



What We Have Done in 2024: Support and Advocacy for Therapeutic Courts

1. Provide Training and Resources to Promote Best Practices in Therapeutic Courts

- a. **2024 WSADCP Conference:** In collaboration with our conference partners, WSADCP is pleased to offer valuable trainings by national and local experts on best practices and emerging issues, including:
- i. Target Population and Risk/Needs Responsivity.
 - ii. Equity and Inclusion, including assessing for and addressing racial and ethnic disparities.
 - iii. The Role of the Judge.
 - iv. Working as a Multidisciplinary Team including roles/ethics and incorporating peer support.
 - v. Incentives, Sanctions and Service adjustments.
 - vi. Treatment and recovery management including responding to the fentanyl crisis, the science of medication for opioid use disorder, working with adolescents, and young adults, treating impaired drivers, using MRT and DV-MRT, supporting positive family involvement, and the power of hope.
 - vii. Complementary services and recovery capital, including establishing tribal and government partnerships and alumni groups.
 - viii. Program Monitoring, Evaluation and Improvement, including storytelling with data.

Specialized Tracks: This year, we are excited to be able to provide a half day of workshops devoted to **Community Courts & Collaborative Courts** (Family Therapeutic Courts, Early Childhood Courts, Safe Babies Courts, and ICWA Courts).

b. **Virtual Trainings & Online Resources:**

- i. Following presentations on Othering and Belonging at the 2023 WSADCP Conference by Patty Lally of Racial Equity Works, WSADCP partnered with Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Healthcare Authority (HCA), and Racial Equity Works to support the production of a 3-part video training series that explores: The Power of Belonging, the Challenges of Othering and Racism, and Cultivating Belonging and Wellness in Therapeutic Courts. The series features the voices of several Washington State therapeutic court professionals and alumni, promoting Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standard 2 – Equity and Inclusion. The training is available on AOC's website.
- ii. WSADCP continues to develop our website to be a resource for therapeutic court professionals. Our Foundational Resources page contains information about best practices and trainings for drug court and other therapeutic court practitioners including specialized resources for Community Courts, Family Treatment Courts / Collaborative Courts, Impaired Driving Courts, Juvenile Treatment Courts, Mental Health Courts, Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts, and Veterans Courts.
<https://www.wsadcp.org/training/>

2. Cultivate Connections

- a. **In Person Opportunities:** Conferences are essential not only for the valuable information provided, but for the connections they enable us to make within our teams and with others from across the state. They provide space away from the distractions and demands of our daily work where we can reflect, connect, discuss, and gain ideas and inspiration from each other. WSADCP has worked to create opportunities for meaningful engagement within workshop sessions and beyond.
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- i. **Facilitated Conversations:** This year’s WSADCP Conference features role-based conversations for Prosecutors and for Alumni. The Prosecutor’s Conversation provides a valuable opportunity for prosecutors from across the state to discuss the challenges and opportunities they are experiencing related to therapeutic courts, including eligibility and capacity issues. The powerhouse Washington State Therapeutic Court Alumni Association (WSTCAA) was founded last year after members initially connected at the Strength of Lived Experience Conversation at the 2023 WSADCP Conference, a compelling example of the value of in-person connection.
 - ii. **Gatherings:** In partnership with AOC, WSADCP hosted a gathering for Washington State therapeutic court professionals at the national Rise24 Conference in Anaheim, an opportunity to connect and build professional networks. This year’s 2024 WSADCP Conference features a gathering space exclusively for therapeutic court alumni, peers, and people with lived experience – a safe space to decompress, refuel, and connect with each other.
 - b. **Online Community-Building:** The work we do can be difficult and even at times, heart wrenching, so it is important to take the time to share and celebrate our successes. WSADCP highlights accomplishments, news and stories from therapeutic courts across the state on the [Newsworthy](#) page of our website. WSADCP members also participate in meetings and listservs for therapeutic court coordinators, hosted by AOC.
- 3. Advocate for Funding and Support for Therapeutic Courts, behavioral health, and recovery support services.**
- a. Work with lobbyist to monitor and promote support for therapeutic courts including funding for the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) and State Funds for Therapeutic Courts in Courts of Limited Jurisdiction.
 - b. Work with legislators to sponsor bills important to drug courts and other therapeutic courts. In 2024, WADC worked with Rep. Simmons to sponsor HB 1983 (concerning the Criminal Justice Treatment Account), which was unanimously approved by the legislature, making permanent the ability of drug courts to provide ramp down treatment and recovery support services to graduates for up to 180 days following graduation. WADC is working with another legislator to run a bill to remove barriers to accessing State ID (needed for employment, housing, and essential services) for therapeutic court participants and others in the legal system who have never had a WA State ID but whose identity is known to law enforcement.
 - c. Provide written and verbal testimony in legislative hearings relevant to therapeutic courts, behavioral health, and recovery support services.
 - d. The Governor proclaimed Therapeutic Court Month at the request of WSADCP, highlighting the important role of therapeutic courts in our communities and creating an opportunity for courts to promote their work.
 - e. Message state leaders and lawmakers to promote understanding of the value of therapeutic courts in the lives of individuals and families, the impressive outcomes and measurable public safety impact, and the many ways in which therapeutic court participants and graduates give back to their communities. In 2024, emailed legislators with the Therapeutic Court Month proclamation, inviting attendance at graduations in their district.
 - f. Publish and update report [The Evidence for Washington State Drug Courts](#), outlining the compelling data on the effectiveness and value of drug courts. (The report has been cited by state leaders and national presenters.)
 - g. Advocate for sustainable, high-quality treatment and recovery support services for individuals with behavioral health disorders. In 2024, WADC provided a statement of support for SUD treatment providers and AAP as they lobbied for an increase in residential reimbursement rates, met with HCA to provide input on the Substance Use Recovery Services Plan, and advocated for distinguishing between SUD screenings and assessments to ensure efforts to increase treatment access do not eliminate comprehensive assessment options.
 - h. Serve as a member on the CJTA Panel. In 2024, in collaboration with WSTCAA, WSADCP presented on the value of UAs and the research supporting testing (Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standard 7).
 - i. Enhance partnership with AOC for strategic planning work on therapeutic court training and support.
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