

FADCP

Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals

A Letter From The Chair

Dear FADCP Members:

Hello Fall!

I am happy to report we now have over 200 FADCP members and growing!

Recently, the FADCP Board had the opportunity to observe a brief presentation of Reconnect by Sean Shea. Reconnect is an application that allows drug courts to keep in contact with participants, arrange UA testing, and helps with many other important tasks. The Board was so impressed, we asked to have a longer presentation. It was the subject of the October brown bag lunch.

Speaking of bb-lunches, Judge Michele Towbin-Singer's bb-lunches continue to be well-attended and full of great information. If you haven't had the chance to attend one, you must do so. Be on the lookout for her email blasts.

Your Training and Conference Committee is hard at work selecting a venue for a 2024 state-wide conference. We should have a date nailed down soon.

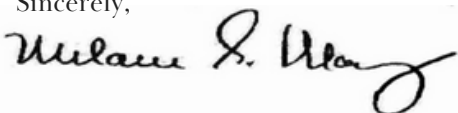
Similarly, Judge Susan Alspector is putting the finishing touches on our Strategic Plan. Once approved by the board, we will circulate it to our members.

Please check out our website. Our Executive Director Bridget Washburn has been working on making it more robust and informative.

Now that the Florida Supreme Court has approved adult drug court certification, the Certification Subcommittee of the Court's Steering Committee is finalizing documents and processes with an effort to complete its work by the end of the year. More to follow in this important step for Florida's Drug Courts.

Please send any newsworthy items, including pictures, to our newsletter committee, Retired Judge Gisele Pollack and Cristy Altaro. They love hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Chair



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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



BREVARD COUNTY DRUG COURT'S THE ART OF RECOVERY



In 1994 Brevard County, Florida in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit established the Adult Drug Court Program. This problem solving court, and in many instances an alternative to incarceration, has proven to be successful for first time offenders. The program has given clients an opportunity to be involved in a treatment modality, which is evidenced based, that provides the tools to avoid the use of mood/mind altering substances. Under the direction of Judge Kelly McKibben, Peace Club as the treatment provider was given the challenge to participate in the 2023 Art of Recovery celebration.

The clients accepted this challenge and used their creativity in many different acts of Art. It was exciting to see the clients engage in all forms of art unique to each one of them. Creative writing, macramé, drawing, photography, building succulent planters and even the art of creative baking were featured. The program highlighted the efforts of the clients during one of the drug court sessions and one won recognition on a national level for her beautiful photograph and what it represented to her.

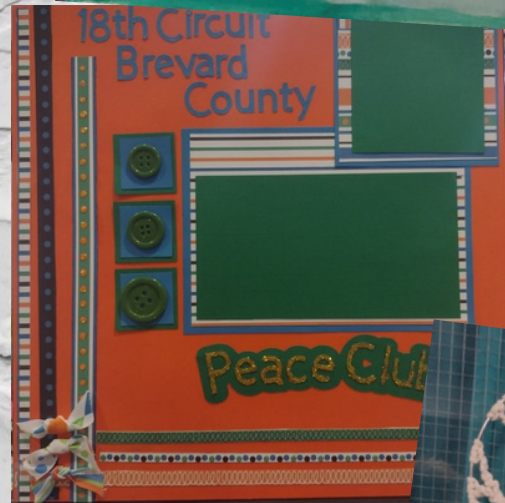
Peace Club will continue to encourage the clients to step outside of their norm, try different things, but most of all use their own art to help in their ongoing recovery.

**ART OF RECOVERY CLIENT, HEIDI P., WON 3RD
PLACE IN PHOTOGRAPHY AT ALL RISE 2023!**



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BREVARD COUNTY DRUG COURT'S THE ART OF RECOVERY

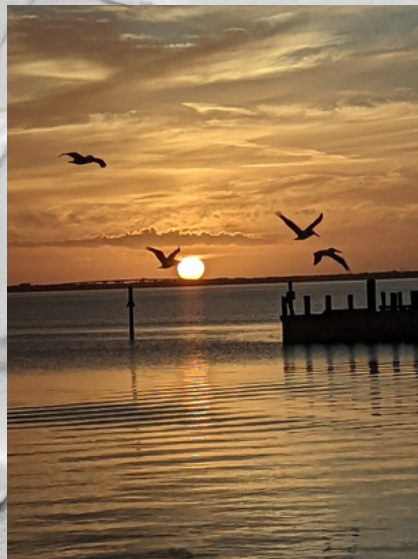


Like an oil spill the depression and anxiety were suffocating the bird, painting the feathers with alcoholism drenched in addiction.

