

WATCP JOURNAL

Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals

Fall, 2017

[Edition 1, Volume 1]

President's Welcome

Emily Nolan-Plutchak, WATCP President

Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) was founded in 2004. In the past 13 years much has changed in Wisconsin regarding treatment courts. Attitudes about drug abuse and addicted persons held by policy makers and the community overall have changed. Indeed, the drugs themselves have changed. Instead of cocaine and heroin, even more dangerous opioids like fentanyl are ravaging our community and killing off its

Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells attracted nearly five times that number of professionals from across the state. We pride ourselves as being the go to educational conference for treatment courts in Wisconsin. We are now able to have conferences where we have many different national level speakers to edify the participants.

In Wisconsin, we face a daunting task trying to quell the upsurge of heroin and meth within our communities.

"Treatment is no longer liberal or conservative, Republican or Democrat, tough or soft on crime. It's smart and humane."

members. One Wisconsin county alone is on its way to a heart-breaking record 400 opioid related deaths in 2017.

In the past year as president of WATCP, I have learned what a difference this organization can make to treatment courts around the state. We have put on two conferences. For perspective the first annual conference held in Stevens Point had only about 100 attendees. This year's

People are beginning to realize that this is not a problem that we can solve solely by arresting people. Unfortunately, it took an epidemic to get us to this point. Irrespective of how we got here, we have to seize the opportunity to promote the benefits of treatment courts. Rather than jailing persons addicted to these dangerous drugs, policy makers and the community have begun to recognize the importance of

Events and Action Items

•••

- September 23, 2017- 11am-3pm-Celebrate Recovery Month at the Rally for Recovery at the Capital Building In Madison. There will be a resource fair, family activities and speeches from people in recovery, family members, direct practitioners and legislators
- September 28, 2017- Chippawa Falls Drug Court's 10th Anniversary. 3-5pm Drug Court is open to the public, 5-7pm reception
- WATCP Annual Statewide Convention April 18-20, 2018 Country Springs Resort, Waukesha, WI
- NADCP Annual Conference May 30- June 2, 2018, Houston, TX

treatment as an alternative to incarceration. Instead of being labelled “addicts” or “drunks” they are being recognized as friends, neighbors, children, veterans and other important members of our community. Treatment is no longer liberal or conservative, Republican or

Democrat, tough or soft on crime. It’s smart and humane. This would not be possible without the many hardworking people that comprise WI’s treatment courts. I believe that together we can all make a big difference in people’s lives whom are dealing with their own addiction or the addiction of a

family member. WATCP thanks each and every one of you for the part you play within your treatment court and plans to continue to be an entity in which you can reach out to for help and education.

NADCP Annual Conference Recap

J.C. Moore, WATCP President-Elect

From July 9-12, 2017, WATCP President Emily Nolan-Plutchak and I attended the National Association of Drug Court Professionals annual conference in Washington D.C. This event, held concurrently with Vet Court Con (the veteran’s court conference), hosts a variety of national caliber speakers on all things treatment court related. Each day of the conference averaged between 50-100 individual sessions with a number of tracks focused on type of treatment court, plus break-outs by role, a mentor training program and special events in the evenings such as mixers and movie premiers on treatment related subjects. The opening and closing ceremonies included comments from actress Octavia Spencer (*Hidden Figures*, *The Help*) and Journalist Elizabeth Vargas (ABC News, 20/20). Also, NADCP, in partnership with Sesame Street, unveiled a new initiative focused on the effects of childhood trauma. Sesame Street characters Elmo and Cookie Monster added some levity to the discussion.

On July 11, Emily and I, along with a dozen other Wisconsinites

participated in Capitol Hill Day, a lobbying event organized by NADCP. We expressed the importance of support and funding for treatment programs and courts with legislative staffers and Senator Tammy Baldwin directly.



