

Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals

ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by

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WATCP is a 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit organization.

2024
2025

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Vision and Mission



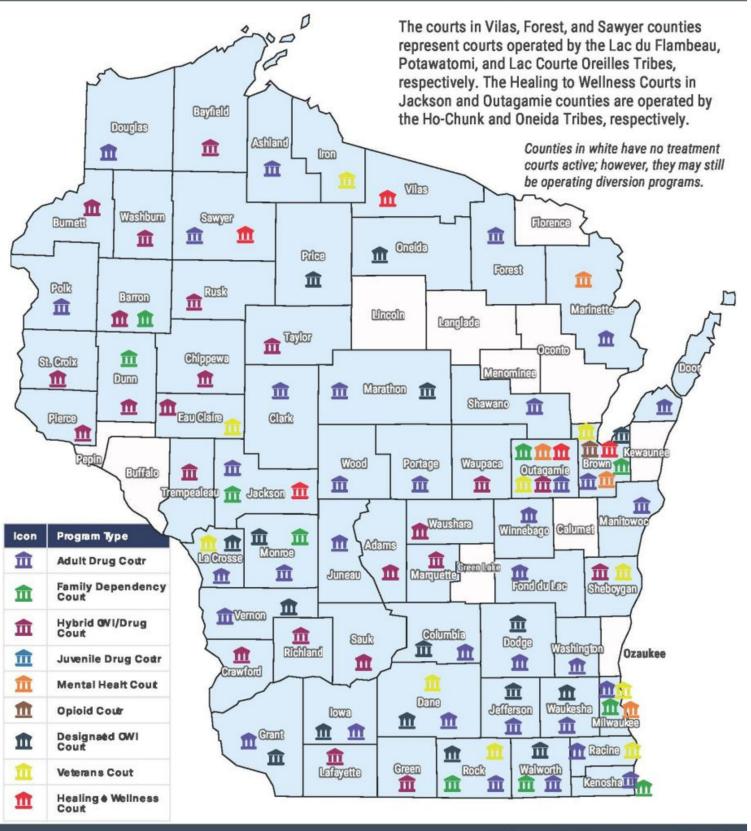
Vision

- WATCP is a professional organization representing the interests of treatment courts in the State of Wisconsin. WATCP's multidisciplinary membership includes judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, court administrators, treatment providers, probation and community corrections officers, social service caseworkers, and other stakeholders in the field of treatment courts.
- WATCP commits to encouraging equity in all treatment courts or all participants or potential participants and identifying disparities.

Mission

- The core mission of WATCP is to empower and inspire Courts and Communities to
 deliver transformative Justice. Our goal is to reduce substance abuse, crime and
 recidivism by promoting and advocating the establishment and funding of treatment
 courts and providing for collection and dissemination of information, technical
 assistance, and mutual support to association members.
- It is the design of the WATCP to associate with and/or work closely with other Wisconsin criminal justice or treatment organizations focusing on improving local justice system management and community corrections alternatives.

2024 Wisconsin Treatment Courts



Executive Director's Report



Jodi Severson
Executive Director, WATCP

As I reflect on another year serving as Executive Director of WATCP, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering commitment of our Board, Advisors, and members of our organization. Their extraordinary efforts have shaped WATCP into a force for transformative justice, ensuring that our treatment courts remain steadfast beacons of hope and instruments of change for those dealing with substance use disorders and mental health challenges.

Annual reports traditionally hinge on objective measures—facts, figures, and statistics that chart the growth and progress of an organization. Within these pages, you will discover financial data that reflects our growth and statistics detailing the expanding number and diverse types of treatment courts across

Wisconsin. Fiscally, WATCP is now recognized as a tax exempt non-profit which impacts our budget in two important ways. First, we realize a cost savings of about \$4,000 a year in sales tax, and second, any donations made to WATCP's graduate scholarship fund or our general operating fund are tax deductible for the donor. These financial changes help expand the amount of outreach we can do annually, the number of scholarships we can award annually, and will help continue to keep costs for attendance at our conferences within reach of professionals who rely on the evidenced-based training we provide without compromising quality.



Yet, when an organization's mission is to spark transformative justice, how do we truly measure its impact? A life saved and given new direction radiates outward, touching not just the individual, but also their family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and the broader community. Each life positively impacted by a treatment court becomes a ripple, spreading hope and change far beyond what mere numbers alone can reflect. The lives we touch create further waves of transformation. Those who have found new footing go on to guide others—mentoring peers, contributing to sober communities, working within treatment courts, jails, hospitals, and social service agencies that support families in need. They are your neighbors, your local small business owner, or the chef at your favorite restaurant. These ripples, once set in motion, continue indefinitely, their true reach impossible to quantify.

