



JUSTICE PROGRAMS OFFICE

SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC AFFAIRS

October 2017



JPO Awarded Two U.S. Department of Justice Grants

The Justice Programs Office (JPO) is delighted to share that both our [National Drug Court Resource, Policy and Evidence-Based Practice Center](#) (NDCRC) and our [Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Initiative](#) (JDTC TTA) have been awarded grants from the U.S. Department of Justice to expand our services to the drug court field.

NDCRC Awarded \$630,000 from Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs

With this new funding, we will develop and distribute culturally-appropriate resources representative of a wide-range of communities, including rural and urban drug courts and veterans treatment courts, and will develop a new array of resources focused on the national increase in opioid use and how drug courts can help address this issue.

“The Justice Programs Office is delighted to continue and expand upon the National Drug Court Resource Center thanks to this funding,” said Kim Ball, Director, Justice Programs Office. “JPO launched a number of new and successful projects this year, and I’m excited that this funding will enable us to create and release additional episodes of our podcast series, ‘On the Docket with the National Drug Court Resource Center,’ which provides treatment courts with another avenue for receiving information relevant to their work.”

NDCRC maintains extensive policy and evidence-based drug court resources, offers intensive site-based technical assistance and training support resources to approximately

230 [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) grantees, and collaborates with other providers in the field to complement their efforts and avoid gaps and redundancies in services.

“As a Statewide Coordinator, I am always looking for the latest resources that I can send to treatment court professionals in South Dakota. In addition to providing a one-stop shop for this information, JPO has created great original content this year that has helped my practitioners implement policies that improve outcomes for our participants. I can’t wait to see what they will be able to achieve with another year of funding,” said Noreen Plumage, State Drug and DUI Court Liaison and Statewide Drug Court Coordinator

Visit [the NDCRC website](#) to learn more.

JDTC TTA Awarded \$2 Million from Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs

Using this funding, the JDTC TTA, which is run by JPO in partnership with the [National Association of Drug Court Professionals](#) (NADCP), will expand and extend its training of and technical assistance for juvenile drug treatment courts working to implement the [Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines](#), as well as expand its scope to provide practitioners, families, and schools with critical, timely, and new trainings and resources to combat racial and ethnic disparities and the increase in opioid use among youth in their communities.

“With the release of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s *Guidelines* less than a year ago, the juvenile drug treatment court field is in a really exciting time of transition,” said Kim Ball, director of the Justice Programs Office. “Receiving this supplemental funding allows JPO to continue to guide the field in this new direction and help juvenile drug treatment courts build themselves into stronger, more effective programs that can provide needed support and resources for youth and their families.”

Juvenile drug treatment courts will receive access to local, regional, and online training and technical assistance on topics such as the roles and responsibilities of treatment team members, adolescent brain development, engaging families, addressing racial and ethnic disparities, gender- and culturally-responsive treatment, and opiate use disorder in juveniles and their families.

“Working with the Justice Programs Office to help Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts align their practices with OJJDP’s *Guidelines* has been most rewarding. NADCP is pleased to expand and extend its work with JPO to improve the lives of youth with substance use disorders and their families,” said Terrence Walton, chief operating officer of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

As part of this new funding, JDTC TTA will work with [Reclaiming Futures](#) and the [Burns Institute](#) to develop and deliver specialized and comprehensive training and technical assistance programming designed to assist juvenile drug treatment courts in their efforts

to reduce racial and ethnic disparities along a set of key behavioral health decision points and in alignment with the goals of the *Guidelines*.

“Implementing OJJDP’s *Guidelines* offer a great opportunity to address racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, and our team at Reclaiming Futures is excited to collaborate with JPO to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth of color,” stated Evan Elkin, the executive director of Reclaiming Futures.

Visit [the JDTC TTA website](#) to learn more.