I was a feather amongst my family and friends that flocked together and I, under the impression that I could wash and cleanse them all with support and positivity gaining trust through likeness forgot that a feather of the same intoxicated and mucky bird would also become infected.

It is only the protected hands of a survivor of the spill that takes all responsibility precautions in cleaning the oil that can rescue the victim and survivors still in the muck of the spill; not the feather of the same bird.

I'll wash myself up, gear up, and help make a change in my community after healing the wounds from my own spill.



By Judge Gagliardi



**JUDGE'S
Corner**

The Impacts of Hurricane Ian

On September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian struck Fort Myers and the surrounding areas. We knew it was going to affect us, but we had no idea how much. The statistics show when the hurricane made landfall, it was a category 4 storm, however the winds were very close to category 5 and the storm surge was anywhere between 10 to 15 feet. The surge caused the collapse of both the Sanibel Causeway and the Pine Island Bridge and this left many people stranded for days. Many people had to be rescued from roofs and from flooding waters. The surge took complete structures into the sea. It was really difficult to hear that a person had lost everything as did many of the people on the barrier islands, but 161 people lost their lives.

Some of the problems for our specialty courts occurred when we had to scramble to reschedule and figure out the dockets. Everything was a mess. I remember one participant had no diapers and no formula, and we had no way to help. We had many stressful meetings anticipating just who got hurt, who lost what, who needed help, etc. On top of that, there was a lack of resources because everybody was in the same situation. No electricity, no internet, no water, no transportation. Thousands of cars at the Health Park hospital parking lot became inoperable due to being flooded out. Our Veterans complained of PTSD symptoms from the loud sounds of the storm and the utter silences after the storm. The destruction and devastation was very difficult to see. Many of us had flooding and damage to our homes, but it did not even compare to the losses suffered by the survivors of the surge.

The Courthouse was shut down for approximately two weeks. This extremely destructive storm caused damage to our 10 story courthouse. To this day we have many ceilings and walls on the upper level floors that have no drywall or finishing. We can blame FEMA or insurance disputes for that, but the fact remains that some parts of the courthouse still look like a disaster zone. And as for our beaches, there are many parts of the beaches where you can see the ocean from the road because all of the structures are completely wiped out and gone.

continued from page 4



JUDGE'S Corner

For the survivors, I think we had to reset their recovery. There was no testing during this time and our testing center also suffered damage and remained closed for a period, so we had to make other arrangements. The heartaches suffered by all were severe. Mostly, we tried to focus on the way forward, trying to help them get through this difficult time. We did not lose anybody, thankfully, but the relapses were there and we had to help them find their way again. The only thing worse than this, was COVID, and you all know and can relate to what you had to do for your participants during that time, so you can imagine our difficulties.

We are back in full swing and moving forward, but we shall never forget Hurricane Ian, and probably we all now have a little PTSD.

