



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

April 4, 2022

Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals  
Washington Association of Drug Courts  
P.O. Box 66711  
Burien, WA 98166

Dear Drug Court Professional:

**SUBJECT: In support of National Support Court Month**

The Washington State Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (HCA-DBHR) have been long standing partners in the expansion of behavioral health services for individuals in the criminal legal system. The 2002 creation of the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) in the State Treasury tasked the State with ensuring access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and treatment support for individuals in drug courts who otherwise have pending criminal charges. Since that time, a number of statewide changes have expanded the scope of the intersection of health care and requirements of the criminal legal system.

Through the Criminal Justice Treatment Account, qualifying individuals can receive both treatment and recovery services, including but not limited to: SUD assessment, Medication for Opioid Disorder (MOUD's), case management, peer support, relapse prevention, and life skills training. The goal of the CJTA funds is to assist participating WA-County Drug Courts and Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BHASOs) to decrease recidivism, improve the safety of the community and improve the life of the program participants.

HCA-DBHR, through CJTA and other state and federal funding sources, have consistently partnered with therapeutic courts across the state to ensure access to evidence-based treatment and recovery support services. Most recently, HCA-DBHR was awarded a Statewide Drug Court grant through the Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance, and plan to continue our partnership with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals to ensure adequate, timely, and relevant technical assistance and training for therapeutic courts across the state.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michele Gayle, Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Administrator, by email at [michele.gayle@hca.wa.gov](mailto:michele.gayle@hca.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Keri L. Waterland, Ph.D., MAOB  
Director  
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

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By email

cc: Michael Langer, Deputy Director, DBHR, HCA  
Edward Michael, Supervisor, DBHR, HCA  
Michele Gayle, Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Administrator, DBHR, HCA