

The TASC Connection



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TASC 2020 Conference: *Justice through Collaboration* *Updates & Deadlines*

Mark your calendars for the 2020 conference, April 8-10. The TASC Conference Committee began its planning at the TASC Annual Board Member Retreat in August. Several changes are coming to this year's conference hosted by the *Omni Hotel in Dallas*. Please keep reviewing the monthly newsletter for updates!

Important Dates:

- Proposal Submission
Deadline: November 1st.



- Stipend applications open September 1st October 1st
- Declaration for Candidacy for executive committee positions and other open positions open

Big Texas Rally for Recovery

On September 21, 2019, friends and family will connect in RECOVERY across the great state of Texas at Globe Life Park, home of the Texas Rangers for a day filled with fun, family and friends as they celebrate the 30th Anniversary of National Recovery Month. This year marks

the 9th Anniversary of the Big Texas Rally for Recovery. The Big Texas Rally for Recovery was originally initiated by Texas Recovers, a coalition of 8 Recovery Community Organizations across the state. The Rally was originally held on the steps of the Texas State Capitol in Austin, but has "traveled" over the last few years. The Rally has featured speakers including Greg Williams, Tara Connor, Mackenzie Phillips, William C. Moyers, Brian Cuban, and Danny Trejo.

<https://bigtexasrallyforrecovery.org/>

TASC Board Member Retreat

Your 2020 Executive and Board of Directors met for the annual strategic and legislative agenda retreat at Sam Houston University in Huntsville August 28th through August 30th. The board received updates from David Slayton of the Office of Court Administration and Andrew Freidrichs from the Governor's

Office, Criminal Justice Department. The board was also given updates from Judge Reyes on the Specialty Courts Advisory Council and Judge Specia on the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health. Judge White, Legislative Committee Chair, provided the board with a detailed assessment of the

legislative outcomes and presented proposals for this year's action plan. The retreat ended with the Conference Committee meeting to begin planning for the 2020 TASC conference in Dallas.

Mission:

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

OCA 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). OCA will provide technical assistance to specialty courts, monitor compliance of the specialty courts with programmatic best practices,

and coordinate and provide information to CJD. The transition took effect 9/1/2019. More details to come.

Family Treatment Court Best Practices Released

In collaboration with the Center for Children and Family Futures (CCFF), NADCP announced the publication of the Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards. They represent 30 years of rigorous research and rich practice experience and

are the first standards to follow the groundbreaking Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards. Not only will they serve as an invaluable resource to the nearly 500 family treatment courts across the U.S., the Family Treatment Court Best

Practice Standards will benefit all treatment courts by providing guidance on how to best serve children and families across all types of treatment court programs.

Dallas County CCIF Golf Tournament



Buy raffle tickets, register to play in the tournament, or just make a donation online at

<https://squareup.com/store/ccif>

The Dallas County Community Corrections Improvement Foundation (CCIF) will be hosting The Judge Robert W. Francis 15th Annual Specialty Courts Golf Tournament at The Golf Club of Dallas on Friday, September 27, 2019.

This fundraiser invites all professionals working among and with specialty courts to come together to play golf and raise money to support certified specialty court programs. Local business leaders representing various companies across Dallas County such as restaurants, hotels, retail stores, sports enthusiast, entertainment, law enforcement and law enforcement related vendors have all played major roles each year to make this event possible. This annual event goes far beyond the golf course. It is a wonderful opportunity for local merchants to get involved with their communities by partnering with the Dallas County Community Corrections Improvement Foundation, which provides the necessary resources for supporting Treatment Courts and Programs currently operating in Dallas County.

El Paso County MSRFP Fundraiser

The Mountain Star Rehabilitation Program (MSRFP) was established in 2014 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) for the purpose of providing financial support to programs which further the success of participants in El Paso County's DWI Intervention and Treatment Program. This program has twice been designated as one of four DWI Model Academy Courts nationwide. The first of its kind in the state of Texas, the focus is not only on participants, but extends to include Family Intervention and Treatment and collaboration with agencies from throughout the community that support lifelong recovery.

In celebration of the 15th year of the DWI Treatment Program, the MSRFP will hold a fundraiser banquet on Friday, November 15, 2019 from 6pm to 8pm at the Ysleta School District Atrium, 9600 Sims, El Paso, Texas 79925. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$800 per reserved table of 8. Please reserve your tickets or reserved table by October 1, 2019. Checks payable to the Mountain Star Rehabilitation. Please mail to 6501 Boeing, Ste. J-C & E, El Paso, TX 79925. Questions: 915 232-7474 or 915-352-3489.

Special Recognition

Judge Sakai and the Bexar County Family Drug Court assisted Ms. M with enrolling back into school. She's in the process of re-enrolling at Texas A&M to complete her Bachelor's degree. She has completed parenting classes, engaged in counseling, and continues to attend NA meetings and with her sponsor.

Ms. M has been sober since starting the Bexar County Family Drug Court program in November 2018. As a result of her hard work and continued sobriety, Ms. M has been reunified with her three daughters. Mrs. M is scheduled to graduate from the Bexar County Family Drug Court next month. She currently hopes to complete her degree.



