

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

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LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

NO COST PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR COURT AND COUNTY LEADERS

Rulo Strategies and the National Association of Counties, in partnership with Praxis Consulting (the Project Team), and funding from the State Justice Institute, are pleased to announce a peer exchange opportunity for county and court representatives to travel to an innovative site to learn from the hosts and exchange ideas with the other attendees. The following two Innovative sites will serve as the host locations for the peer exchange opportunities:

- Yavapai County, Ariz. (April 2-3, 2024), featuring programs, services, facilities, and community coalition partners supporting individuals with behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system. During the site visit, attendees will learn more about the Yavapai County Community Coalition, the Reentry Center, and mobile crisis and co-responder programs. For more information on Yavapai County work, visit [here](#).
- Host To Be Announced (Tentatively, the week of May 13 or June 3, 2024), featuring programs and strategies to address mental health, community violence, and housing challenges. This site visit will also be two days in length.

Successful applicants will be provided a travel scholarship to cover the costs of the two participants per application.

Applications due: February 2, 2024. For more information or to apply, see [here](#).



RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Rural communities face unique challenges that impact their ability to deliver fair and equitable justice. Despite these challenges, rural communities rely on their many strengths to address the needs of their residents.

The National Center for State Courts, in partnership with Rulo Strategies, launched the [Rural Justice Collaborative \(RJC\)](#) to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlight the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems.

The work under the RJC is supported by a cross-sector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council guides and identifies innovative programs and practices.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

RETENTION IN TELEHEALTH TREATMENT FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER AMONG RURAL POPULATIONS: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

While telemedicine models of care for individuals with OUD are an effective alternative to in-person care, few studies have examined the outcomes of telemedicine-delivered OUD treatment among rural patients. This study explores retention in care and medication adherence among individuals residing in rural areas and receiving telemedicine treatment for OUD.

ADDRESSING RURAL HEALTH DISPARITIES REQUIRES TRUST, DATA, AND A FOCUS ON EQUITY

Rural communities nationwide are creating innovative solutions to meet their local health needs. The Urban Institute, in partnership with the [Partners for Rural Transformation \(PRT\)](#), recently completed a [guidebook](#) and hosted a [hybrid event](#) to help rural practitioners collaborate, use data, and access financing to advance rural health equity. Event speakers discussed the challenges and solutions for strengthening rural healthcare access and addressing health disparities, highlighting community-driven innovations focusing on [persistent poverty counties](#).

WHAT MAKES A PEER? CHARACTERISTICS OF CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALISTS IN AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT-BASED INTERVENTION

Providing brief interventions by certified peer recovery support specialists (CPRSS) in Emergency Departments following a drug-related visit is a promising method of service that has garnered national attention. This study examines CPRSS' perceptions of the qualities that enable them to deliver interventions in emergency department settings. Qualitative interviews were performed with CPRSS' working in Emergency Departments within two hospital systems in Nevada, a large, primarily rural Western state. Relationship building, communication skills, and shared lived experience, as well as other context-specific attributes, were identified as vital components for their work with people who use drugs.



RECENT INCARCERATION, SUBSTANCE USE, OVERDOSE, AND SERVICE USE AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

To explore the association between recent incarceration, overdose, and access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment among rural people who use drugs, a cross-sectional survey of 2,935 individuals was performed across 10 US states in rural counties with high rates of overdose. The study found that 42% of respondents had been incarcerated or jailed in the preceding six months and that recent incarceration was associated with both markers of more severe SUD and heightened barriers to accessing SUD treatment.

HOUSELESSNESS AND SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAM UTILIZATION AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

Research conducted in urban areas has highlighted the impact of housing instability on people who inject drugs demonstrating that it exacerbates vulnerability to drug-related harms and impedes syringe service program use. However, few studies have explored the effects of houselessness on syringe service program use among rural people who inject drugs. This study examines the relationship between houselessness and syringe service program utilization among people who inject drugs in eight rural areas across ten states. Findings show that rural people who experience houselessness and inject drugs utilize syringe service programs at similar or higher rates as their housed counterparts. However, housing instability may pose barriers to more frequent use.

PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES RELATED TO SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER IN SOUTHERN U.S. JAILS

This report presents findings from interviews conducted with personnel from a sample of jails that varied in size and rurality within a five-state study area. The goals of the analyses were to 1) describe jail health care services for SUD and barriers to service provision, 2) compare current practices to best practice recommendations, and 3) provide context by describing factors at the jail and community level that influence service provision, such as access to resources. Interviewees described wide variability in the availability and comprehensiveness of SUD-related healthcare services.

JUDICIAL CONNECTIONS SERIES

PEER-TO-PEER CONVERSATIONS

This Judicial Connections Series is intended for judicial officers in rural localities. The facilitated discussion is on enhancing responses to domestic violence in rural jurisdictions. The one-hour sessions begin on February 14, 2024, and the first topic is *Creating Domestic Violence Compliance Dockets*. This series is supported by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges with funds from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. For additional information, email contactus@ncjfcj.org. To register, click [here](#).

PODCASTS

RURAL ROADS - THE RCORPODCAST. 34: FAMILY PERSPECTIVES WITH ROBERT CHILDS AND TANYA SMITH

“Parent Perspectives” talks to family members who have lost a loved one to an overdose. This episode features Tanya Smith, Director for the Office of Victim Services at Kennesaw State University and former law enforcement officer. After losing her 20-year-old daughter to a fatal overdose in 2013, Smith became an outspoken advocate for opioid education. [Thanks to her efforts](#), KSU became the first university police department in Georgia and one of the first in the United States to train campus police to carry naloxone in 2014. She also successfully lobbied for a new medical amnesty law in Georgia that allowed people to call 911 without fear of arrest for possession or drug use. KSU also has a student, staff, and faculty training program through a campus recovery center.

COURT LEADER’S ADVANTAGE PODCAST EPISODE: REMOTE HEARINGS AND SUBURBAN & RURAL COURTS

Suburban and rural courts often face distinctive issues, differing from very small courts and the problems that massive metropolitan court organizations face. This episode considers remote hearings from the perspective of suburban and rural courts. Panel members include:

- Angie VanSchoick: Town Clerk and Court Administrator for the Municipal Court in the town of Silverthorne, Colorado
- Stacey Fields: Court Administrator for the Municipal Court in Crestwood, Missouri
- Danielle Trujillo: Court Administrator for the Municipal Court in the City of Littleton, Colorado
- Frank Maiocco: Court Administrator for the Superior Court in Kitsap County, Washington