

The TASC Connection



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TASC 2020 Conference – Updates & Deadlines

Deadline to submit a proposal for conference session or workshop is November 1st.

Conference registration opens November 1st.

Get your specialty court teams together to start thinking about your 90-second video representing your specialty court(s) for the conference contest.



Governor Stipends

The Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT), on behalf of all registered specialty courts in Texas, receives grant funding from the Criminal Justice Division (CJD), Office of the Governor, for training stipends for team members to attend the 2020 Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) Conference in Dallas, Texas, April 8-10, 2019.

CMIT is now accepting applications for training stipends to attend the 2020 TASC Conference.

Attached is the link to complete the stipend application and additional information. All applications must be submitted electronically by 5:00 PM on October 18, 2019. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline. Please read all of the questions and additional information carefully while completing the application. A new section detailing the responsibilities of the “point of contact” has been added.

http://www.cmitonline.org/_tasc/stipend/index.html



Cognitive Behavioral Interventions Training Tool

A growing body of research has shown that cognitive-behavioral interventions (CBIs) can significantly reduce recidivism by helping people understand and change the thinking patterns that can lead to criminal behavior.

To expand the use of CBIs for people involved in the criminal justice system, the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute developed the Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions – Core Adult curriculum, with support from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance as part of the National Reentry Resource Center.

CBI-CA is designed to be flexible for use in both institutional and community settings, for different lengths of time, and by different types of staff. The curriculum may be implemented as a standalone program or as a part of a more comprehensive treatment package, and it also includes modifications for participants who have mental illnesses. To ensure fidelity, a four-day facilitator training is required to help staff effectively deliver the curriculum modules.

For additional information, check out the National Reentry Resource Center website.

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

TASC Declaration of Candidacy Open Positions

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts is accepting applications for the Executive Committee and open Board of Director positions for the 2020-2021 TASC Board. Declarations are due by November 1, 2019. Please refer to your email for the applications sent out earlier this month.

Award Submissions

TASC is now accepting applications for the following awards:

Rusty Ladd Scholarship Award

Judge John C. Creuzot Award for Judicial Leadership

Judge Ruben G. Reyes Outstanding Specialty Court Team Award

Mary Covington Outstanding Specialty Court Team Member Award

The Joel Bennett Recovery Award

The applications can be found on the TASC website
<http://www.tasctx.org/conference.html>

DEADLINE: November 1, 2019.



TASC...Get to Know the Board Members

Mary Covington is the Director of Harris County's innovative Responsive Interventions for Change docket. Before taking on this exciting opportunity, she was the Special Programs Manager for the Harris County Success Through Addiction Recovery (STAR) Drug Courts and Veterans' Treatment Court programs. Prior to starting with the drug court in 2003, she worked in both the private and public sectors and was the court coordinator for the 339th District Court for seven years. She was appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2012 to serve on the Governor's Criminal Justice Advisory Council. In 2014 she received the Professionalism and Excellence Award from the Garland R. Walker American Inn of Court. Ms. Covington received the Justice for Vets' 2015 Hank Parowski Award for her work bringing Veterans' Treatment Courts to the state of Texas and in 2016 was named the Addiction Professional of the Year by the Houston Chapter of the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals. The Texas Association of Specialty Courts honored her in 2016 by presenting her with the first Mary Covington Award for Outstanding Specialty Court Team Member. In 2018, the Houston/Harris County Office of Drug Policy awarded her their Recovery Advocate of the Year for her contributions to the recovery community. Ms. Covington is an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow, Criminal Justice Class III. She is a past president and member of the Texas Association of Specialty Courts. She is a member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Houston Harris County Office of Drug Policy, the Coalition for Behavioral Health Services and the Houston Recovery Initiative, serving as co-chair of the Criminal Justice workgroup. Additionally, she serves as a resource member for One Voice Texas and the Network of Behavioral Health Professionals. Ms. Covington holds a B.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. In her spare time, she enjoys hunting and fishing.

*Mary Covington
Director of RIC Docket
Harris County*



FREE Treatment Court Training

Registration is now open for adult drug court, tribal healing to wellness court and veterans treatment court implementation training provided by NADCP's National Drug Court Institute and Justice For Vets. Application Deadline is November 1st.

Implementation training is designed for courts not yet operating, teams that may have had significant staff changes, or teams that have never attended an implementation training before.

Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice, trainings in the Adult Drug Court Planning Initiative, Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Planning Initiative and Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative are FREE to communities that qualify.

Specialty Court Oversight Change

The 86th Legislature passed HB 2955 transferring oversight of Texas Specialty Courts to the Office of Court Administration (OCA) from the governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) effective September 1, 2019. Note, CJD will continue to manage grant funding for specialty courts.

The Research and Court Services Division (RCSD) will have direct responsibility to provide technical assistance to and monitor compliance of specialty courts with programmatic best practices, and coordinate and provide information to CJD. The Statewide Problem-Solving Court Coordinator, Anissa Johnson, and RCSD staff stand ready to assist in whatever way that they can. These duties will include maintenance of the specialty court registry.

If your court or courts registered with CJD there is no need to re-register with OCA. We have your information. However, if any information for your court has changed, i.e., location, judge, team members, court type, etc., please complete a registration form indicating the changes. You can access the form at <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1444752/specialtycourt-registrationform-v4.docx> or visit the OCA Specialty Court link <https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/specialty-courts/>.

If you have questions or want more information, please send an email to SpecialtyCourts@txcourts.gov. Additionally, you may contact Ms. Johnson at Anissa.Johnson@txcourts.gov or RCSD Director Jeffrey Tsunekawa at Jeffrey.Tsunekawa@txcourts.gov for any specific inquiries.

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