Call for Papers on Veterans Treatment Courts

Drug Court Review, the premiere publication on problem-solving courts, invites submissions for a special issue on veterans treatment courts. Submissions should be original papers on topics of interest to researchers, practitioners, and/or policymakers such as:

- Addressing trauma
- Family involvement
- Implementation (including key components)
- Innovative practices
- Law and policy evaluation
- Mentoring
- Multi-site research
- Outcomes (mental and behavioral health, social, legal)

Commentaries (works without any theoretical, legal, policy, or statistical analysis) will not be accepted.

Interested authors should submit detailed outlines by **October 18, 2017** to the Editorial Team for review. Submissions should be attached as Word documents and emailed to ndcrc@american.edu with “Drug Court Review Submission” in the subject line.

For more information, visit the [NDCRC website](#).

Right to Counsel National Campaign Featured at American Judges Association Conference

On September 13, JPO’s Senior Policy Counsel Zoë Root moderated the [Right to Counsel National Campaign’s](#) plenary session, “Judges as Champions of the Constitutional Right to Counsel,” at the [57th Annual American Judges Association Conference](#) in Cleveland, Ohio featuring Judge Brian MacKenzie (ret.) of Michigan, Judge Betty Thomas Moore of Tennessee, and Judge Gayle Williams-Byers of Ohio.

Following an overview of the R2C Campaign and “[Americans’ Views on Public Defenders and The Right to Counsel](#),” each of the judges discussed their own process of becoming a champion of the right to counsel. The panel was attended by about 150 judges, many of whom participated in a lively discussion of the barriers they have encountered in ensuring the Sixth Amendment right to effective counsel.

For more information about the Right to Counsel National Campaign, [visit the R2C website](#).

Catching Up with JDTC TTA

It’s been a busy few weeks for the [Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts \(JDTC\) Training and Technical Assistance Initiative \(TTA\)](#) team! In late August, Project Director Zoë Root joined a strategic planning workshop led by our partners at [Reclaiming Futures](#) for the 29th Judicial District Court’s Saint Charles Parish Youth Development Project in Louisiana. The three-day event was well attended by community members, law enforcement, justice system stakeholders, school system leadership, and treatment providers. Zoë found the resulting strategic plan to be comprehensive and in perfect alignment with the principals underlying the JDTC [Guidelines](#).

In September, Zoë teamed up with Anne Caron at [NADCP](#) to present at a statewide training for JDTC teams put on by the Colorado Administrative Office of the Courts, in collaboration with NCJFCJ. During these sessions, Zoë discussed the technical assistance services and resources available through the Initiative and led the teams in a well-received mini-strategic planning exercise focused on the *Guidelines*.

Later in September Kierra Zoellick, Program Associate, co-led another presentation on the *Guidelines* at the Annual Oklahoma State Specialty Court Conference.

Be sure to catch Anna Koozmin when she presents at the [Ohio Annual Specialized Dockets Conference](#) on **October 23** and Zoë when she presents at the [Washington State Juvenile Drug Court Conference](#) on **October 26**.

On the Docket with the National Drug Court Resource Center

Have you been keeping with up our new podcast series, [On the Docket with the National Drug Court Resource Center](#)? The series explores problem-solving courts that address substance use, mental health, and co-occurring disorders within the criminal justice system. These voluntary programs serve as a form of deferred adjudication that focuses on rehabilitation and treatment, rather than incarceration.

Our first episode featured an interview with Evan Elkin, the executive director of Reclaiming Futures, and explored the basics of and research behind family

treatment courts.

In last month's episode, we spoke with Jill Murphy, the program supervisor of the King County Family Treatment Court about how family treatment courts function, innovative strategies for working with participants of family treatment courts, and how to keep a family-centered approach with involvement from large systems.

You can download and listen to both episodes in [Apple's iTunes Podcast](#) app.

The Justice Programs Office (JPO), under the School of Public Affairs at American University, is pleased to present its monthly newsletter. Our current initiatives include the National Drug Court Resource, Policy, and Evidence-Based Practice Center, the Right to Counsel (R2C) National Campaign, the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Initiative, and Training and Technical Assistance for State Administering Agencies. Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues and partners in the field. If you have been forwarded this email but would like to receive it directly, email justice@american.edu.

Visit our website