Throughout this report, you will find highlights of WATCP's outreach—groups we engage with to share the goals of Treatment Courts and Diversion programs in Wisconsin, rallies where we connect with hundreds both within and beyond the recovery community, and conferences where we educate criminal justice partners, illuminating the true purpose and power of treatment courts. Each week, I receive a steady stream of inquiries from

organizations across the state who seek to learn more about WATCP, our treatment courts, and opportunities for collaboration. These connections will become increasingly evident at future conferences, as new partners join us as exhibitors. You will also see their impact reflected in the continued growth of our Graduate Scholarship Fund, made possible by the generosity of our donors, allowing us to expand the number of scholarships we award each year building more recovery capital for treatment court graduates.

This year's annual conference was a testament to our collective efforts, bringing together over 700 criminal justice professionals—all united by a common purpose: to foster recovery, reduce recidivism, and strengthen the fabric of our communities. WI Supreme Court Justice Jill Karofsky delivered a stirring keynote address, reminding us of the core mission that drives our work each day and encouraging us "to use the criminal justice system not merely as a tool for punishment, but as a pathway to healing and restoration."

The milestones we celebrate are more than numbers or accomplishments—they signify lives transformed, families reunited, and communities made safer. Our approach is rooted in evidence-based practices, sustained by compassion, and propelled by collaboration and a shared vision of justice that heals. To each of you, I offer my heartfelt thanks for your unwavering dedication to this essential cause. It is an honor and a privilege to walk this path with you, and I look forward to all we will achieve together in the year ahead.

with resounding applause.

Jodi L. Severson
Executive Director, WATCP



We need to start, "...using the Criminal Justice System not only as a system of punishment, but as a system for healing."

Supreme Court Justice Jill Karofsky's keynote address to more than 700 participants at the 2025 Annual WATCP State Conference was a call to action for the criminal justice professionals gathered in the Wisconsin Dells for the three-day event. Judges, Prosecutors, Defense Counsel, Probation and Parole Agents, Coordinators, Case Managers, Treatment Providers, Law Enforcement Officers and Peer Support specialists who staff Wisconsin's more than 105 Treatment Courts covering 65 counties and five tribal nations, listened as Justice Karofsky reaffirmed the importance of the work that they do in these specialty courts designed to help high-risk, high-need individuals with a substance use disorder and/or mental health issues who are impacted by the criminal justice system. Treatment Courts have over 30 years of evidenced based research behind them that shows that when these courts remain faithful to the model, the result is a reduction in recidivism by people achieving long term recovery, which makes communities safer, and strengthens families through healing. Her message that Wisconsin needs to start, "...using the Criminal Justice System not only as a system of punishment, but a system for healing..." was met

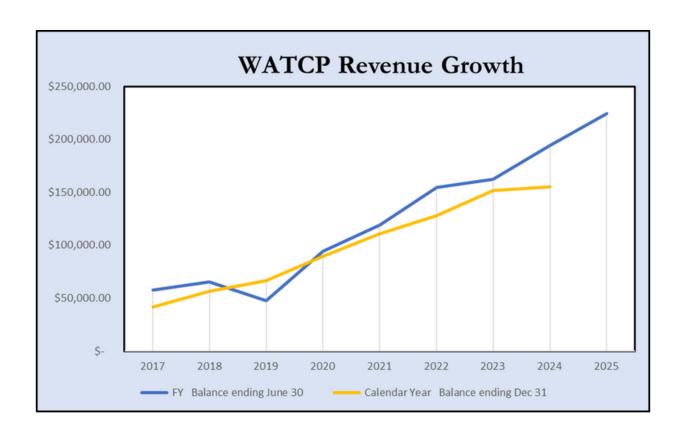
- WI Supreme Court Justice Jill Karofsky

Financial Report



Abigail Ziebell
Treasurer

WATCP remained in good financial standing at the end of FY 24-25. We officially became a 501(c)(3) non-profit on 5/29/24. Fiscally, that means we are able to save approximately \$4,000 annually in sales tax, and we are able to accept tax deductible donations to both our Graduate Scholarship and General Operating Funds. This change combined with judicious and efficent spending practices will help expand WATCP's outreach and other initiatives while keeping registration fees as low as possible.



