The National Judicial Opioid Task Force
Introduction

The misuse of opioids is affecting the administration of justice across the United States. State courts handle 95% of all litigation in the country and are positioned to play a crucial role in combatting the opioid epidemic.

To address the issue and promote solutions, the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) established the National Judicial Opioid Task Force (NJOTF) in August 2017.

The NJOTF will make recommendations to courts at every level to support the Judiciary and help individuals make a successful recovery.

Task Force Members

Members of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force convened in Indianapolis in June 2018. The Task Force includes representatives from 24 states, most of whom are pictured above.
Task Force Co-Chairs

HONORABLE LORETTA H. RUSH
Chief Justice, Indiana Supreme Court

DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE
Administrative Director
Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HONORABLE MARK S. CADY
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Iowa

NANCY DIXON
Judicial Administrator, Kansas Office of Judicial Administration

MARCIA M. MEIS
Director, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

HONORABLE PAUL L. REIBER
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Vermont

HONORABLE JUDITH K. NAKAMURA
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of New Mexico

COREY R. STEEL
State Court Administrator, Nebraska Supreme Court
## Task Force Workgroups

### Children and Families
- **Chief Justice Mark Cady (IA)**
- **Marcia Meis (IL)**
- **Judge Tony Capizzi (OH)**
- **Shawn Cohn (CO)**
- **Judge Lucinda Masterton (KY)**
- **Sandra Moore (PA)**
- **Judge Alan Summers (AL)**
- **Judge Lynn Tepper (FL)**

### Civil and Criminal Justice
- **Chief Justice Judith Nakamura (NM)**
- **Nancy Dixon (KS)**
- **Judge Shaun Floerke (MN)**
- **Judge Craig Hannah (NY)**
- **Sandi Hoppough (AZ)**
- **Amy Kingery (CO)**
- **Judge Mary Jane Knisely (MT)**
- **Judge Charles Peters (MD)**
- **Judge Duane Slone (TN)**

### Collaboration and Education
- **Chief Justice Paul Reiber (VT)**
- **Corey Steel (NE)**
- **Chief Justice Mary Ellen Barbera (MD)**
- **Lee Ann Barnhardt (ND)**
- **Chief Justice Paula Carey (MA)**
- **Greg Lambard (NJ)**
- **Melanie Meadows (VA)**
- **Chief Justice Tina Nadeau (NH)**
- **Judge Gregory Pinski (MT)**
5 Guiding Principles for State Courts

A Comprehensive Approach
The justice system should lead the way in delivering solutions to the opioid epidemic at every intersection point of the justice system.

All Hands on Deck
Judges should maximize their roles as coveners, bringing together government agency and community stakeholders to address the opioid epidemic.

Individualized Treatment and Services
Courts should ensure that treatment services target the individual’s needs.

Protecting Children and Supporting Families
Interventions should incorporate a continuum of treatment strategies, recovery support services and expeditious placement of children in a safe, stable environment.

Making a Difference and Measuring Success
The courts should use data-driven decision-making approaches and establish robust data collection and quality assurance to use data for objectively assessing performance.
Task Force Activities

- Deliverables
- Policy Development
- Dissemination
Opioid Resource Center for Courts

National Judicial Opioid Task Force

Resource Center for Courts

The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) formed the National Judicial Opioid Task Force (NJOTF) to examine current efforts and find solutions to address the opioid epidemic. The work of the NJOTF is undertaken by three workgroups: Children and Families, Civil and Criminal Justice, and Collaboration and Education.

This Resource Center includes products created by the NJOTF. Workgroups and highlights a broad array of additional resources pertinent to the justice system and the opioid crisis from a variety of sources. NJOTF products and other resources will be added continuously as the courts and their partners continue to battle this devastating crisis.

Featured Resources

- **Task Force Products**: Tools created by the National Judicial Opioid Task Force to assist courts in addressing the opioid crisis.
- **Understanding Substance Use Disorders and the Opioid Epidemic**: Information about addiction, substance use disorder, opioid use disorder, and the history and scope (state and national statistics) of the opioid epidemic.

