

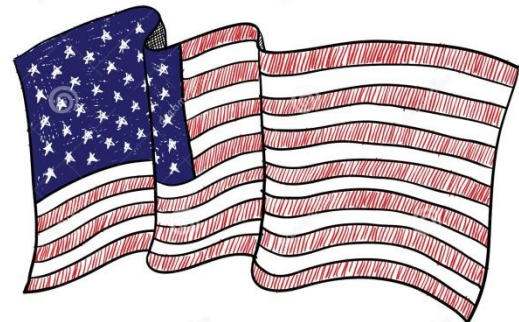
The TASC Connection



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TASC 2019 Conference – *Flag Competition*



Start getting creative for the flag competition at this year's conference!! We recently received a submission from a DA's Office supporting Specialty Court Programs! Have your court participants help and get creative with a competition and prize for the Winner!

Flag Specifications:

3 Ft. x 5 Ft.

Cloth like material

Single sided or double sided with same image on both sides

Special Requirements: Along with the flag, please submit a brief description of the meaning behind the flag; make sure to elaborate on the symbolism if applicable.

- ❖ What you place on the flag or how you place it is up to you, however, keep it professional. Be creative and have

fun!

- ❖ Please keep into consideration that the flag will be displayed at the Texas Association of Specialty Court Conference held in Galveston, Texas – April 10th-12th, 2019.
- ❖ Submit your entry at the registration table before the conference starts

Prizes!

- 1st – designated team member receives travel, hotel and registration for the 2020 conference
- 2nd – designated team member receives hotel and registration for the 2020 conference
- 3rd – designated team member receives free registration to the 2020 conference



HEROES, Houston Emergency Opioid Engagement System

Dr. James Langabeer from UT Health created the HEROES program in Houston that connects recovery coaches to suspected overdoses that check into the emergency room. "What I saw was there's a huge opportunity where people are coming into the emergency departments across the city and often for overdoses and we didn't know what to do with them," Langabeer said. The problem with going to the hospital is that after they're discharged, they're sent right back to the environment where they overdosed in the first place. "They often get discharged after a couple of hours of observation they're back on the street and we see them again the next day," Langabeer said. However, with HEROES, Langabeer said patients are immediately given medication to aid with withdrawal symptoms and given behavioral counseling. "All you have to have is willingness," he said. Only a few cities across the country are able to offer services like this with funding from grants.

List of Updated Active Specialty Courts

The 'List of active Specialty Courts in Texas' has been updated on the Governor's website: https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/specialty_courts. We encourage you to review your court's record for accuracy.

If your court needs to make any changes to your court's details, point of contact, presiding judge, contact information, or operational status please email your request to us at: specialtycourts@gov.texas.gov.

If you are aware of any operating specialty court programs that are not included on this list, please let us know and we will work to get them registered and in compliance.

Mission:

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) builds and strengthens Texas specialty courts through collaboration, advocacy and education.

NADCP Updated Best Practice Standards

NADCP's Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards translate decades of research into clear, practical standards for drug courts to meet. These practices inform our training and technical assistance efforts and have served as a beacon to guide new and long-established programs alike in fidelity to the drug court model.

revisions in both volumes of the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards. These updates demonstrate the importance of NADCP and the professionals we represent using up-to-date diagnostic language and appropriate recovery terminology. To see the full list use the link below.

<https://www.nadcp.org/standards/>

NADCP has made minor

We Want to Hear from YOU!

We want to hear about what is going on in your county and courts, so send us your news! Do you have anyone you would like to recognize or is your court or program celebrating an anniversary? Or if you would like to write an article related to the field and work we do, we would

love to include it in our next newsletter. Please email submissions to Kimberly Duran at Kimberly.Duran@dallascounty.org



Special Recognition

Congratulations to **McLennan County DWI/Drug Court** for being recognized as the Outstanding DWI Court Team of the Year by Texas Center for the Judiciary at the 2019 Texas Center for the Judiciary's DWI Court Team Advanced Training!



