



Office of Problem-Solving Courts

Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium

October 24, 2017

Judiciary College and Education and Conference Center (JCECC)
2011-D Commerce Park Drive
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Course Descriptions

Morning Sessions

Bringing Problem-Solving Courts to Scale (1.5 hours)

Aaron Arnold, Director, Treatment Court Programs and Tribal Justice Exchange, Center for Court Innovation

The problem-solving court movement began almost 30 years ago with a few experimental projects led by innovative criminal justice leaders. Today, there are more than 3,000 problem-solving courts nationwide, and these courts have become an integral feature of the justice system landscape in many areas. Spurring the expansion of these courts is an ever-growing body of research establishing their effectiveness, as well as the experience of justice system practitioners who recognize the limitations of a business-as-usual approach. Despite this success, however, there are many challenges associated with bringing problem-solving courts to scale, including resources, training, fidelity to best practices, and program evaluation and accountability. This session will discuss a number of specific strategies for expanding problem-solving courts throughout the state court system and for incorporating problem-solving justice principles into regular courts.

Illegal Street Drugs (1.5 Hours)

Lt. Prendi Garcia, Maryland State Police

This course is designed to enhance the ability and skills of all attendees to identify, detect, apprehend and successfully articulate the drug trafficker, distributor and the drug impaired person within your problem-solving court. Attendees will be able to understand the effects of newer, and more dangerous illegal street drugs, and how to identify these drugs by sight, and with clarification of what can be done to combat these trends.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions I and II

Veterans Suicide Risk throughout the Lifespan (1.5 hours)

Nikole Jones, LCSW-C, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, VA Maryland Health Care System

At the conclusion of this presentation, you will have increased awareness of the prevalence of suicide and suicidal behavior in the veteran population and the suicide prevention initiatives at the VA including:

- Identify Risk Factors and Warning Signs of Suicide
- Identify Risks of Suicide Specific to Veterans
- Understand the prevalence and scope of suicide among the veteran population
- Identify crisis intervention resources in the VA and the community for suicidal veterans
- Identify Stigma associated with Suicide and how it negatively impacts prevention

Community Outreach Programs Panel (1.5 hours)

Farming 4 Hunger: Bernie Fowler, Program Director

Run For Recovery 5k: Korey Shorb, Director Up and Out Foundation

H.O.P.E Wellness & Recovery: Thomas Hicks, Director

This panel will showcase three of Maryland's community-based programs that are committed to educating and providing resources for those impacted by substance use, mental health disorders, and trauma. The panelist will discuss the importance of participating in community-based programs while on the road to recovery.

Addressing the Impact of Problem Gambling in the Legal System: From Awareness to Intervention (1.5 hours)

Lori Rugle, Ph.D., ICGC-II Program Director, Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling

This training will discuss the lack of awareness of problem gambling in the criminal justice system, and the treatment modalities for problem gamblers in the criminal justice system. Further discussion will include negative consequences of these behaviors, familial and social implications, and motivations for change.

Understanding Psychiatric Disorders (1.5 hours)

Denise Beagley, M.Sc. Manager, Clinical Initiatives & Training, Arizona State University

This course will allow participants to get a basic understanding of the most common disorders that court, public safety, and other related personnel are likely to encounter, as well as the common work situations in which they will encounter individuals struggling with their illnesses. Participants will learn practical and immediately implementable techniques, such as motivational interviewing and verbal de-escalation, to help manage and defuse potentially dangerous situations.

Child Abuse and Human Trafficking: What You Should Know as a Criminal Justice Professional (1.5 hours)

Lieutenant Prendi Garcia, Maryland State Police

The US Department of Justice estimates that approximately 100,000 US children are at risk for entry into domestic minor sex trafficking every year. In 2014, the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force Victim Services Sub-Committee served 124 child victims of sex trafficking in Maryland. Many of the children are recruited for trafficking while attending school and remain in school while they are being exploited. Educators are uniquely positioned to identify and report suspected trafficking among their student population, due to their daily interaction with many high-risk populations. This course will discuss methods of prevention, as well as identification of youth possibly being exploited.

Trauma Informed Care 101 (1.5 hours)

Denise Beagley, M.Sc. Manager, Clinical Initiatives & Training, Arizona State University

Trauma Informed Care 101 will teach attendees methods to have a trauma-informed approach towards participants, which will ultimately reflect a strict adherence to a set of six key principles rather than a prescribed set of practices or procedures. Participants will be taught on how to implement the following key principles to trauma survivors within their problem-solving courts:

- Safety
- Trustworthiness and Transparency
- Peer support
- Collaboration and mutuality
- Empowerment, voice, and choice
- Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues

“Giving African-Americans a Voice in Drug Court”: Using Qualitative Research to Eliminate Racial Disparities in Graduation Rates (1.5 hours)

John R. Gallagher, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Licensed Social Worker (LSW), Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor (LCAC) Indiana University School of Social Work, South Bend Campus

Dr. Gallagher will discuss the current drug court literature which suggests that drug courts are efficient and effective at reducing criminal recidivism; however, some drug courts do not appear to be equally as effective for historically disadvantaged groups. Specifically, in some drug courts, evidence has suggested that African American participants are less likely to graduate than their white counterparts. This presentation highlights findings from programs evaluations that are cited throughout the NADCP Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards Volumes I and II. Qualitative research methods were used in Southern and Midwestern drug courts to explore the factors that may contribute to racial disparities in graduation rates.