Thank you,

Judge Gagliardi

FLORIDA
STRONG



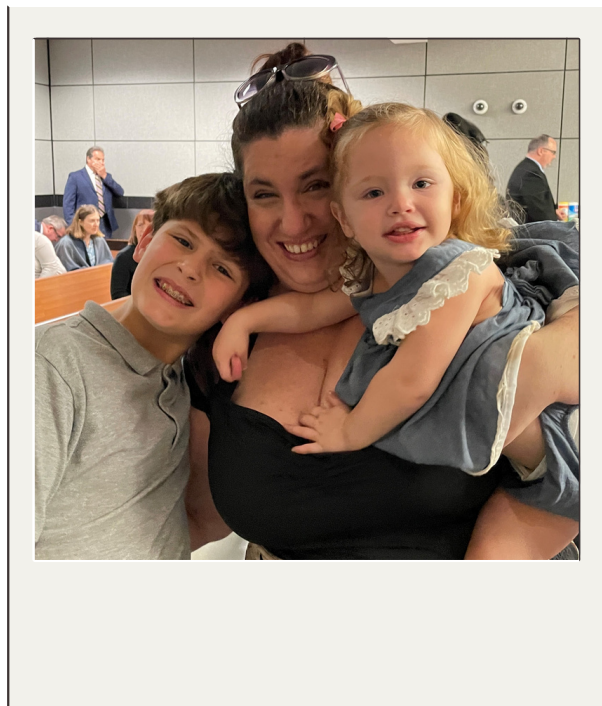
SUCCESS STORY

A SHINING STAR

JAMIE ENTERED FAMILY (DEPENDENCY) TREATMENT COURT IN FEBRUARY, 2021. HER SON HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM HER CUSTODY, SHE WAS FACING A FELONY CHILD ABUSE CASE AND WAS PREGNANT WITH HER SECOND CHILD. THINGS WERE NOT LOOKING GOOD. JAMIE HAD CONVICTION THOUGH...AND SAID SHE WAS READY TO MAKE A CHANGE IN HER LIFE. SHE ASKED FOR HELP AND EMBRACED EVERYTHING THE PROGRAM OFFERED. JAMIE DID THE WORK. IN JUST UNDER TWO YEARS, HER WORLD LOOKED A LOT BRIGHTER. SHE GOT CLEAN, GAVE BIRTH TO A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, WAS REUNIFIED WITH HER SON, OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT AND WAS LIVING ON HER OWN. THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING....

JAMIE HAS BEEN AN ADVOCATE AND A LEADER WHO HAS SPOKEN AT VARIOUS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SHE WAS WORKING AS A PEER SPECIALIST FULL TIME AND THRIVING AS A MOM. JAMIE RECENTLY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY TREATMENT COURT STEERING COMMITTEE AND WILL BE PART OF A NEW COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM BEING LAUNCHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MOST RECENTLY, SHE WAS PROMOTED TO RECOVERY COORDINATOR WITHIN HER CURRENT ORGANIZATION, WORKING ALONGSIDE THE CLINICAL DIRECTOR, TO ASSIST OTHERS WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH SUBSTANCE USE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, SHE CAN USE HER COMPASSION AND EXPERIENCE TO HELP CHANGE THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMIE ON SHINING SO BRIGHT AND GIVING US A REASON TO DO THE WORK WE DO!





SUCCESS STORY

WAY TO GO WARREN

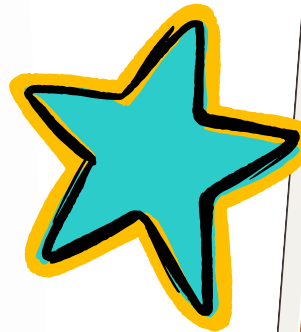
Chance to Change

By: Warren C.



I have been given another chance
 A Chance to change for the good.
 All them other changes to change,
 And I didn't even when I said I would.
 This chance is different, in many ways,
 Feeling, caring, loving myself and others today.
 I'm seeing life, with a better outlook,
 I can look forward to tomorrow, Just For Today.
 For too many years of these chances
 Always letting everyone who cared down
 I finally realized, if I keep this up,
 Eventually there will be no one around.
 I was alone, lost, and broken.
 At least that's what I thought in my mind.
 Today, I see a purpose, a reason
 To leave the old me behind.
 Living for today with hope for tomorrow,
 This chance is what I needed to open my eyes.
 For this change has brought light in them,
 And for once, I am being honest with no lies.
 With this chance, on this road to recovery,
 Knowing and believing, I will be free!
 I'm doing whatever it takes with no substances
 Taking advantage of the chance of all chances.

IN CIRCUIT 5, IN HONOR OF RECOVERY MONTH, PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO GET CREATIVE TO TELL THEIR STORY OF TRANSFORMATION. ONE GENTLEMAN SHARED A POEM HE WROTE & WAS ABLE TO READ IT IN COURT, IMPACTING AND INSPIRING MANY OTHERS. WARREN HAS BEEN IN DRUG COURT FOR OVER TWO YEARS - HE HAS BEEN FROM OUTPATIENT TO RESIDENTIAL (A COUPLE TIMES), BUT HAS NEVER GIVEN UP EVEN WHEN HE WAS EXPECTING EVERYONE TO GIVE UP ON HIM. HE'S CHANGED HIS LIVING SITUATION SIGNIFICANTLY, REBUILT SOME CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS, AND TAKES ANY OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WHAT RECOVERY & HIS NEW OUTLOOK ON LIFE HAS DONE FOR HIM. WARREN ALWAYS SUPPORTS OTHERS & ATTENDS ALMOST ALL LOCAL RECOVERY EVENTS. HE'S CURRENTLY IN SCHOOL TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELING. WE ARE SO PROUD OF HOW FAR HE'S COME AND THE WORK HE CONTINUES TO PUT FORTH.



