's clinical records. The bill creates the Telehealth Pilot Program within DCF. The bill provides that a minor may not be held at a receiving facility longer than necessary, may not be removed from school as defined in section 1003.01(17), F.S., and the standard to order a minor for involuntary inpatient placement must be clear and convincing evidence.

Related bills include SB 1784, HB 915, and HB 7021 (Not companion bills)

SB 1784 Mental Health and Substance Abuse by Senator Erin Grall. This bill grants law enforcement the discretion of initiating involuntary examinations and transporting the person to a receiving or treatment facility, requiring the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to post reports on its website, streamlining how data is analyzed by the Agency for Health Care Administration, and makes recommendations to decrease admissions. The voluntariness of a minor for involuntary treatment must be reviewed, providing requirements on who and how a petition for involuntary services must be filed and served on the patient; for the hearing; and setting requirements for discharge from involuntary treatment services. The examination period must begin when a patient arrives at the receiving facility and must not exceed 72 hours for an adult, or 12 hours for a minor. Allowing for witnesses to appear remotely for hearing upon good cause and repeals certain statutory provisions. Provides for a comprehensive process for continued involuntary services after discharge and provides an exception to the background screening requirements for initial and renewal of licensure of physicians and nurses. Related bills include: SB 1626, HB 915, and HB 7021 (Not companion bills).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

than legislate. **legislation** /ˌledʒɪsˈleɪʃən/ series of laws: proposed new emissions. **(b)** the process of legislation will be difficult and take time. **legislative** /ˌledʒɪsˈlætɪv/ US involved with or

HB 915 Outpatient Mental Health Services by Representatives Dan Daley and Patt Maney. Companion bill to SB 960. This bill amends the Baker Act by consolidating the procedures for courts to mandate involuntary outpatient services and involuntary inpatient care, enhancing the efficiency of securing involuntary treatment and offering courts greater adaptability to address the treatment needs of individuals. The bill proposes definitions for certain terms. The bill permits advanced practice registered nurses within their specialty of psychiatric nurse to prescribe psychotropic medications to treat mental illness disorders. The bill clarifies that the 72-hour examination timeframe starts upon the patient's arrival at the facility for adults and must initiate within 12 hours for minors. Assessments of minors must be performed under the direct supervision of a professional licensed under chapter 491.

Related bills include: SB 1626, SB 1784, and HB 7021 (Not companion bills)

HB 7021 Mental Health and Substance Abuse by Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee and Patt Maney. This bill modifies the Baker Act and provides a definition for a licensed medical professional and combines processes for courts to order involuntary Baker Act services. Allows for the restriction of patient communication and documenting such restriction. The examination period must begin when a patient arrives at the receiving facility and cannot exceed 72 hours for an adult, or 12 hours for a minor. It grants law enforcement the discretion of initiating involuntary examinations and the transportation of the person to a receiving or treatment facility. Amends the duties and responsibilities of a Guardian Advocate, repeals certain provisions of the Marchman Act, and creates new involuntary treatment processes. The bill permits witnesses to appear remotely upon a showing of good cause. Provides that the department shall publish a report on its website and specifies who may file a petition for involuntary services under the Baker Act and Marchman Act. A magistrate may be appointed to preside over Baker Act or Marchman Act hearings. Provides for a comprehensive means for continued involuntary services after discharge. Permits a patient release by a psychiatric nurse and redefines the limitations on advanced practice nurses and physician assistants under the supervision of a physician to serve the needs of a patient.

Related bills include: SB 1626, SB 1784, and HB 915 (Not companion bills).



brown bag **"bites"**

OUR BROWN BAG LUNCHEON ON **JANUARY 24TH** BEGAN WITH BRIDGET REMINDING MEMBERS TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING ON FEB. 28TH. NEXT, JULIE SCHILLING SHARED A POSITIVE REPORT OF RECEIVING AMAZON GIFT CARDS FOR HER COURT, FOR WHICH THEY WERE THANKFUL. JULIE ALSO MENTIONED A DESIRE TO PROVIDE TICKETS TO FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES, SO THAT THOSE WITH CHILDREN CAN MEET IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES POSITIVE EXPERIENCES. JULIE WONDERED IF FACDP MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOLICIT DONATIONS OF THIS TYPE. JOANNA GREENE MENTIONED LIFEBUILDERS OF THE TREASURE COAST, A NON-PROFIT DESIGNED TO HELP THOSE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WITH A VARIETY OF NEEDS ([HTTPS://WWW.LIFEBUILDERSTC.COM/](https://www.lifebuilderstc.com/)). THE 2ND CHANCE ORGANIZATION IN BROWARD WAS ALSO MENTIONED AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH RESOURCES ([HTTPS://WWW.SECONDCHANCESOCIETY.ORG/ABOUT-US](https://www.secondchancesociety.org/about-us)).