Congratulations to **Craig Fritz of the Brazoria County DWI Court-PACE (Positive Attitudes Change Everything)** on receiving the 2019 Spotlight on Success Award for an individual team member at the 2019 Texas Center for the Judiciary's DWI Court Team Advanced Training!



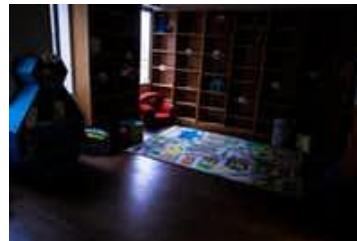
Cookie Monster Goes to Court

The Dallas County public defender's office recently transformed a prim law library overlooking the downtown skyline into a fuzzy, rainbow-tinted space inspired by Sesame Street, where lawyers can meet with clients whose kids tag along to court. The office is one of 10 courthouse locations across the country partnering with criminal

justice advocates and the Sesame Workshop nonprofit to make courts more welcoming for struggling families.

Thank you to our partner Sesame Street in Communities for making these safe spaces for children possible, and for giving their parents hope and help as they pursue recovery. We encourage every courthouse to do

this!



Visit a Mentor Court

Applications are still being accepted to visit one of nine NDCI mentor adult drug courts. NDCI's mentor courts serve as model programs for individuals and court teams interested in starting an adult drug court or for established courts interested in learning innovative practices. The mentor court program is made possible through collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice.

All site visits are FREE for up to three individuals!

To apply, visit the NDCI website <https://www.ndci.org/resource/training/visit-a-mentor-court/>. If approved, NDCI will travel up to three individuals to one of their mentor courts for an unparalleled, firsthand learning experience. Space is limited, so apply soon!

Texas Association of Specialty Courts
 Attention: Amber Gregory
 George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center
 Sam Houston State University
 Huntsville, Texas 77341-

Email: agregory@shsu.edu
 Phone: (936)294-3916



We're on the Web!
<http://www.tasctx.org>
Check us out on Facebook!

Treatment Court Success Stories

Judge B. Michael Chitty with Christopher Lewis from Travis County's 422nd Drug and Mental Health Court. Mr. Lewis was a 40+ year drug offender that has been clean and sober for over 2 ½ years now. He is employed full time now and has recently married.



Judge B. Michael Chitty with Jody Cook. Mr. Cook had a 20 year addiction to methamphetamines and now because of his participation with the 422nd Drug and Mental Health court he has received treatment, counseling, and medication is 2 years sober.



Sober-Bowl "Super-Bowl"

The 406th District Court Adult Drug Court Program judges and staff from Laredo, Webb County, Texas were proactive in their commitment towards ensuring the sobriety of drug court participants during Super-Bowl Sunday by hosting an inaugural 'Sober-Bowl' event at the local bowling alley. The idea was to show the participants that they could enjoy an event such as the Super-Bowl without resorting to using alcohol or drugs.

The participants were treated to pizza, wings, popcorn and soft drinks while they enjoyed 4 hours of 'free' bowling. The participants were joined by the staff and judges as they competed for prizes for the highest score(s) (male/female bowler) and for the most creative 'Sober-Bowl' logo.

Aside from demonstrating to the participants that 'fun' and 'games' can take place without introducing alcohol or drugs, the drug court staff ensured that the participants were not watching the popular Super-Bowl event in an environment (even at their own home or with family) where they may have been subjected to relapse triggers. It was humbling to learn that some of these individuals had never before been to a bowling alley and had never been exposed to an alcohol free celebration.

"The others who didn't make it here today missed out on an awesome time," said one of the participants. Another participant expressed how this was her first time inside this facility and first time at a bowling alley, "this is a really fun place and I'm very glad that I was invited and that I finally got to experience what bowling was all about." "I appreciate the attention that you all gave us today" yet another participant was quoted as saying to the judge.

"The event was a great success and it is our hope to sponsor a second annual 'Sober-Bowl' in 2020 and perhaps other programs may want to host their own 'Sober-Bowl' event next year," Judge Oscar Jesus Hale, Jr.