There is overwhelming bipartisan support for treatment courts throughout Wisconsin and nationwide. All understood the importance of these issues, especially given the current opioid crisis. Legislators and NADCP were hopeful that this year’s proposed budget would at least maintain that prior year’s funding levels, and prior to the recess break, the Senate Committee voted in support of \$43 million for drug courts and \$7 million for veterans treatment courts at the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Department of Justice (DOJ).

The WATCP is currently revising the Wisconsin Treatment Court State Standards. Emily and I were able to connect with representatives from NDCI who have offered their assistance and will provide training. We also met with other state association officers who expressed an interest in partnering with WATCP to hold regional training for Midwestern states

Next year’s NADCP conference will be held **May 30- June 2, 2018** in Houston, TX.

Sponsor Spotlight



A Massive Cost with Equal Funding & ROI Potential

People with substance use disorder (SUD) require about \$20,000 of health care annually compared to less than \$3,500 for people without SUD¹. This approximate 6x cost differential is attributable to recurring emergency room visits and inpatient stays, hepatitis-C, HIV, endocarditis, and neonatal complications, among many other health complications. While these

costs generally fall outside of treatment courts, they can serve as a bridge to substantial, yet often untapped, resources. As a treatment court professional, you are likely all too familiar with limited resources and competing demands. Fortune 500 health insurance companies that provide Medicaid health insurance for treatment court participants are paid by federal and state governments to provide care; however, many of us are not actively engaging these companies to maximize our resources and optimize treatment. Additionally, these health insurance companies are not effectively benefiting from the proven results of treatment courts. Partnering with these companies can provide access to a source of funds that dwarfs the annual budget our congress allocates to treatment courts resulting in a win for courts, a win for health insurance companies, and, most importantly, a win and better outcomes for treatment court patients.

(1) The Impact of the Opioid Crisis on the Healthcare System, Fair Health, September 2016



Grant Opportunity

The **ALKERMES INSPIRATION GRANTS®** program was developed to underscore our ongoing commitment to support the comprehensive needs of people affected by mental health and substance use disorders. Through this initiative, Alkermes will award up to \$1 million in grants for the development or expansion of innovative programs to support the mental health and addiction communities in two key areas:

- ▶ Improving or enhancing support or resources for people affected by mental health concerns or addiction
- ▶ Integrating the perspective of people affected by mental health concerns or addiction into drug development or care delivery

The **submission period will be open from September 6 to October 6, 2017** and grants will be awarded to selected organizations in November 2017. Eligible non-profit organizations may apply with varying budgets not to exceed \$1 million. Historically, funding

amounts ranged from \$2,500 to \$100,000. Multiple submissions are permitted.

Winning programs will be selected by Alkermes in partnership with external reviewers who respect the perspectives of the community. External reviewers include a patient advocate, a representative from the criminal justice system, a person in recovery and a caregiver. Proposals will be evaluated based on a standard set of review criteria, which will include the quality of the application, creativity of the solution and the organizations' infrastructure and past program success.

For more information on the ALKERMES INSPIRATION GRANTS program or to apply, please visit: <http://www.alkermes.com/inspiratio grants>.

Legislative Updates

Please take note of the following bills under consideration in the state legislature:

[AB331](#) to expand and amend the expungement process.

WATCP MEMBERS CORNER

In future editions of this quarterly newsletter, the WATCP Board members hope to provide an opportunity for individual and court members to highlight the remarkable work that our communities are doing throughout Wisconsin. Please contact Rebecca Foley at Rebecca.foley@wicourts.gov or Jodi Severson at watcp.assistant@gmail.com with any celebrations, graduations, alumni achievements, milestones or awards that we should acknowledge, as well as any events or trainings open to treatment court professionals.

This is also an opportunity for members to seek guidance from experts in the fields, established Treatment Courts utilizing best practices and practitioners both locally and nationally. If there is a topic of interest to you, please e-mail Rebecca or Jodi.

Background: Under current law, a court may order a person's criminal record expunged of certain crimes that the person committed before the age of 25. Current law specifies that the expungement order must be made only at sentencing and then the record is expunged when the person completes his or her sentence.