Financial Report, Cont'd

For fiscal year ending June 30, 2024

	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	
Budgeted	\$269,195	\$256,544	Projected a \$(11,257) deficit
Actual	\$280,452	\$232,397	Ended with a \$24,147 surplus
Assets as of 6/30/24	\$194,309		

For fiscal year ending June 30, 2025:

	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES		
Budget	\$277,275	\$287,422	Projected \$29,538 surplus	
Actual	\$287,422	\$237,995	Ended with a \$49,427 surplus	
Assets as of 6/30/25	\$224,572		13% higher than FY 23-24	

Board of Directors 2025-2027

2025 was an election year for the WATCP. The 23 members of our Board include five Officers and 18 Directors--two from each position on a Treatment Court Team, and four At-Large Members who bring a combination of lived experience and/or a high level of institutional knowledge relating to treatment courts to their service on the Board.

As we welcome our new members, we extend our sincere appreciation to the following outgoing Board members who shared their knowledge and experience through their long service on our board. THANK YOU: **Judge Chad Hendee;** SPD Regional Attorney Manager, **Brad Schraven**, Retired Dodge County Prosecutor **Bob Barrington**; and Grant County Coordinator **Kristin Schier.** Thank you to Carol Morack as she transitions to Past-President, and to outgoing Past-President, **Kimberly Kitzberger**, who has agreed to stay on in an advisory role as chair of the Equity and Inclusion Committee.

OFFICERS



Amanda Parlow

President



Elizabeth Pohlman-McQuillen

President-Elect



Carol Morack
Past-President



Abigail Ziebell

Treasurer



Rebecca Foley Cramer

Secretary



Outgoing President Carol Morack and Past-President Kimberly Kitzberger



Board Member Robert Mann presents newly installed President Amanda Parlow with a ceremonial Ho-Chunk Blanket

WATCP Board 2025-2027 Cont'd

DIRECTORS



Hon. Jane Carroll



Amanda DeLeon Treatment



Linda Essman At Large



Carissa Meyer

Dept. of Corrections



Brooke Erickson
Prosecutor



Hon. Michael Haakenson Judicial



Atty. Jade Hall Public Defender



Hon. J.C. Moore At-Large



Atty. Jennifer Kelley
Public Defender



Atty. Jeri Marsolek
Prosecutor



Robert Mann Coordinator



Emily Miller Law Enforcemen



Tiffany Minguey



Jodie Muth Coordinator



Atty. Bridget Smith
At Large



Jeff Stycka
Dept. of Corrections

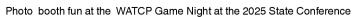


WISCONIN

Christopher Zahn At Large



Sheriff Mike Peterson Law Enforcement



Advisory Board

While WATCP's Board oversees the governance of the Association and directs the manner in which the Mission and Vision of WATCP are executed, the Board and the Executive Director also rely on the expertise of various partners in the justice system who have direct knowledge and experience with treatment courts and diversion programs across WI. These longstanding partnerships have been the foundation of WATCP since its start. We thank these active advisors for their collaboration and support of WATCP and its mission. Our big project that is in the works for 2026-26 is updating Wisconsin's Treatment Court Standards to reflect the National Standards, which we hope to release in the Spring of 2026.



Heather Kierzek

Evidence-Based Program Manager, Director of State Courts - Office of Court Operations



Marsha Schiszik

TAD Program Specialist, WI DOJ



Michael Derr

TAD Program Specialist, WI DOJ



Leilani Nino

Criminal Justice Coordinator, WI DHS



Hon. Elliott Levine

Past President and Chair of WATCP Standards Committee



Kim Kitzberger

Past President and Chair of WATCP E&I Committee

2024 CCM Conference - LaCrosse, WI



The indomitable Tamra Oman energizing the crowd



All aboard the LaCrosse Riverboat for a sunset cruise following a long day of training. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors like **Smart Start WI**, **Options Lab**, and **Justice Point** for making this excursion fun as well as tasty!



"Captain" Seversion at the helm

Introducing President Amanda Parlow

The Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) is proud to introduce Amanda Parlow as our newly elected President. Amanda brings to the role a deep commitment to justice, compassion for individuals in recovery, and a wealth of experience in the treatment court field. Amanda currently serves as a case manager with the Monroe County OWI Treatment Court, where she works directly with participants navigating recovery and reentry. Her professional journey includes prior service as a jailer, giving her a comprehensive view of the justice system and a firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders.

