

# The Line

A Newsletter for and about Arkansas Drug Courts September 2011 Vol. 43, No. 3

## Editor's Corner-

Dear Readers:

As most of the drug court professionals in the state know, our drug court programs are facing significant reductions in treatment services funding. Drug courts are out-patient programs; however, the ability to provide a continuum of treatment care, including providing residential treatment services, is fundamental to the success of each drug court. Our drug courts must be able to provide adequate treatment services.

Because our programs focus on higher risk and high need participants, the access to residential treatment is even more important. Without a residential treatment option, drug courts cannot adequately respond to participant needs, which not only impairs the success of the individual, but also the program itself.

Therefore, in this edition of our newsletter, we have highlighted drug court professionals who are putting a spotlight on the funding issues; drug courts that are using creative means to add depth to their individual programs; reviewing a key component of drug court; bringing attention to the successes of drug courts; and discussing the latest available FREE trainings, webinars and resources available to professionals within the field.

Enjoy your September issue of the *The Line*, and as always, thank you all for the work you do to improve the lives of others.

— Kari E. Powers, Editor

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.*— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**



## ADDICTION DEFINED:

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) has released a new definition of addiction. The ASAM defines addiction as a chronic brain disorder and not simply a behavioral problem involving too much alcohol, drugs, gambling or sex. This the first time ASAM has taken an official position that addiction is not solely related to problematic substance use.

## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH!

Look for activities in your local area or you can access:

<http://www.recoverymonth.gov/>

## Local Drug Court News

In July, dozens of Arkansas drug court professionals attended national training at the NADCP annual conference in Washington D.C. Professionals who work in various areas of the drug court field attended trainings that were specific to their work and interests. Many of the attendees also attended a rally on Capitol Hill in support of drug courts. The rally featured members of Congress (including Senator Mark Pryor, AR) and celebrities such as Martin Sheen and Matthew Perry.



Washington, D.C.

In other local drug court news, the Carroll County Drug Court in Berryville has developed its own monthly local newsletter that is printed monthly. The drug court participants choose story topics, write the material and put it all together. This creative "out of the box" thinking has provided the clients with an avenue to encourage, reward and support each other as well as becoming a learning tool for writing and media skills development.

This quote from the newsletter is worth sharing, stating "Thank you God for this honest program. I no longer have to build myself up or tear myself down. Being honest with myself allows me to be honest with others. Thank you for the blessing of living life on life's terms. Thank you for the beautiful new life you have given me and thank you for the chance to be the person you always meant for me to be— sober, responsible and free." — Shari

From the *Access to Freedom* newsletter, September 2011 edition, published by the Carroll County Drug Court.



## Drug Courts in the Media.....

In the August 25th edition of the online magazine, *Talk Business and Politics*, author Roby Brock discussed the recent

treatment funding reductions with drug court Judge Robert Herzfeld (Saline County) and other stakeholders, including State Senator, Bill Pritchard (R-Elkins).

Senator Pritchard told Brock, "It's absolutely essential that we put this small amount of money in a line item year after year to keep people out of prison, get them off drugs, and get them paying taxes and becoming productive, tax-paying citizens again."

Judge Herzfeld expressed his concern stating, "We're going to be out of money to provide extra and needed treatment resources by October, and we've got all the way to next July 1st to finish out."

At this time, options are being explored by the Governor's office as well as among drug court professionals to address these concerns. Everyone involved agrees that drug courts are an integral part of the criminal and therapeutic systems in the State.

***Save the Date!***  
***6th Annual***  
***State Drug Court***  
***Conference—***  
***April 5-6th, 2012***  
***Little Rock, AR***

## Feature **KEY COMPONENT** of **Drug Courts: Treatment and Team**

Drug Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

"In a drug court, the treatment experience begins in the courtroom and continues through the participant's drug court involvement. In other words, drug court is a comprehensive therapeutic experience, only part of which takes place in a designated treatment setting. The treatment and criminal justice professionals are members of the therapeutic team." —

*Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components.*

NADCP authored. US Dept of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance published. Washington, DC. 10/2004

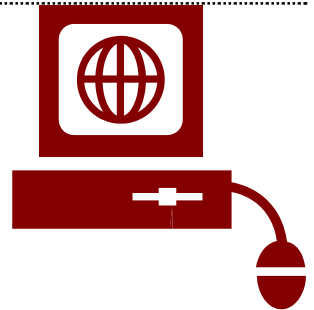
## **Drug Court Research**

A five- year study published July 18, 2011 by the Urban Institute shows that a drug court can reduce substance abuse and crime, but the level of reduction is dependent upon the involvement of the drug court judge.

According to Shelli Rossman, of the Urban Institute (a non-partisan economic and social policy research organization), "Judges are central to the goals of reducing crime and substance use. Judges who spend time with participants, support them, and treat them with respect are the ones who get results."

Drug court participants who had more status hearings with the judge and received more praise from the judge later reported committing fewer crimes and using drugs less often than those who had less contact and praise. —, see the Urban Institute website, <http://urban.org/>. For more information, contact: [scombi@urban.org](mailto:scombi@urban.org)

**Drug courts save an average of \$5,680 per participant, returning a net benefit of \$2 for every \$1 spent. —  
Urban Institute, 2011**



## **Webinars and Resources**

E-Learning for Drug Courts at:  
<http://e-learning.nycourts.gov/>

National Reentry Resource Center  
Recidivism Reduction, Substance abuse and  
Co-Occurring Disorders at:

[http://  
www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/  
training/webcasts#recid](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/training/webcasts#recid)

"Translating Drug Court Research into  
Practice" at:

<http://research2practice.org/>

NDCI's "Tune In Tuesdays" Webinar series:

[http://www.ndci.org/training/online-  
trainings-webinars/webinars](http://www.ndci.org/training/online-trainings-webinars/webinars)

And other useful links.....

<http://www.courtinnovation.org/topic/drug-court>

[www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)

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# ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Remember to submit an application in order to receive grant funds for your drug court program. To request applications, email:

[kari.powers@arkansas.gov](mailto:kari.powers@arkansas.gov)

Mail applications to:

Kari Powers

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**We're on the  
web!!  
[http://  
courts.arkansas  
.gov](http://courts.arkansas.gov)**

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A copy of this issue can  
be found at:

[http://  
courts.arkansas.gov](http://courts.arkansas.gov)

**The 2011 Legislative Report is now available online at Division  
of Drug Court Programs website.**

**Do you have news you want to share about your drug court?**

**Do you have an idea for a newsletter story?**

Contributions, comments and inquiries are welcome. Please submit to:

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