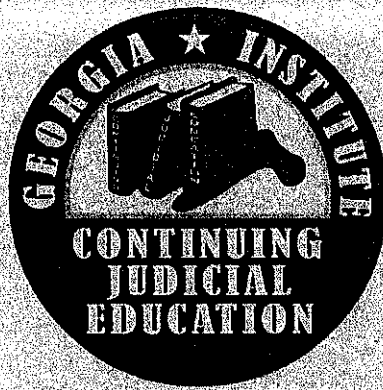


Accountability Courts



Ms. Taylor Jones

An Accountability Court Overview and How to Get Started

Ms. Taylor Jones
Executive Director
Council of Accountability Court Judges



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What Are We Going to Cover Today?

- Georgia accountability court overview
 - Statutes, target population, and maps
- How do I get started?
 - Initial planning steps
 - Steps to take to best work with the state (CACJ and CJCC)
 - State funds have been awarded – what's next?
- How do I keep it going?



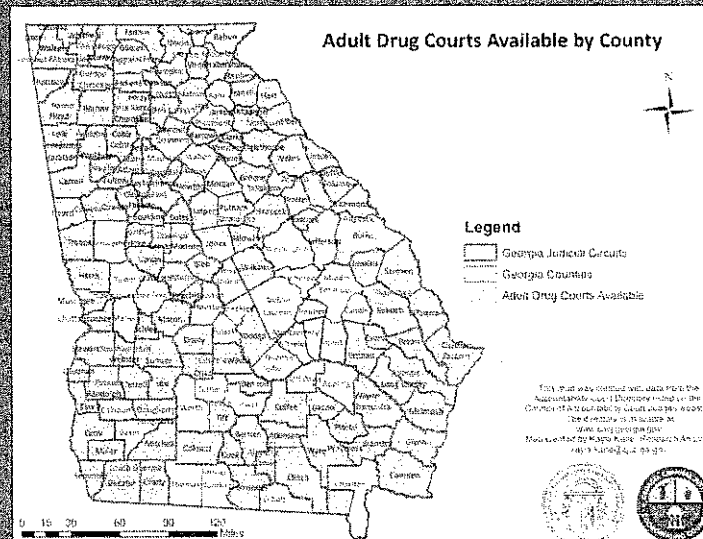
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Adult Felony Drug Court

- O.C.G.A. 15-1-15.
- Target population – criminal cases that arise from the use, sale, possession, delivery, distribution, purchase, or manufacture of a controlled substance, dangerous drug, or other drug.
- Candidate must be diagnosed with a substance-use disorder and/or a co-occurring disorder. If a co-occurring disorder is present the court should be able to accommodate mental health services.
- Candidate must score moderate-to-high risk on a CACJ approved standardized assessment (LS/CMI, START, RANT).



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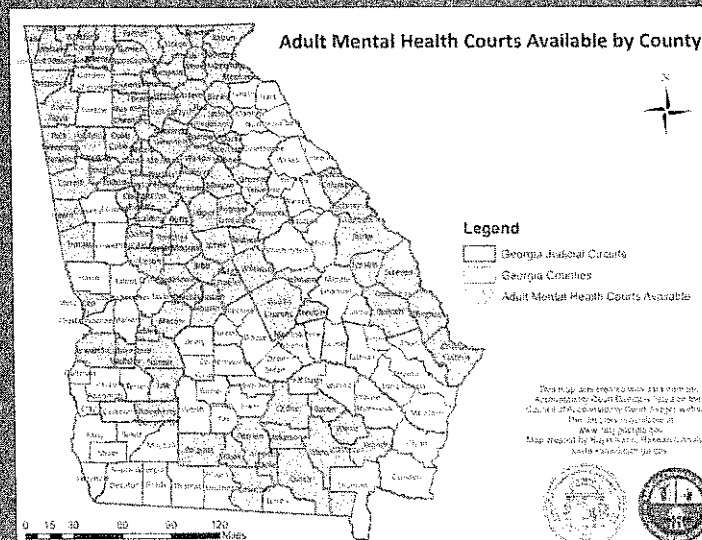
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Adult Mental Health Court