NEXT, CRYSTAL WATKINS REQUESTED FEEDBACK ON TOOLS OTHER THAN THE RANT. A VARIETY OF TOOLS WERE DISCUSSED, FROM THE ORAS, TO THE LS/CMI, THE ASAM CRITERIA, M/OST AND TCUDS.

JULIA SCHILLING THEN ASKED IF OTHER COURTS UTILIZE PEERS, AND IF SO, IF THEY HAVE AN MOU. JESSICA HOLBERTON DISCUSSED A PEER THAT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY IN CIRCUIT 19 UTILIZES FOR DRUG COURT, THROUGH A SERVICE PROVIDER. SHE MENTIONED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PEER WAS INITIALLY BROUGHT ON BOARD TO ENHANCE ALUMNI RELATIONS, THE OUTCOME HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL EVEN FOR CURRENT DRUG COURT CLIENTS. JESSICA ALSO MENTIONED THAT SHE WOULD SHARE INFORMATION REGARDING SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION FOR COURT AT A LATER TIME.

IDEAS FOR FUTURE LUNCH AND LEARNS, AND CONFERENCE TRAININGS WERE SOLICITED; A VARIETY OF IDEAS WERE SUGGESTED. THESE INCLUDED TRAINING ON THE UPDATED ALL RISE BEST PRACTICES, COURT CERTIFICATION, AS WELL AS ANYTHING RELATED TO DATA COLLECTION FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION. JUDGE LEVIN SUGGESTED THAT FADCP ENGAGE PROSECUTORS TO A LARGER DEGREE, AND JOANNA GREENE SUGGESTED MAYBE A LARGE CONFERENCE SESSION IN WHICH PARTICIPANTS ARE ALL REFRESHED ON THE ETHICAL ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF TEAM MEMBERS. SUGGESTIONS FOR CONFERENCE BREAKOUTS INCLUDED "HOW TO WORK AS A TEAM". MARCIA ELDER TOLD THE GROUP THAT OSCA WILL SOON DISTRIBUTE A SURVEY WHICH WILL COVER SOME OF THESE CONCERNS.

brown bag "bites"

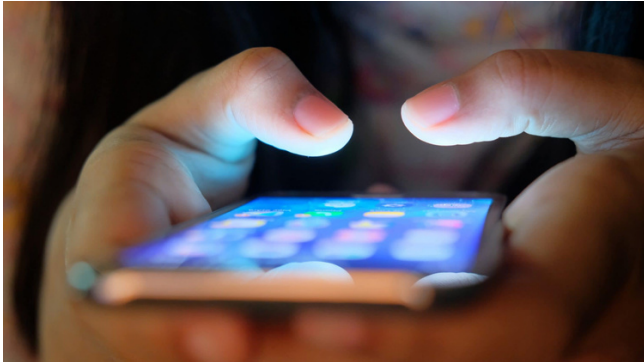
ON **FEBRUARY 28, 2024**, WE HAD ANOTHER BROWN BAG LUNCH OF THE YEAR. WE SPENT THE LUNCH HOUR SHARING IDEAS ON HOW TREATMENT COURTS CAN CELEBRATE NATIONAL TREATMENT COURT MONTH THIS MAY. WE HEARD SO MANY EXCELLENT IDEAS. MANY OF THE TREATMENT COURTS (COURT TEAMS AND PARTICIPANTS) ATTEND A COMMISSION MEETING WHERE THE COMMISSIONERS PRESENT THE TEAM WITH A PROCLAMATION PRONOUNCING THE DAY/MONTH AS DRUG COURT DAY/MONTH. WE HEARD THAT PARTICIPANTS FIND THESE CEREMONIES VERY MEANINGFUL AND FELT RECOGNIZED AND INCLUDED BY THE COMMUNITY. ANOTHER WAY TREATMENT COURTS CELEBRATE THE MONTH IS BY HAVING SPECIAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES. JUDGE MAY TOLD US ABOUT A DRUG COURT GRADUATION ATTENDED BY THE THEN GOVERNOR AND BROADCAST THROUGHOUT ALL THE DRUG COURTS IN FLORIDA. OTHER DRUGS COURTS CELEBRATE BY PICKING A COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR THE TEAM AND PARTICIPANTS TO VOLUNTEER IN MAY.