AROUND THE STATE



CHAMPIONS SUMMIT

The Office of the State Courts Administrator (Florida Courts Opioids & Stimulants RESPONSE) hosted a four part virtual conference throughout the month of September on a range of topics relevant for Florida courts and partner organizations. Called the Champions Summit, the event featured a power-packed agenda of leading national experts and key state presenters. Hundreds attended from throughout the state and the event has drawn rave reviews.

Speakers ranged from actress and bestselling author, Mackenzie Phillips, based on her own recovery journey; to renowned journalist and best-selling author, Sam Quinones on Challenges & Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth; to Dr. Tisha Wiley who leads the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network; to top officials with All-Rise (NADCP); and a host of other standout presenters.

A special on-demand version of the event will be announced soon - stay tuned for related resources: [https://www.flcourts.gov/Resources-Services/Office-of-Problem-Solving-Courts/Opioids-Stimulants-Initiative/Champions-Summit \[flcourts.gov\]](https://www.flcourts.gov/Resources-Services/Office-of-Problem-Solving-Courts/Opioids-Stimulants-Initiative/Champions-Summit [flcourts.gov]).



2023
CHAMPIONS SUMMIT
A Modular Training & Technical Support Event
September Fridays
FLORIDA COURTS OPIOIDS & STIMULANTS RESPONSE

The graphic features a collage of images related to drug use and testing: a spilled pill bottle with various pills, a person using a syringe, a hand holding a syringe, and a drug test result card that reads 'DRUG TEST RESULTS FAILED' in large red letters. The card also includes fields for 'EMPLOYEE INFORMATION' and 'FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY'.

AROUND THE STATE



COSSUP GRANT

In October 2019, Florida's Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) was awarded the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program (COAP) Grant. This was a three-year grant for \$1,492,871 with the goal of enhancing both existing and new interventions in Florida's dependency drug courts to improve outcomes for children and adults impacted by opioid misuse. Specific interventions were to be evidence-based and within the following categories: Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), Certified Recovery Peer Support Specialists, gender-/culturally responsive specific supports, and substance use disorder prevention services for children of participants. Five dependency drug courts were sub-recipients of the initial grant award: Broward, Citrus, Marion, Orange, and Palm Beach Counties. The grant also included funding for an OSCA court operations consultant position to manage the grant and implement the grant deliverables, which also serves as the statewide coordinator for dependency drug courts.

Unfortunately, just months after receiving the award, court operations were greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This also resulted in significantly fewer dependency drug court participant entries. Thus, the sub-recipient sites were delayed in implementing and enhancing the evidence-based interventions. To address these challenges, OSCA was awarded its first no-cost extension in October 2022 to extend the grant for a fourth year, and another no-cost extension that began on October 1, 2023, for a fifth year. These no-cost extensions are allowing the four remaining sites: Citrus, Marion, Orange, and Palm Beach Counties to continue to implement and enhance the evidence-based interventions. In an effort to more accurately reflect the population being served, the grant was changed to be called the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and substance Use Program, commonly referred to as the COSSUP. All the sites will identify a funding source prior to September 2024 to allow them to sustain the evidence-based programs that were implemented as a result of this grant funding.

Any questions regarding this grant should be directed to:

Karima Anderson: andersonk@flcourts.org.

AROUND THE STATE

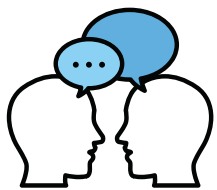


FADCP TAKEOVER AT NADCP!

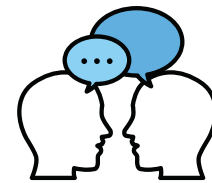
On June 27, 2023, the Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals held an in person meeting at the All Rise Annual Conference in Houston, Texas. FADCP Executive Committee Member, Judge Josephine Gagliardi, facilitated the meeting and over 40 members attended! During the meeting, FADCP members received the following information: FADCP Treasurer, Jennifer Grandal, provided an update on the current amounts of the FADCP checking and savings account. Jennifer also discussed legislative updates that pertain to problem solving courts in the state. Crystal Watkins, of the FADCP Membership Committee, provided an update on the current number of members and updated fees to be a member. Cristy Altaro, of the FADCP Newsletter Committee, requested that success stories or any other stories of interest be shared with the committee for placement in the Newsletter. Alina Stoothoff, of the FADCP Training Committee, advised that the Lunch and Learn ZOOM meetings will continue and that FADCP is hoping to have an in person annual conference in 2024. Judge Gagliardi then had each circuit represented at the meeting speak on something positive that they have going on in their area. This meeting was a great opportunity for members to meet face to face! FADCP will keep all members apprised of any other scheduled in person meeting opportunities!