Under this bill, the same crimes are eligible for expungement but, if the sentencing court did not order the record expunged, the person may file a petition with the sentencing court after he or she completes his or her sentence. Upon receipt of the petition, the court must review the petition at a hearing or, if the victim of the crime waives a hearing, without a hearing, and then may order the record expunged or may deny the petition. If the court denies the petition, the person may not file another petition for two years.

This bill also requires the sentencing court to inform an eligible person of the process to petition for an expungement order and allows the sentencing court to order that a person's record not be eligible for expungement. Many youthful offenders (ages 17-25) are unaware of their expungement eligibility, resulting in a missed opportunity to petition for the expungement of their record.

Finally this bill provides that, if a person's record is expunged of a crime, the Department of Justice must redact any record of that crime when DOJ responds to a public records request. Currently, expunged records are not accessible to the public on Wisconsin's court database –CCAP, but are viewable under a second, subscriber based database - CIB. This bill will provide consistency between both sources.

Expunged offenses may not be considered a conviction for employment purposes and specifies that employment discrimination because of a conviction record includes requesting a person to supply information regarding a crime if the record has been expunged of the crime. Rather than navigating existing ambiguities in the law on expunged records, This bill clarifies this matter so that employees and employers have a clear understanding of their respective requirements.

Why it matters: Treatment courts continue to prove an effective tool for rehabilitation. Expungement for post adjudication treatment courts is frequently used in Wisconsin and nationwide and provides a strong incentive for program completion. In a 2015 study on Veteran's Court alone conducted by American University in conjunction with the Bureau for Justice Assistance, 81% of responding courts (88 of 109) provided expungement upon successful completion.

We also know that employment enhances the chances for completion and rehabilitation. The Department of Workforce Development reports that Wisconsin's unemployment rate continues to drop, now at 3.4%. While this is positive news for Wisconsin's economy, it underscores a workforce shortage concern many of Wisconsin's employers face when working to fill job vacancies. On the flipside, a segment of our state's able-bodied population, youthful offenders, remain trapped on the workforce sidelines due to an employment barrier created by our state's outdated, unclear, and inconsistent expungement law.

This proposal provides comprehensive expungement reform, helps to expand its use in treatment courts and bridges the gap between employers seeking to fill vacancies and

youthful offenders seeking become successful members of the workforce.

Organizational endorsements: MMAC, Alliance of Wisconsin Retailers, Association of State Prosecutors, Office of State Public Defender, State Bar of Wisconsin, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Fresh Start Coalition

Sponsors: Introduced by Representatives [Steffen](#), [Goyke](#), [Tittl](#), [Anderson](#), [Billings](#), [E. Brooks](#), [R. Brooks](#), [Brostoff](#), [Conside](#), [Crowley](#), [Duchow](#), [Edming](#), [Fieds](#), [Gannon](#), [Genrich](#), [Hintz](#), [Jarchow](#), [Kleefisch](#), [Kolste](#), [Krug](#), [Mursau](#), [Ohnstad](#), [Pope](#), [Quinn](#), [Ripp](#), [Rohrkaste](#), [Sargent](#), [Sinicki](#), [Spreitzer](#), [Subeck](#), [Tauchen](#), [C. Taylor](#), [Tusler](#), [Vruwink](#), [Wachs](#) and [Zepnick](#);

cosponsored by Senators [Risser](#), [Feyen](#), [Harsdorf](#), [Johnson](#), [Olsen](#), [Darling](#), [Ringhand](#) and [Wirch](#)

Current Status: Advanced from Assembly [Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee](#) to full Assembly

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR,
URGE THEM TO DEMAND A VOTE
IN THE FULL ASSEMBLY AND TO
SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT
LEGISLATION**

[AB481](#) to create a grant program for establishment of family/juvenile treatment courts.