ONGOING EFFORTS

- **National Judicial Opioid Task Force**
- **Opioids and the Courts**

NOW AVAILABLE

- **Resource Center for Courts**
- Fentanyl, Carfentanil, and Their Analogs in the Courthouse

www.ncsc.org/opioids
Confronting a crisis. Promoting solutions. Describes the creation and work of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force’s Five Principles for the Courts.

Understanding Addiction: A New Perspective
Informative video explanation of the physiology of addiction.

PDMPs and the Courts: Part 1
Recording of Part One in a series on PDMPs and how they are used in the justice system.

PDMPs and the Courts: Part 2
Slides for Part Two in the series on PDMPs and how they are used in the justice system.

www.ncsc.org/opioids
Children and Families

NJOTF Tools and Resources for Courts

Trauma, Substance Use, and Justice System Involved Children

Raises awareness of the impact the opioid epidemic has on children and families and shares examples of strategies courts have adopted to become more trauma-informed and trauma-responsive to youth and their families.

The Court’s Role in Reshaping the Child Welfare System to Focus on Prevention

Takeaways from a National Judicial Opioid Task Force webinar featuring Jerry Milner and David Kelly from the Children’s Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families.

Parent Partner Programs – Promising Practice to Keep Families Struggling with Substance Use Disorder Together

Discusses how some states are using parent partner programs to improve reunification outcomes and foster increased trust and confidence in the child welfare and juvenile court systems.

Medication-Assisted Treatment for Adolescents with Opioid Use Disorder

Resource to educate justice system professionals about opioid use disorder, key issues surrounding medication-assisted treatment, the evidence that underlies treatment types, best practices, and legal implications.
Understanding the Basics of Addiction
Provides the basics of addiction including contributing factors, treatment, and innovative court programs being used to combat the opioid crisis.

Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder
Discusses key issues surrounding medication assisted treatment (MAT), the evidence that underlies treatment types for opioid use disorder, best practices, and legal implications.

Involuntary Commitment and Guardianship Laws for Persons with a Substance Use Disorder
List of states that have enacted involuntary commitment and guardianship laws for those suffering from alcoholism and/or substance use disorders.

Fentanyl, Carfentanil, and their Analogs in the Courthouse
Information on Fentanyl, carfentanil, and their analogs; and precautionary measures implemented by courts.

Naloxone Use in the Courthouse – A Judicial Bench Card
Describes the signs of overdose, what to do if one occurs, how naloxone can be used to reverse the toxic effects of an overdose, and suggestions for a naloxone policy.

The Fundamentals of Screening and Assessment in the Justice System
Describes the purpose of substance use disorder screening and assessment, available tools, and examples of its successful use in courts.

Promising Strategies in Providing Opioid Use Disorder Treatment to Rural, Frontier, and other Underserved Communities.
Information on barriers to treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in rural areas and what some states are doing to overcome those barriers.
Tribal-State Court Forums: Addressing the Opioid Crisis  Collaboration between state and tribal courts regarding the opioid crisis.

Sample Court Transfer Agreement - State and Tribal Courts  Designed and recommended for use in jurisdictions where state court judges – especially those who preside over adult drug court programs – operate in proximity to the location of a Tribal Healing to Wellness Court.

Tribal Cultural Competency Information for Judges  Provides basic information to state judges and court employees who interact with members of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities in their courts.

Creating a Local or Regional Judicial Opioid Task Force  Provides an outline for starting a regional or local judicial opioid task force.

SUD Dictionary for State Courts  Resource for judges and court staff involved with substance use disorder (SUD) issues. Includes technical terms, acronyms, and references used by medical and treatment professionals.

Words Matter – Judicial Language and Substance Use Disorders  Research-based recommendations of specific language and phrases judges can use to effectively communicate with individuals with substance use disorder.

Sample Court Transfer Agreement - State and Federal Courts  Document designed and recommended for use in jurisdictions where state court judges – especially those who preside over adult drug court programs – operate in proximity to the location of a federal district court.
The Task Force has also partnered with the American Association of Addiction Psychiatry and the National Judicial College to create curriculum and host judicial education “train the trainer” events later in 2019.