AROUND THE STATE



STATEWIDE JUVENILE DRUG COURT NETWORKING



Circuit 15, in collaboration with OSCA, implemented a statewide committee for Juvenile Drug Court Coordinators, Judges and staff. Quarterly, the committee meets virtually to discuss ideas, best practices, protocols, and challenges with the hope of sharing resources and enhancing juvenile drug courts through Florida. Circuit 15 Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator, Brandon Richardson, also published a statewide directory for Juvenile Drug Courts. For information, contact Mr. Richardson at BRichardson1@pbcgov.org.

BARC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court Team recently attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration for BARC, the Broward Addiction Recovery Center. BARC provides residential, intensive outpatient, and outpatient substance use treatment services to the uninsured residing in Broward County. BARC continues to be a vital partner to Adult Felony Drug Court by providing access to quality substance use treatment for justice-involved residents struggling with addiction. Congratulations to BARC and best wishes for another successful 50 years!



AROUND THE STATE



COLLIER COURT...A NATIONAL MENTOR COURT!



Collier County Drug Court hosted the Drug Court Team from Guam. As if the trip alone didn't qualify them for MOST committed PSC Team ever, the fact that they landed here the day before Hurricane Idalia surely put them over the top. The Guam picture was taken after a full day of hunkering down during tornado warnings and generally riding out the storm together at the David Lawrence Center, as our courts were all officially closed for the storm. A few weeks later, after shaking off the jet lag, this group would pull an "all-nighter" in order to observe our Staffing and Status Hearings via Zoom, a session that ran from approximately midnight to 7am for them. The next group was the Honolulu Team and they were absolutely wonderful. Their Team consisted not only of Drug Court personnel, but also Mental Health Court, Women's Court and Veterans Treatment Court Team members. These intrepid folks even went over to Miami for dinner one night – and why not?! "Far" is a very relative concept! As always, our Collier Team came away the larger beneficiary of these meetings, as the chance to exchange ideas and solutions went both ways. Hosting these incredibly dedicated professionals was a huge honor for us; and we look forward to the chance to work with other visiting teams during the remainder of our term as a Mentor Court.

Team Guam



Team Hawaii



AROUND THE STATE



20th CIRCUIT HOSTS AN OPIOID & STIMULANTS AWARENESS TRAINING



On September 28th, the 20th Judicial Circuit held an Opioid & Stimulants Awareness training event. Speakers included Yvonne M. Schon, a U.S. DEA Resident Agent In Charge from the Fort Myers Resident Office presenting on their "One Pill Can Kill" campaign. The remainder of the presentation was from Steven Samra, MPA, who has expertise and lived experience in substance use and mental health recovery, harm reduction approaches, promotion of lived experience as critical experiential knowledge, developing and leading peer advisory councils, peer leadership, cultural competence, criminal justice, and effective outreach and engagement for challenging populations. He serves in leadership capacities for multiple recovery, substance use, mental health, peer involvement, and homelessness focused initiatives.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



During the 2023 regular legislative session, Senate Bill 508 passed and was enrolled into law. This bill was proposed by the Steering Committee on Problem Solving Courts (Steering Committee) to conform and enhance statutory provisions related to drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans' courts. The key statutory changes, which took effect on July 1, 2023, include the following:

- Revisions to the annual drug court data reporting requirements to mirror mental health court data reporting requirements
- Revisions to the required minimum length of participation in a pretrial drug court program from one year to a period to be determined by the court based on the clinical needs of the defendant commensurate with the required minimum participation length in pretrial mental health courts
- Restoration of the pre-2019 pretrial drug court eligibility criteria to allow defendants who have been charged with specified crimes in the past to participate (defendants whose current charges include one of the specified crimes would continue to be disqualified from participating)
- Removal of the authority of the court or a state attorney to deny a defendant's participation in a pretrial drug court program because the defendant rejected a previous admission offer
- Expanded eligibility criteria for pretrial mental health courts by allowing defendants convicted of a felony to participate
- Expanded eligibility criteria for misdemeanor pre-trial drug court programs by allowing defendants charged with any misdemeanor (rather than specified misdemeanors) to participate.