Background: The first Family Drug Treatment Court in Wisconsin started in Milwaukee County in 2011. Currently, several counties in Wisconsin are considering, planning or piloting Family Treatment Courts (FTCs). FTCs work with families

involved in the child welfare justice system where the children are unsafe primarily due to parental substance use disorders. FTCs work intensively with the families with the primary goal of reunifying the family and finding permanency for the child. Funding, however is piecemeal. After expiration of federal start-up grants, programs turn to a combination of funding through the Department of Children and Families (DCF), private grants and treatment via TANF. There are no operational juvenile drug courts in Wisconsin.

This bill creates a statutory grant program similar to sec 165.955 but under the Children's Code for family treatment court and the Juvenile Justice Code for juvenile treatment courts to be administered by DCF and operated by the juvenile courts. Grants will be made available to counties or tribes to enable them to establish and operate programs to screen, assess, and provide dispositional alternatives for parents with mental illness or substance abuse whose children have come under juvenile court jurisdiction.

Why it matters: Programs such as these have proven very successful. As of 2013, over 300 of these courts existed nationwide with the number steadily growing. Studies of outcomes for these programs are encouraging in that they consistently show greater likelihood of reunification and reduced placement of children in long-term foster care. Milwaukee for example currently serves 42 families including 75 children. 55% of the participating parents are reunited with their children (compared to just 12% who choose not to enroll). Since its inception, 44 families have been brought back together with only 2 re-entering the child welfare system. The bill has been added to the "HOPE Agenda" and is one of a series of bills aimed at addressing

the opiate crisis, saving lives and families.

Current Status: The bill is under consideration by the Assembly [Children and Families Committee](#) and is tentatively scheduled for a public hearing in early October.

Sponsors: Introduced by Representatives [Rodriguez](#), [Goyke](#), [Nygren](#), [Ballweg](#), [Billings](#), [R. Brooks](#), [Crowley](#), [Duchow](#), [Felzkowski](#), [Gannon](#), [Horlacher](#), [Kolste](#), [Krug](#), [Kulp](#), [Mason](#), [Mursau](#), [Ohnstad](#), [Petryk](#), [Pope](#), [Riemer](#), [Sargent](#), [Snyder](#), [Spiros](#), [Spreitzer](#), [C. Taylor](#), [Tusler](#), [Vorpapel](#) and [Wachs](#); co sponsored by Senators [Darling](#), [Johnson](#), [Carpenter](#), [Larson Olsen](#), [L.Taylor](#) and [Wirch](#):

Assembly Public Hearing Notice

**Wednesday, October 4, 2017
11:30 AM
415 Northwest**

Committee on Children and Families

The committee will hold a public hearing on the following items at the time specified below:

AB186 Relating to: prosecuting a person under the age of 18 with committing an act of prostitution.

By Representatives: Billings, Crowley, Subeck, Doyle, Fields, Young, C. Taylor, Sargent, Goyke, Kolste, Wachs, Mason, Considine, Pope, Zamarripa, Riemer, Berceau, Spreitzer, Genrich, Mursau, E. Brooks, Kessler, Sinicki,

Zimmerman, Steffen, Bowen, Zepnick, Hebl, Brostoff, Quinn, Anderson, Ohnstad and Petryk; cosponsored by Senators Harsdorf, Johnson, Darling, L. Taylor, Petrowski, Moulton, Carpenter, Olsen, Ringhand, Cowles, Vinehout, Hansen, Erpenbach, Wirch, Larson, Bewley and Miller.

AND

AB481 to create a grant program for establishment of family/juvenile treatment courts.

As part of the Red Tape Review the committee will discuss potential revisions to the following rules:

- DCF Chapter 80 – Services for Youth who are Adjudicated Delinquent**
- DCF Chapter 81 – Intensive Supervision Program**
- DCF Chapter 82 – Intake Worker Training**

LOOK FOR FUTURE LEGISLATIVE ALERTS IN YOUR E-MAIL OR ON THE [WATCP WEBSITE](#)