Amanda recently graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois. As a non-traditional student, she has balanced professional responsibilities with academic achievement—emerging as a strong advocate for trauma-informed, evidence-based practices, especially for underserved and marginalized populations. Her academic and professional work has focused on the intersections of justice, equity, and behavioral health. She has conducted research on recidivism, treatment court effectiveness, and the victimization of transgender individuals by law enforcement—highlighting her dedication to creating systems that are both accountable and compassionate.

Amanda is also deeply passionate about supporting and fundraising for WATCP's Graduate Scholarship Program, which provides educational opportunities for graduates of treatment courts across Wisconsin. She is committed to expanding and strengthening this fund, recognizing that access to education and vocational advancement is key to building recovery capital—the internal and external resources necessary to maintain long-term sobriety and stability. "Scholarships are more than a reward," Amanda explains. "They're an investment in a person's future, reinforcing the foundation of recovery and giving graduates the tools to thrive."

For Amanda, working with a treatment court was a turning point—not just in her career, but in her life. "It wasn't until I started working in a treatment court that I truly found home," she reflects. "Being able to walk alongside people as they go from the worst times in their lives to some of the most rewarding is the most fulfilling thing I've ever done. I couldn't imagine doing anything else. Before this, I never felt like more than a cog in the wheel. Now, as cliché as it may sound, I'm truly making a difference in people's lives—and that's everything."



As WATCP President, Amanda is also playing an active role in expanding organizational partnerships by bringing in new sponsors, vendors, and speakers to support the mission and enhance the quality of WATCP's conferences and professional development opportunities. Her focus on collaboration and outreach is helping to build a stronger, more connected community of professionals across the state.

Amanda is a firm believer in the power of teamwork and collaboration within treatment court teams. She emphasizes the importance of fostering a non-bullying, respectful atmosphere where all team members feel valued and heard. "When treatment court teams don't work together," Amanda says, "it's the program and, more importantly, the participants who suffer the consequences. Team cohesion isn't just a bonus—it's essential for the success of our mission." Her leadership promotes communication, shared accountability, and mutual respect as cornerstones of effective team-based practice.

A proud Wisconsin native, Amanda grew up in La Crosse and has called Sparta home for the past 17 years. Outside of her professional life, she embraces a rich and fulfilling personal life. Amanda is a partner in a polyamorous relationship and is a dedicated step-parent to two children living at home and six adult stepchildren. She's also a devoted animal lover, sharing her home with a lively mix of dogs, cats, crested geckos, and leopard geckos.

Amanda's leadership style is inclusive, grounded in lived experience, and focused on ethical practice, innovation, and long-term impact. Please join us in welcoming Amanda Parlow as the new President of WATCP. We are excited for the vision, energy, and dedication she brings to the role and to the statewide treatment court community.

Legislative Support

WATCP begn their partnership with the Mental Health Action Partnership (MHAP) in 2024. MHAP is a broad, sustainable coalition that aspires toward equitable access to and continuous imprrovement in integrated mental health care throughout Wisconsin. As a result of this partnership, WATCP signed on as supporters of a number of MHAP's Legislative Initiatiatives submitted for consideration to the WI Legislature in March, 2025. The following are those initiatives we supported as they align with WATCPs Mission and those of our membership.

- Clubhouse Programs
- <u>Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)</u>
- Independent Ombudsman to Oversee DOC Compliance with the ADA
- Certified Peer Specialists Services
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)
- Qualified Treatment Trainees (QTT)
- State Health Care Provider Loan Assistance Programs
- TAD Expansion to Address Mental Illness

WATCP Position Statement

Impact of Federal Funding Cuts to Wisconsin Treatment Courts 7/1/2025



It is well established that Treatment Courts are the nation's most effective criminal justice alternative in reducing recidivism by high-risk/high-need justice-impacted individuals who suffer from mental health and/or substance use disorders. Since 1996, Wisconsin's treatment courts have expanded to more than 105 courts serving 61 counties and five tribal nations. In almost 30 years, these courts have reduced substance abuse and crime, saved lives, reunited families, saved taxpayer money, and are making communities safer across the state. While many of these courts, are now supported by local and state funds, almost all were initially funded by state or federal grants. Even mature programs still rely on grant funding to provide incentives, transportation, health care, employment and vocational training, and other complementary services critical to their operation and to the success of participants.