OUR BROWN BAG LUNCHES ARE ON THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. THE NEXT BROWN BAG LUNCH WILL BE ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH AT NOON**. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



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

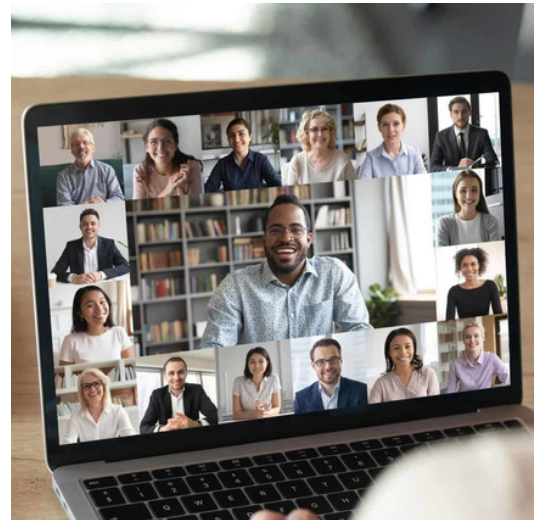
RESOURCES



FIND FREE OR REDUCED-COST RESOURCES
(FOOD, HOUSING, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, HEALTH CARE, ETC.)

WWW.FINDHELP.ORG

**INTERESTED IN THE
STATEWIDE JUVENILE DRUG
COURT NETWORK?
FOR INFO, EMAIL:
BRICHARDSON1@PBCGOV.ORG**



CHECK THESE OUT:

**Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource for
Drug & Alcohol Court Professionals**
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/smf-177_en.pdf

**A.A. Guidelines - Cooperating with Court,
D.W.I. and Similar Programs**
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/mg-05_coopwithcourt.pdf



RESOURCES

BELOW ARE LINKS TO THREE NEWS ARTICLES ON THE RECENT SETTLEMENT THE PENNSYLVANIA COURTS REACHED WITH THE US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OVER MOUD/MAT IN PENNSYLVANIA'S DRUG COURTS. THE FIRST ARTICLE GIVES A VERY CONCISE HISTORY OF THE CASE (COPY & PASTE LINK INTO BROWSER)

PENNSYLVANIA COURTS TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER (EJI.ORG) [EJI.ORG]

**[HTTPS://WWW.USATODAY.COM/STORY/NEWS/NATION/2024/02/01/PENNSYLVANIA-COURTS-SETTLE-OPIOID-USE-DISORDER-DISCRIMINATION/72440989007/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/02/01/pennsylvania-courts-settle-opioid-use-disorder-discrimination/72440989007/)
[USATODAY.COM]**

OPIOID ADDICTION MEDICINE PRESCRIPTIONS CAN'T DISQUALIFY DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS, FEDS SAY (INQUIRER.COM) [INQUIRER.COM]





happenings & events

- *3/27 Brown Bag lunch
- *MAY Problem-Solving Courts Month
- *5/8 - 5/10 Dependency Drug Court/Early Childhood Court All-Sites meeting (Orlando)
- *5/22-5/25 All Rise Conference (California)
- *5/22 FADCP Meeting @ All Rise - 12:45pm



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



FADCP BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The FADCP Nominations and Orientation Committee is seeking nominations for the Board of Directors. The FADCP Board meets quarterly via conference call. All Board of Directors are expected to make a commitment to participate on all calls. If you would like to submit a self-nomination or that of another who wishes to serve, please email me, Bridget Washburn, Executive Director at fadcped@gmail.com by **March 20, 2024**.

All nominees must be current members of the FADCP. Your email should include the nominee's:

Name
Title
Circuit
Phone number
Discipline within the team and
Brief bio/resume

The two-year term of service for the newly elected FADCP Board of Directors will begin in June. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Current FADCP Board Members, who have expressed their desire to be nominated for another term, do not need to respond to this request.



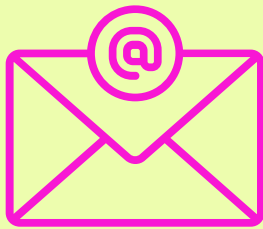
Thank you!

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.*