

The TASC Connection



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TASC 2022 Conference – Corpus Christi

April 11 – 13, 2022

Please check the TASC website for the most up-to-date information.

<http://www.tasctx.org/conference.html>

Important Dates:

Stipend Applications: Due October 15, 2021

Award Forms: Due November 5, 2021

Applications for Open Board Position: Due November 15, 2021

Room Block Opens: Due December 1, 2021

Stipend Award Announcements: Due December 15, 2021

Regular Registration Opens: Due January 3, 2022

Stipend Registration Deadline: Due February 1, 2022

Late Registration Opens: Due March 15, 2022



Seeking conference PLENARY & BREAKOUT SESSION Speakers: After reviewing the 2021 conference evaluations and in an effort to provide more variety and Texas Specific information we would like to ask our members to submit recommendations for local speakers for plenaries and breakout sessions. Please email Amber Gregory agregory@shsu.edu with speaker name, topic, and contact information.

Stipend Recipients: This year reimbursement will change. You will have to pay for hotel expense up front and submit for reimbursement after the conference.



McLennan County DWI/Drug Court Welcomes New Team Members

The McLennan County DWI/Drug Court would like to announce the hiring of two new additions to their treatment team. Belinda Honey is the new Peer Support Specialist and will provide support for those in recovery from a substance use disorder. She will be a model and mentor for participants to help prevent relapse through recovery education, peer-to-peer relationships, and recovery-oriented activities. Mattisa McKenzie is the new Case Manager and will assist in monitoring the participants' progress with treatment and help them reach their goals and dreams. She will also refer clients to appropriate services in the community through coordination with different agencies and organizations as needed. They look forward to having them on their team!

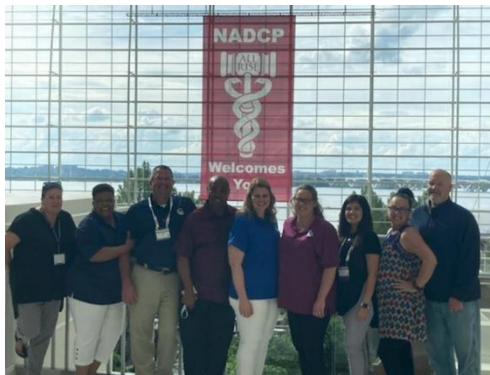
TASC Board of Directors Retreat Recap

As President of the Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC), I want to express my deepest and profoundest appreciation and gratitude for the in-person appearances and presentations to the TASC Board by the representatives of the following State agencies and organizations, Governor’s Office, Criminal Justice Division, Texas Center for the Judiciary, Texas Supreme Court Office of Court Administration, and the Specialty Courts Advisory Council at the annual Board Retreat held on August 22-24, 2021 in Corpus Christi, Texas. The overwhelming response by all Directors was the high level of engagement and information that was shared and discussed in the room. We certainly understand the extenuating circumstances for which all of us are working under to support and provide guidance to all Specialty Courts. We learned about the tremendous load upon staff and the agencies in regards to oversight and monitoring of our court system from the Supreme Court to the Specialty Courts. We are excited that everyone is wanting to work with TASC in helping in the accountability of specialty courts as increased funding will occur with the newly passed HB1256 (Mixed Beverage Tax Bill) lead by our Legislative Committee Chair Judge Paul White from Angelina County, Texas. We will encourage further discussions and find consensus of what that relationship will be for all involved. The mutual and amicable discussions were very helpful in understanding and moving forward with vision and strategy. TASC has agreed to support to create additional staffing and funding to meet the statutory requirements of governance and accountability by state statute. All organizations and agencies have agreed to reach out to TASC for collaboration and information. As previously stated, we are excited by our discussions and mutual interests to support all Specialty Courts and comply with our statutory obligations. We stand ready to assist anyone in any way for our Specialty Courts in the great State of Texas. God Bless all those who work hard every day to make a difference in the lives we touch. I wish all to be safe, be careful and take care. *Judge Peter Sakai, President of TASC, 225th District Court, Bexar County, Texas.*



Midland County Drug Court to NADCP Conference

In August, members of the Midland County Drug Court team attended the 2021 All Rise conference hosted by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in National Harbor, Maryland. The event included four days of nationally renowned speakers and experts in the specialty court community to share insights and new research on best practices in the field. Midland County Drug Court will celebrate its 3rd anniversary on October 1, 2021. Currently the court consists of three separate courts each targeting the different needs of substance dependent individuals with a combined 103 participants.



Pictured left to right:

Ashlea White, LCDC, Midland CSCD; Trina Latson, Specialty Court Unit Director, Midland CSCD; Allen Bell, Agency Director, Midland CSCD; Deputy John Reese, Bailiff/Compliance Officer, MCDC; Judge Elizabeth Rainey; Rebecca Elder, Transitional Treatment Court CSO, Midland CSCD; Rita Payan, Adult Felony Drug Court CSO, Midland CSCD; Candace Ligon, Court Coordinator, MCDC; Mike Rittenberry, DWI Court Prosecutor, Midland County District Attorney’s Office.

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

Quarterly Newsletters

We are moving to quarterly newsletters. Please continue to send us information, photos, testimonials, and news about your court programs, teams, and staff.

Please send your submissions to Kimberly Duran at Kimberly.Duran@dallascounty.org

Have Questions About Mental Health Courts or Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts?



NADCP's National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) Drug Court U is hosting virtual office hours to answer your questions on mental health courts and juvenile drug treatment courts! Schedule your one-on-one virtual appointment with Eric Olson, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, or Dr. Jaqueline van Wormer, NDCI's Director of Juvenile Training and Technical Assistance.

<https://www.ndci.org/drugcourtu/schedule-office-hours/>

NDCRC Newsletter Texas Featured State

Check out Texas as the official Featured State in the National Drug Court Resource Center newsletter!

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/NDCRC-Newsletter---September-2021.html?soid=1134152660387&aid=TtXKQaKI2ak>

SAMHSA Creates Office of Recovery

“The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced on September 30th, 2021 that it has established an Office of Recovery. The establishment of this office marks an important milestone in the Recovery movement, one that has been years in the making at the hands of recovery advocates and organizations across the country. Establishing an office dedicated solely to recovery programming is a necessary step in assuring sustainable federal resources. In its recent appropriations bill, the House of Representatives recognized the need for a size-able increase in the amount appropriated for programming dedicated to SUD recovery services. We commend SAMHSA in taking such an important step in prioritizing programs for underserved populations, promoting health equity, and supporting community-based strategies, to not only increase recovery funding, but to support individuals in sustaining long-term recovery.” (Faces and Voices of Recovery)

<https://www.samhsa.gov/>

TASC Open Board of Director Positions

The following board of director positions will be open for 2022-2023. Please submit applications to Amber Gregory by November 3rd, 2021. For additional information and application, http://www.tasctx.org/_documents/applications/22-23-board-app.pdf

Bexar County Director
At Large Director Place #1
Region 3 Director
Region 4 Director

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>

Check us out on Facebook!