

The TASC Connection



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NADCP 2019 Conference – Proposal Deadline

Proposal Deadline is fast approaching, Aug. 30th, 2019. NADCP is seeking proposals for sessions/workshops that present best practices in service delivery, collaboration and justice programming that enhance outcomes for participants in treatment courts, including adult, juvenile, family and reentry drug treatment courts; DWI courts; tribal healing to wellness courts; and veterans treatment courts. NADCP strongly encourages proposals for sessions that present research findings, feature data analysis and highlight evidence-based practices. They are especially interested in justice reform research-based programming; the unique



needs of justice-involved veterans; law enforcement personnel; pretrial services; equity and inclusion; family-centered practices; long-term recovery; community supervision; and jail-based treatment.

For our law enforcement track, we are seeking proposals for sessions that specifically address the following topics:

- The crucial role of law enforcement in treatment

- courts
- Community collaborations
- Policing and criminal justice reform
- Crisis intervention strategies to address mental health and trauma
- Organizational and personal self-care and wellness



Texas Corrections Association Special Populations Conference

The 2019 Texas Corrections Association Special Populations Conference, formerly known as the Mid-Winter Conference, which will be November 13-15, 2019, in Round Rock, Texas, is coming up! The Conference Committee is hard at work preparing an agenda that will appeal to professionals across the corrections spectrum. They will offer a variety of concurrent sessions that allow individuals to choose topics specifically relevant to their respective field and/or topics that are applicable to everyone. For more information check out their website below!

<http://txcorrections.org/conf.html>

Special Recognition

South Dallas Drug Court

Ms. Brandon has completed the Drug court program May 29, 2019 and now works full time at as a secretary for a local tax attorney. Ms. Brandon had two big accomplishments to celebrate in the month of May. She completed her Associates of Applied Science in Paralegal studies at El Centro College on May 16, 2019 and will be looking for jobs that relate to her field. She has been working towards obtaining a valid license while she was in the program. Ms. Brandon was happy to announce that her diligence has paid off. In July 2019, after working with the drug court staff over the course of a year, she now holds a valid Texas Driver License.



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

El Paso DWI Program

El Paso Intervention and Treatment Court (DWI) program will be celebrating their 15th year on November 15, 2019. More information to come!!



Send Us Your News!!

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

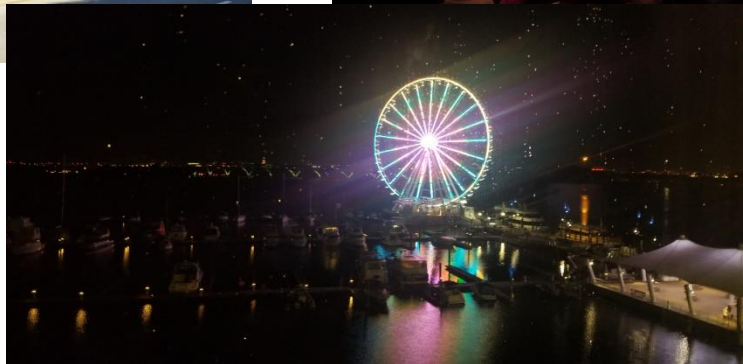
submissions to Kimberly Duran at Kimberly.Duran@dallascounty.org



NADCP Conference 2019



Several of TASC board members attended this year's NADCP conference in Maryland including Judge Chitty, Julie Turnbull, Amber Gregory, Jose Montoya, and Lori Compton.



Racial and Ethnic Disparity Program Assessment Tool

The National Drug Court Resource Center (NDCRC) and the Justice Programs Office (JPO) team in the School of Public Affairs at American University launched a Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Program Assessment Tool to help treatment court professionals identify and examine areas where racial and ethnic disparities may exist in their court programs.

Although research has shown that treatment courts are an effective solution to helping justice-involved individuals, there is a trend that shows disparities may exist in who has access to the programs, completion rates, and recidivism outcomes.

Check out the National Drug Court Resource Center at www.ndcrc.org to download the tool kit, as well as many other resources!

TASC...Get to Know the Board Members



Erin Morgan has been working in the probation field since 1998, after graduating from Southwest Texas State University in 1997... and yes, it is STILL SWT to her. She began working specifically with treatment courts in 2011, when she took a position as the probation officer in the Travis County DWI Court with Judge Elisabeth Earle. She quickly learned that working with justice involved addicts and alcoholics was her true passion. As a SAMHSA grantee, she attended her first NADCP conference in Nashville in 2012. The passion and knowledge gained from that conference was immeasurable, and attending both State and National Conferences has continued to inspire her advocacy of these vital criminal justice programs. In 2015, at the urging of her Director at the time, Charles Robinson, Erin applied for a position on the TASC Board of Directors and was elected as the Director At Large. Since that time, she has served on your Board as the DWI Court Director and is beginning her third term as Secretary. Additionally, she has played a significant role in conference planning in the past three years. She is grateful for the opportunity to meet and work with so many wildly intelligent and passionate professionals, who go above and beyond in their ardent support of treatment courts statewide. She believes that focusing on legislative changes to ensure sustainability of these programs is paramount, and was thrilled that it was the driving force of the TASC Board leading up to and through the recent legislative session. In her current position as a Senior Probation Officer at Travis County Community Justice Services – Adult Probation, she aims to promote awareness of specialty courts and continue to educate and support such programs in Travis County and statewide.



Team Building Appreciation from Travis County

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) held its annual training conference in Galveston this year. I had an opportunity to attend the conference, and I wanted to write a small piece to reflect the awesome work of TASC. The mission of the TASC is to build and strengthen Texas specialty courts through collaboration, advocacy and education, and they lived up to this by way of selecting the presenters and addressing issues pertinent to their mission.

I attended a couple of sessions by Vanessa Price from the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) which is a division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP).

One of the sessions talked about Team Building and how critical the team is to the specialty court outcomes. The session highlighted the role of each team member, and she also talked about the importance of training each member to equip them with the skills to have a positive impact on the clients. The information was extremely insightful and it sparked us to request their onsite 'On Demand' training session.

Ms. Price readily accepted our request and the training came to fruition within a matter of weeks. Ms. Price arrived with a "game plan" all staked out. She quickly realized the Court Team had other pressing agenda items and she molded the training around our needs. Her adaptability to alter the structure of the training at a moment's notice was impressive. Our team was able to gain knowledge of each person's role on the team, as well as setting a foundation regarding the guiding principles pertaining to re-assessments, becoming inclusive with potential offenses for program eligibility as well as administering sanctions with immediacy, swiftness and with certainty.

Upon completion of the 'On Demand' training, our Advisory Committee held a meeting within 30-days and began the discussion process as to our next steps. I am grateful for the work of Ms. Price and TASC.

If there are any Specialty Courts that are in need of their assistance; we recommend contacting NDCI. Our court continues to make great strides to adhere to the best practice standards set forth by NADCP for the betterment of clients we serve.

Rudy Perez
Sharon Caldwell
Travis County



Texas Association of Specialty Courts
Attention: Amber Gregory
George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296

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



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

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