Congratulations to El Paso County DWI Treatment Court for celebrating 15 years this year! Check out an article written by Judge Anchondo, "Need for Speed", on our website!

http://www.tasctx.org/_documents/need_to_speed_2019.pdf

Veteran Mentor Online Training

NADCP's *Justice for Vets* has released their online professional development training for veteran mentors. Through their partnership with PsychArmor, they have developed two short modules to provide training on the critical fundamentals necessary to incorporate mentoring into a veterans treatment court program. They cover the core components of effective mentoring and are intended for veteran mentors, mentor coordinators and veterans treatment court staff of any experience level. To register, <https://justiceforvets.org/mentorcorps/resources/>



CMIT Mental Health Conference

The Correctional Management Institute of Texas will host their 6th Annual Mental Health Conference in Galveston at the San Luis Resort and Spa Conference Center on October 21-24. Registration deadline is October 7th. Check out their website for additional information!

<http://www.cmitonline.org/cal/?mode=view&item=1031>

TASC...Get to Know the Board Members



*Honorable
Judge Ernie Glenn
Bexar County*

Having grown up in the Williams Lumber Company sawmill community on the banks of the San Jacinto River where Hwy 59 crosses over it about 40 miles north of downtown Houston, I never would have considered that life would direct me to oversee a felony drug and mental health treatment program consisting of a caseload averaging 250 or so participants. However, I did figure out pretty early on that I didn't want to work stacking lumber in a sawmill all my life and decided I wanted to be an attorney and, hopefully, a judge someday. So, after high school, I went off to the University of Houston for my undergraduate and law degrees, met my future wife, Graciela Aguilar, in the process (just celebrated 41 years of marriage on 8/19!), passed the bar, and moved to my wife's hometown of San Antonio, Texas, to begin my first legal job as Assistant Bexar County Criminal District Attorney.

My first assignment as ADA was to misdemeanor case intake and as the lone attorney assigned to handle mental health and drug addiction commitments to the San Antonio State Hospital. So my indoctrination into what would become my future passion, began at then and there at the age of 25. After 5 years of prosecuting criminal cases and dealing with an unending number of drug and DWI cases, I went into private practice for the next 22 years and began representing those that I formerly prosecuted.

This was an eye opening experience into the real life of drug addiction and drug dealing to the point that I sought out treatment options for clients and began discussing finding a different way to handle those suffering from addiction and mental illness. A few of our judges were starting to learn about drug courts toward the end of the 1990s and I was able to become part of the discussion. Bexar County finally was able to get a small misdemeanor program started around 2001, but I was able to get more heavily involved in 2003 when 175th District Judge Mary Roman asked me to be part of the formation of a Felony Drug Court. I volunteered my time to get the program started and then to keep it growing and successful. In 2007, Judge Roman, Judge Herr and Judge Harle spearheaded a move to create a Felony Drug Court Magistrate position to run the court full time and asked me to take the position once it was created and approved by Commissioners Court. I have run the court ever since October, 2007.

I started with a coordinator working for me, along with four probation officers, and a case load of up to 90 individuals. We were able to obtain grants over the next couple of years to start a co-occurring mental health/substance use disorder docket, add three case managers to the staff, and then a Felony DWI docket with another case manager, then a re-entry docket with another case manager. All of this eventually added up to five case managers, a court manager, and an assistant court manager/data tracker working with our four probation officers to handle the 250 or so case load. About 50% of that case load is assigned to the co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder docket. The original drug court docket is now our smallest.



**Texas Association of
Specialty Courts**

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.tasctx.org>

**Check us out on
Facebook!**

Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

On January 11, 2018, the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals held a historic joint hearing to gather input on the need for and the priorities of a statewide judicial commission on mental health. State and tribal judges, law enforcement, veterans, juvenile services experts, psychologists, psychiatrists and persons with lived experience with these systems, provided valuable insight at the hearing and voiced unqualified support for the creation of a statewide judicial commission. The Judicial Commission on Mental Health ("the Commission") was created by a joint order of the two Courts on February 13, 2018, to develop and implement, and coordinate policy initiatives designed to improve courts' interaction with – and the administration for – children, adults and families with mental health needs. On April 11, 2018, the two Courts issued the Order Appointing Judicial Commission on Mental Health. The first meeting was held on May 15, 2018, in Austin, Texas. The mission of the Commission is to engage and empower court systems through collaboration, education and leadership, thereby improving the lives of individuals with mental health needs and person with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). (According to the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health Website at www.texasjcmh.gov)

Currently there are 36 Commissioners from across the state of Texas actively participating in the Commission. Our very own TASC Board member Judge Ernie Glenn, Drug Court Magistrate in Bexar County, is one of those fortunate few chosen to serve. Recently the Commission discussed specialty courts for those afflicted with mental health needs. At their last meeting in August Judge Glenn mentioned the Specialty Court Resource Center as an avenue to help the Commission in this endeavor.

At the TASC Board retreat, JCMH Jurist in Residence, Judge John Specia, Jr, participated and agreed to serve as the liaison between the Commission and TASC. Needless to say TASC was thrilled with this prospect and hope to have more of a TASC presence at future meetings of the Commission. TASC also heard from Judge Brent Carr, another JCMH Commissioner, who serves as the presiding Judge of the Tarrant County Mental Health Specialty Court and has served since 2003. Judge Carr is also willing to help TASC become an active participant in the Commission.

There are also over 70 Collaborative Council Members to the Commission. Lesli R. Fitzpatrick, your TASC Region #1 Director, serves as a JCMH Collaborative Council Member for Williamson County. She also serves on the Curriculum Committee for the upcoming 2nd Annual Mental Health Summit November 18th and 19th in San Marcos, Texas. This event is by invitation only and the space is limited. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Kristi Taylor, Executive Director of JCMH at JCMH@txcourts.gov

For the existing mental health specialty courts, this Commission may also be an additional financial resource for your programs. There are grant monies available through the Commission's website.