- O.C.G.A. 15-1-16.
- Target population – criminal cases in which a defendant has a mental illness or developmental disability, or a co-occurring disorder.
- Candidate must suffer from a mental illness, developmental disability, or a co-occurring disorder. If a co-occurring disorder is present the court should be able to accommodate substance abuse services.
- Candidate must score moderate-to-high risk on a CACJ approved standardized assessment (LS/CMI, START, and RANT).
- Defendants charged with murder, armed robbery, rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, or child molestation shall not be eligible, except in the case of a separate court supervised reentry program designed to more closely monitor mentally ill offenders returning to the community after serving a term of incarceration.



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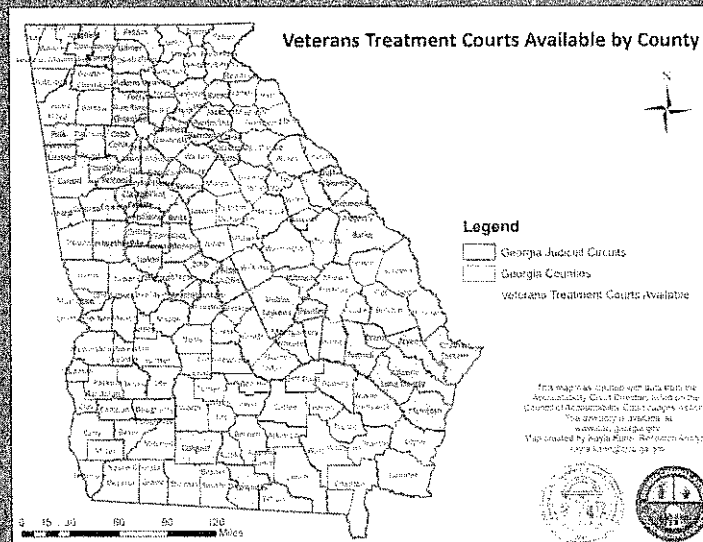
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Veterans Treatment Court

- O.C.G.A. 15-1-17.
- Target population – defendant must be a veteran and has committed a criminal offense.
- Candidate must score moderate-to-high risk on a CACJ approved standardized assessment (LS/CMI, START, and RANT).
- Defendants charged with murder, armed robbery, rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, or child molestation shall not be eligible, except in the case of a separate court supervised reentry program designed to more closely monitor veterans returning to the community after serving a term of incarceration.



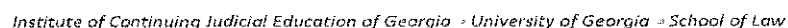
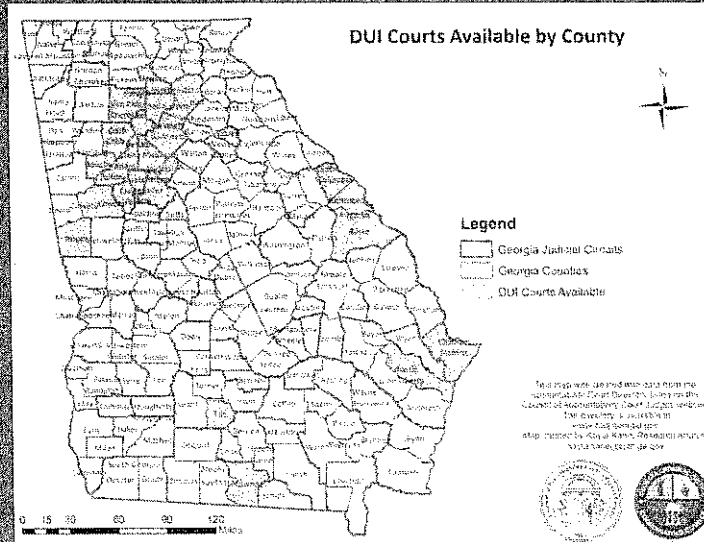
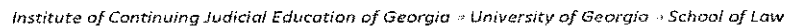
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OUI (DUI) Court