As the name implies, treatment courts require justice-involved people to connect with and participate in treatment. As such, these courts rely on hundreds of skilled providers at the state and federal level to deliver treatment and other services that hold participants accountable, and inform the court on their progress. For many participants, these services are funded by county human services agencies (DHS) and Medicaid. In an April 28, 2025 report by DHS, Wisconsin Medicaid Director Bill Hanna stated, "Wisconsin's Medicaid program is an essential part of our state's health care and public health systems and economy. Simply put, we can't have a healthy and strong Wisconsin without a healthy and strong Medicaid program. Massive cuts like those proposed by Congress would put our people, our health care system, and our economy at risk."1

Treatment courts retain the title of "the most effective criminal justice alternative", through 30 years of data collection, research studies and extensive use of best practices. This ongoing research and extensive training of those serving on treatment courts, much of which is funded by grants administered by federal agencies through technical assistance grants. In the May, 2025 DOJ Funding Update: A Deeper Look at the Cuts2, the 373 terminated grants from the DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) by the current Administration ended \$819.7 million dollars in funding to programs that supported, among other programs, substance use and mental health treatment, correction and reentry programs, justice system enhancements, research and evaluation and other state and local level public safety functions. The deepest cuts were "to organizations that provide training and technical assistance to OJP grantees and the field at large." The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) that annually provides national trainers at WATCP's state conferences that trains upwards of 700 criminal justice professionals serving on WI treatment courts, lost \$3.9 million dollars of funding. Likewise, Milwaukee County lost \$3.2 million dollars in justice program funding through federal grants, and cuts to research on Opioid addiction, substance use disorder, mental health treatment, and efficacy of reentry programs suffered a \$6.7 million cuts. (Justice, May, 2025).

Thus, reductions in staffing, grants, and treatment funds resulting from these and other recent policy changes at the federal level will have a direct and negative impact on the success of treatment courts and the safety of our communities. As Wisconsin's only advocacy organization for treatment courts, WATCP strongly supports continued robust funding for treatment, justice-related grants, and the professionals who work with justice-impacted persons. State and local governments cannot make up for the loss of federal funds and services. Without this all-important funding, the "third leg" the stool will topple, and Wisconsin communities will all suffer for it. Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi L. Severson Executive Director WATCP Amanda L. Parlow, President, WATCP

Sources

^{1.} WI DHS Highlights Impact of Federal Budget Cuts on Wisconsin Medicaid Members: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/042825.htm

^{2.} Council on Criminal Justice/ DOJ Funding Update: https://counciloncj.org/doj-funding-update-a deeper-look-at-the-cuts/

^{3.} Modeling the Impact of Congressional Budget Cuts on Wisconsin Medicaid: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/fed-medicaid-cuts-full-2025.pdf

Outreach

WATCP's mission goes beyond educating treatment court professionals at our annual conferences, Pre-conference workshops and regional Standards Trainings; it also involves informing the Criminal Justice System, Legislature, and general public about the effectiveness of treatment courts to ensure ongoing support for Wisconsin's Treatment and Diversion programs. In 2024-25, WATCP increased its outreach efforts by attending statewide listening sessions on mental health and SUD topics, exhibiting at conferences and partnering with the State Courts, DOJ, and State Bar to provide treatment court 101 information to the WI Counties Association, criminal justice professionals, and the members of the State Bar. These efforts aim to build partnerships and raise awareness among justice professionals and the public about the value of Treatment Courts and Diversion Programs for justice-impacted individuals with SUD and MH issues. Below are highlights from our 2024-25 Outreach Efforts.

September 2024

- Voices for Recovery Rally, Madison WI- Ally Sponsor/Exhibitor
- Exhibitor: WI Correctional Association Annual Conference

October 2024

 Dedication of the Ho-Chunk Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Walking Trail

November, 2024:

• State Public Defender Annual Conference Exhibitor

December 2024

 Observe Monroe County OWI Court and attend an OWI Court Graduation

February 2025

• WI Police Leadership Foundation Winter Conference

March 2025

- WI Counties Association Meeting: Treatment Court 101 Presentation
- Wausau Treatment Court Standards Training by State Courts/DOJ
- State Bar Presentation on Treatment Courts for WISBAR Members

May 2025

- MHAP Listening Session Madison
- Rice Lake Treatment Court Standards Training by State Courts/DOJ
- All Rise WI State Association Meeting

June 2025

 Ho-Chunk THWC People Helping People Recovery Event in conjunction with Three Bridges & Wood County Adult Treatment Court, Wisconsin Rapids



WATCP Initiatives

WATCP GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS A SUCCESS!

