

Arkansas Specialty Court Conference
April 9-10, 2025
Embassy Suites – Little Rock, Arkansas

Wednesday, April 9th

8:00 – 9:00	Registration	Atrium
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and Introductions Marty Sullivan <i>Director</i> <i>Administrative Office of the Courts</i>	Rock Island I-VII
9:15 – 10:30	Working Effectively with People Who Have Experienced Trauma Sufna John, Ph.D. <i>Co-Director Arkansas Building Effective Services for Trauma</i> <i>University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences</i> <i>Complex Trauma Assessment Program</i>	Rock Island I-VII
10:30 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 12:00	Strengths-Based Language in Treatment Courts Will Smith, M.S.W <i>Reentry Specialist Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program</i> <i>U.S. Probation Office, Northern District of Illinois</i>	Rock Island I-VII
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch Embassy Suites is hosting a number of local food trucks in its parking lot. Attendees are welcome to purchase food and bring it back into the Rock Island ballroom.	
1:30 – 2:30	Breakout Hour 1	
2:30 – 3:30	Breakout Hour 2	
3:30 – 3:45	Break	
3:45 – 4:45	Breakout Hour 3	

Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Thursday, April 10th

8:30 – 9:00	Registration	Atrium
9:00 – 10:00	Recognition of Specialty Court Service and Treatment Court Programs Spotlight Hon. Andy Gill <i>Circuit Judge 6th Judicial Circuit</i> <i>Perry County Adult Drug Court</i> Nathan McCarroll <i>Staff Attorney for Specialty Courts & Statewide Specialty Courts Coordinator</i> <i>Administrative Office of the Courts</i> Hon. Milas “Butch” Hale <i>District Court Judge 31st Judicial District</i> <i>Sherwood DWI Court</i> Hon. Scott Ellington <i>Circuit Judge 2nd Judicial Circuit</i> <i>Craighead County Mental Health Court</i> Michelle Barrett <i>Court Coordinator</i> <i>Benton County Veterans Treatment Court</i>	Rock Island I-VII
10:00 – 11:00	Ask Us Anything: Multi-Disciplinary Panel (For Juvenile Track, Breakout Hour 4 in Junction I-II) Alejandra Garcia (Moderator) <i>Associate Director National Technical Assistance Center for Justice Innovation</i> Hon. Melissa Richardson <i>Circuit Judge 2nd Judicial Circuit</i> <i>Craighead County Adult Drug Court</i> Carl M. Dawson, M.S., MAC, LPC, Q-SAP <i>Treatment Provider, Springfield, Missouri</i> <i>Independent Practice</i> Michelle Barrett <i>Court Coordinator</i> <i>Benton County Adult Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and Mental Health Court</i>	Rock Island I-VII

Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

Agent Joe Johnson

ACC Probation Officer

Perry County Adult Drug Court

Tarrie L. Barnes

Treatment Counselor

Union County Adult Drug Court

Erin Lewis

Public Defender

Pulaski County Veterans Treatment Court

Sara Swearengin

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Fourth Judicial District

Washington & Madison Counties Adult Drug Courts,

Washington County Mental Health Treatment &

Veterans Treatment Courts

11:00 – 12:00

Ask Us Anything: Individual Role Breakouts

(For Juvenile Track, Breakout Hour 5 in Junction I-II)

Rock Island I-VII

Alejandra Garcia (Moderator)

Associate Director | National Technical Assistance

Center for Justice Innovation

Hon. Melissa Richardson

Circuit Judge | 2nd Judicial Circuit

Craighead County Adult Drug Court

Carl M. Dawson, M.S., MAC, LPC, Q-SAP

Treatment Provider, Springfield, Missouri

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Michelle Barrett

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Washington & Madison Counties Adult Drug Courts,

Washington County Mental Health and Veterans Treatment Courts

12:00 – 1:30

Lunch

Embassy Suites is hosting a number of local food trucks in its parking lot. Attendees are welcome to purchase food and bring it back into the Rock Island ballroom.

1:30 – 2:45

Legal Issues in Treatment Courts

Rock Island I-VII

Monica Christofferson, J.D.

Senior Director, Office of National Initiatives

Center for Justice Innovation

2:45 – 3:00

Break

3:00 – 4:30

**Defining Complex Trauma, Co-Dependency,
and Narcissism**

Rock Island I-VII

Carl M. Dawson, M.S., MAC, LPC, Q-SAP

Independent Practice

4:30

Adjourn

Breakout Sessions

	Juvenile Drug Court	Coordinators	Newcomers	General
	Junction I-II	Rock Island I-II	Rock Island V-VI-VII	Rock Island III-IV
Hour 1 Wednesday, 1:30 – 2:30	Risk-Need-Responsivity Model Elisha Harris <i>Senior Program Manager</i> Mark Hill <i>Site Manager</i> <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>	Coordinator 101: Roles, Responsibilities, and Shared Values Courtney Williams, M.S. <i>Senior Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation</i> Sheila McCarthy, LMSW <i>Senior Program Manager, Recovery and Reform Team, Center for Justice Innovation</i>	Best Practice Standards Julie Baldwin, Ph.D. <i>Research Professor, Law & Criminology American University</i> Jamie Vaske, Ph.D. <i>Research Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University</i>	Meeting the Levels of Care in Resource-Scarce Communities Will Smith, M.S.W. <i>Reentry Specialist, Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program U.S. Probation Office, Northern District of Illinois</i>
Hour 2 Wednesday, 2:30 – 3:30	Target Population and Eligibility Criteria Elisha Harris <i>Senior Program Manager</i> Mark Hill <i>Site Manager</i> <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>	Understanding the Impact of Word Choice on Participant Outcomes Courtney Williams, M.S. <i>Senior Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation</i> Sheila McCarthy, LMSW <i>Senior Program Manager, Recovery and Reform Team, Center for Justice Innovation</i>	Risk-Need-Responsivity Model Julie Baldwin, Ph.D. <i>Research Professor, Law & Criminology American University</i> Jamie Vaske, Ph.D. <i>Research Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University</i>	Psychopharmacology: How a Drug Hijacks the Brain Carl M. Dawson, M.S., MAC, LPC, Q-SAP <i>Independent Practice</i>
Hour 3 Wednesday, 3:45 – 4:45	Drug Testing and Wellness Considerations Elisha Harris <i>Senior Program Manager</i> Mark Hill <i>Site Manager</i> <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>	Communication Styles and Role Reversal Courtney Williams, M.S. <i>Senior Program Manager, Center for Justice Innovation</i> Sheila McCarthy, LMSW <i>Senior Program Manager, Recovery and Reform Team, Center for Justice Innovation</i>	Sanctions and Incentives, and Identifying Potential Participants Julie Baldwin, Ph.D. <i>Research Professor, Law & Criminology American University</i> Jamie Vaske, Ph.D. <i>Research Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University</i>	Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Alejandra Garcia <i>Associate Director, National Technical Assistance, Center for Justice Innovation</i>
Hour 4 Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00	Role of the Treatment Provider on the JDTC Team Brent Vaughn <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>			
Hour 5 Thursday, 11:00 – 12:00	Participant Engagement in Treatment Brent Vaughn <i>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</i>			