- O.C.G.A. 15-1-19.
- Target population – a defendant that has violated Code Section 40-6-391 or 52-7-12 may participate in an operating under the influence court division.
- Target population included within state standards - should be multiple DUI offenders with a minimum of two DUIs in five years or three or more DUIs in a lifetime. Courts may grant a case-by-case exception when an offender has a first DUI charge, other alcohol related offenses, or a history of substance abuse or addiction.
- In any case which arises from a violation of Code Section 40-6-391 or 52-7-12 or is ancillary to such conduct and the defendant meets the eligibility criteria for the operating under the influence court division, the court may assign the case to the operating under the influence court division.
- Candidate must score moderate-to-high risk on a CACJ approved standardized assessment (LS/CMI, START, and RANT).

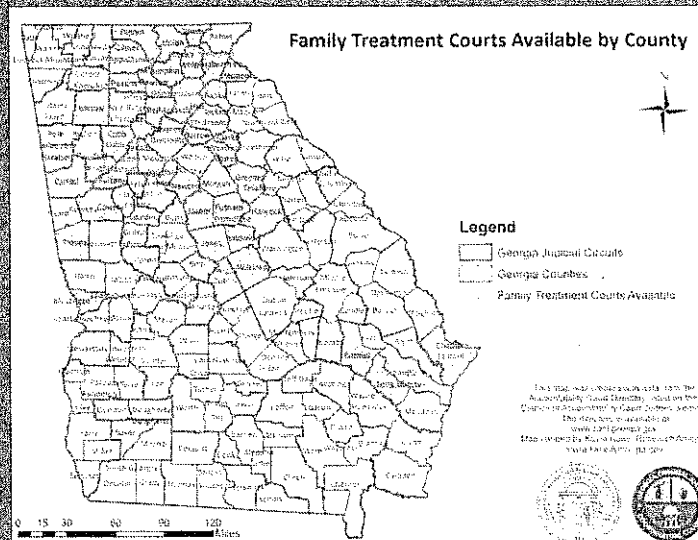


Family Treatment Court

- O.C.G.A. 15-11-70.
- Target population – respondents that want to reduce alcohol or drug abuse and addiction in dependency proceedings; and improve permanency outcomes when dependency is based on alcohol or drug use and addiction.
- Any juvenile court may establish a family treatment court division to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for the disposition of dependency cases and for assisting superior courts with criminal cases referred under Ccode Section 15-11-15.
- A risk and needs assessment must be used to identify program candidates. Statute does not indicate that the candidates must be moderate-to-high risk.



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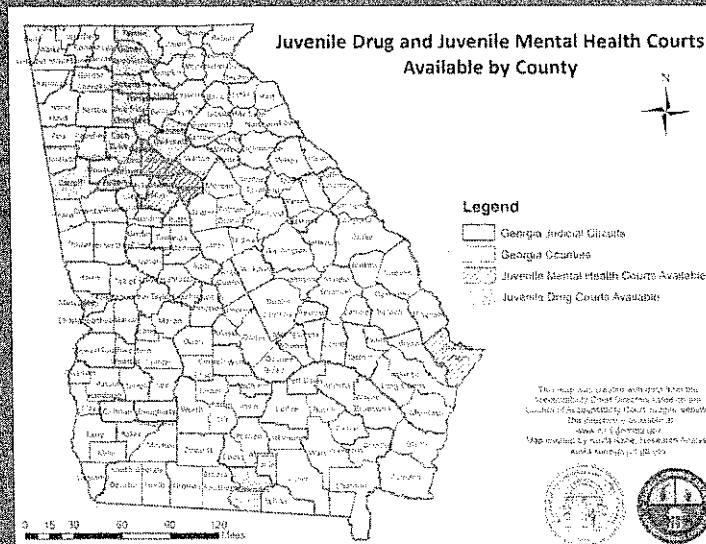
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Juvenile Accountability Court

- This court type does not have enabling legislation.
- State standards were developed prior to the formation of CACJ.
- CACJ voted to adopt standards for this court type.
- CACJ provides some technical assistance, grant funding, and training. Our current purview is limited.
- Juvenile drug court divisions and mental health court divisions currently operate under much of the same guidance as their adult counterparts.