The Steering Committee also recommended creation of a public records exemption for mental health court and veterans' court participant information, like the existing public records exemption for drug court participant information pursuant to section 397.334(10), Florida Statutes. This recommendation did not pass during the 2023 regular legislative session and will be pursued by the Steering Committee in 2024.

brown bag "bites"

AT OUR **SEPTEMBER 27, 2023** "BROWN BAG" LUNCH, WE MET AND WELCOMED JUDGE SEGAL FROM THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WHO BEGAN PRESIDING OVER DRUG COURT IN AUGUST. THEIR DRUG COURT STATUS HEARINGS ARE EVERY OTHER FRIDAY AND THEY HAVE 19 PARTICIPANTS. THE GROUP DISCUSSED THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE DRUG COURT STATUTES AND HOW THE CHANGES HAVE IMPACTED THEIR RESPECTIVE DRUG COURTS. JUDGE MAY SHARED WITH US THE HISTORY OF THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES OVER THE YEARS AND HOW SHE AND OTHER DRUG COURT PIONEERS LIKE JUDGE FOGAN AND JUDGE BEACH LOBBIED IN TALLAHASSEE TO EXPAND THE REACH AND IMPACT OF FLORIDA DRUG COURTS. WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING TO THE LEGISLATURE THAT THEY INCREASE THE 60 POINT LIMIT FOR POST-ADJUDICATORY PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY. WE ALSO DISCUSSED WHETHER DRUG COURTS SHOULD ALLOW PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE VIOLENT CHARGES OR WHO ARE CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING.

AT OUR "BROWN BAG" LUNCH ON **OCTOBER 25TH**, OUR FEATURED SPEAKER WAS SEAN SHEA FROM RECONNECT, AN ONLINE PLATFORM FOR PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS. HE AND PETER ANDREWS DID A PRESENTATION FOR THE FADCP EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE BOARD WAS SO IMPRESSED THAT BOARD MEMBERS SUGGESTED WE INVITE MR. SHEA TO SPEAK TO ALL OF US AT A "BROWN BAG" LUNCH! RECONNECT HAS BEEN WORKING WITH TREATMENT COURTS FOR 15 YEARS, IS BEING USED CURRENTLY IN OVER 40 STATES AND BY MORE THAN 300 PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE, INCLUDING MIAMI- DADE AND TAMPA. THIS PROGRAM COULD HELP WITH MANY OF THE DRUG COURT TEAM TASKS: RANDOM TEST NOTIFICATIONS, INDIVIDUAL MESSAGING, BULK MESSAGING, SETTING GOALS AND INCENTIVIZATION ARE JUST SOME OF THE TASKS THIS PROGRAM DOES

DON'T MISS THE NEXT "BROWN BAG" LUNCH ON **JANUARY 24TH, 2024. I HOPE YOU WILL ATTEND AND ENCOURAGE THE REST OF YOUR TEAM TO ATTEND AS WELL!**



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

RESOURCES



**FOR TEAM TRAINING,
CONTACT **JENN LUTHER:**
JLUTHER@CORESERVICES.US**

**INTERESTED IN THE
STATEWIDE JUVENILE DRUG
COURT NETWORK??**

**EMAIL:
BRICHARDSON1@PBCGOV.ORG**



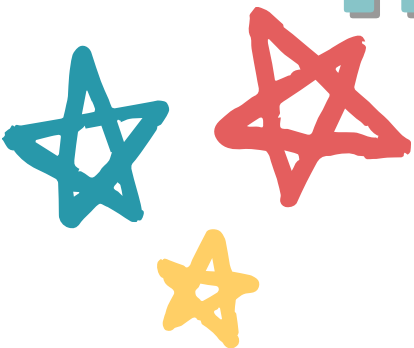
CHECK THESE OUT:

**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



HAPPENINGS and EVENTS



Mark
YOUR
Calendar

- **1/24: BROWN BAG LUNCH**

Email your lists & on January 24th, we will discuss how FADCP and Santa (OSCA) can help them come true!



jsinger@17th.flcourts.org

**My Drug Court
Wishlist**

- More participants
- Bus passes!!!
- Add a police officer to the team
- Better communication among team
- More frequent drug testing
- No wait time for residential treatment
- More incentives to offer participants
- Certification!
- a state-wide in person conference

FADCP wishes you a happy
& healthy holiday season.....



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.



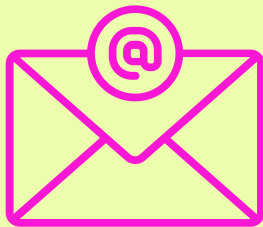
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING FADCP,
CONTACT: CRYSTAL WATKINS
CWATKINS@CIRCUIT5.ORG

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.*