Launched in Aprill, 2024 with our "Tie a Knot" campaign featuring a concert by singer songwriter, Chris Kroeze, the WATCP Graduate Scholarship Fund has raised more than \$10,000 in it's first year. As a result of many generous donors, WATCP was able to award seven \$500 scholarships to deserving graduates from Wisconsin's Treatment Courts who are pursing higher education. Congratulations to:

- A 2019 Graduate of Marathon County Treatment Court who is currently a Recovery Case Manager, and now pursuing a Bachelor's of Social Work Degree majoring in Social Work and Criminal Justice at UW-Stevens Point.
- A 2024 Graduate of Barron County Family Recovery Court who is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work through UW-Eau Claire, Barron County
- A 2024 Graduate of Marathon County Drug Recovery Court who is working on her Business Operations Certificate at NW-Technical College
- A 2024 Graduate of Grant County Drug Treatment Court pursing a Bachelors Degree in Psychology with a Social Work Certificate through Upper Iowa University.
- A 2025 Graduate of Ho-Chunk Healing to Wellness Court pursing an Associate Degree in Digital Marketing at Chippewa Valley Technical College.
- A 2024 Graduate of Sauk County Adult Treatment Court pursing an Associate Degree in Human Resources Management.
- A 2014 Graduate of the Eau Claire AIM Court pursing an Associate Degree in Substance Use Disorder Counseling at Northcentral Technical College.

If you know a Graduate of a Wisconsin Treatment Court, help them build their own recovery capital by encouraging them to apply for a WATCP scholarship at this link aslo found on our website: https://www.watcp.org/graduate-scholarship-application/



Thank you to the many businesses and individuals who made these scholarships possible:



Awards and Recognition

2025 Aulik Award Recipient- Matt Raymer (Posthumous)



WATCP posthumously recognized former DOJ Justice Programs Supervisor, Matt Raymer, for his invaluable contributions to expanding TAD funding throughout the state. "If you operate a treatment court with TAD funds, you owe thanks to Matt Raymer."

The award was received by Matt's family during the 2025 State Conference, with support from DOC Secretary Jared Hoy, former colleagues at the DOJ Renee Lushaj and Heather Kierzek, and WATCP Board Member Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen.

2025 Hero Award Recipients



L-R: T. Minguey, R. Lessard, S. Benedict, J. Poupart, K. Deines, and J. Kubicki

Recognizing that it takes many dedicated and extraordinary professionals to sustain the good work of treatment courts across Wisconsin. The WATCP Hero Award is meant to shine a spotlight of commendation on an individual demonstrating exemplary service to a Wisconsin Problem Solving Court.

At the 2025 State Conference in April, WATCP awarded six Hero Awards to the following deserving treatment Court Professionals:

- Tiffany Minguey- Rock County
- Krysti Deines Eau Claire County
- Ron Lessard Barron County
- Sara Benedict- Dunn County
- Julie Poupart- Zaagiibaggaa Tribal Healing to Wellness Court
- Jordan Kubicki- Winnebago County

Membership Highlights

WATCP's Membership has been very active this year. Below are a few of the highlights.

2025 National All Rise Conference- Florida



Marquette County presented their model for incorporating Law Enforcement into their Treatment Court Program at the National All Rise Conference in Florida.



Ashland County Team at All Rise



WATCP State Association Meeting



WATCP Board Member Judge Chad Hendee honored as Wisconsin Judge of the Year.



WATCP Pres. Elect Elizabeth Pohlman-McQuillin (front row, center) joins All Rise to help train impaired-driving treatment court teams in Minnesota.



WATHWC President and WATCP Board Member Robert Mann presents at All Rise with Tribal Law and Policy Institute.

Corporate Sponsors and Partnerships

WATCP gratefully acknowledges the support of our Corporate Sponsors. Their support along with the support of vendors and non-profit exhibitors help us keep the cost of conferences within reach of all treatment court professionals and allows us to continue to bring expert trainers to our stage at each of our conferences.



Gold Level Sponsors













Silver Level Sponsors









Corporate Sponsors and Partnerships, Cont'd



Bronze Level Sponsors



















Valued Partners:











Contacting WATCP



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The Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) is a non-governmental professional organization representing the interests of treatment courts and the professionals who serve on them in WI. WATCP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations made to either our general operating fund, or our Graduate Scholarship Program are tax deductible.

Follow the QR code below to support the work of WATCP and treatment courts throughout Wisconsin.