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How Do I Get Started? Step #1

- It is a local decision to start an accountability court. As yourself these questions:
 - Is there an unmet need?
 - Do you have the cases to support the court?
- Veterans Treatment Court example.
- Review applicable statute – can you meet these requirements?
- Review applicable state standards – can you meet these requirements?
- Engage/meet with stakeholders (prosecutors, defense, law enforcement, detention center, clerk's office, BOC, finance department, and the treatment community at this point.



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How Do I Get Started? Step #2

- Start to identify funding resources:
 - State Grant – annual opportunity
 - Requires 12% match requirement beginning in FY23
 - Not designed to be the only fund source for the court
 - Local Funds – Ask early and ask often
 - Federal Funds – lots of opportunities for implementation funds (BJA is the big one); Annual opportunity
 - DATE Funds – O.C.G.A. 15-21-101
 - How much is available?
 - Who is currently utilizing this fund source in our jurisdiction?
- Think about sustainability from the very beginning.



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How Do I Get Started?

Step #3

- Begin to work on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between team members. This is your planning group (see statutes).
 - Identify treatment providers in the community.
 - Define roles and responsibilities upfront.
 - Don't be afraid to get specific.
 - Will need to develop standard operating procedures as an extension of the MOU.
 - Define a specific referral process.
 - What about drug testing and home visits?
 - MOU examples are available via CACJ and established courts.



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How Do I Get Started?

Step #4

- **Contact CACJ!!** There are several important tasks to complete.
 - Complete the Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for funds.
 - Complete a certification waiver. Must be certified or operating under a waiver to be able to receive state funds per statute.
 - Complete the Court Operating Profile.
 - Apply for state funds.



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How Do I Get Started? Step #5

- Okay, I have received a grant award from the state – now what??
 - Start service contracts (treatment, drug testing, etc.).
 - Advertise and hire a court coordinator (if not already done so).
 - Connect with or visit a mentor court.
 - Start to develop a policy and procedure manual.
 - Start to develop a participant handbook.
 - Start to hold team staff meetings even if you do not have participants. These meetings can be used for planning purposes.



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How Do I Get Started? Step #6

- Attend trainings!
 - New judge orientation.
 - New coordinator orientation.
 - Accountability court annual training conference.
 - New treatment provider orientation.
 - Implementation team training.
 - Online webinars and publications – NDCI and CCI.



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How Do I Get Started?

Step #7

- **Advertise your court! Yes, you need to market your court. ☺**
 - Create informational flyers and pass them out in applicable places.
 - Meet with your local bar.
 - Meet with law enforcement – they are a great source of referrals. They are the “eyes and ears” of the court.
 - Meet with the detention center. Develop a referral process between them and the prosecutor's office.
 - Start to meet with members of the community (civic organizations). Share with them your purpose and goals. Making these connections can serve as the beginning steps of forming an advisory board for the court.



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How Do I Get Started?

Step #8

- **Start accepting participants – take the plunge!**
- **Continue to plan and refine. NO court is perfect out of the gate. You will make mistakes.**
- **It can take between 3 and 5 years for an implementation court to fully develop.**
- **Commit to training. It will be an ongoing process. New trends continually emerge within accountability courts. Utilize CACJ and national TA providers – there are a lot of FREE trainings available.**



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How Do I Keep It All Going? Step #9

- Apply for and achieve CACJ certification.
- Participate in the peer review process.
- Collect, manage, and report data.
- Keep applying for funding.
- Develop standard operating procedures.
- Expand services when needed.



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Questions and Answers

Thank You!



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