

Title
Good News on the Effectiveness of JDTCs: Findings from the JDTC Guidelines Study

Presenters/Bios

Dr. Martha-Elin Blomquist is a Senior Site Manager for the Juvenile Law Programs at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). She has more than a decade of experience in site management work with the NCJFCJ and over 35 years of experience related to child welfare, juvenile justice, and court systems. Dr. Blomquist provides training and technical assistance to juvenile drug treatment courts to assist them with implementing recommended practice. She has provided on-site training and technical assistance to courts involved in NCJFCJ's Model Courts and Project ONE projects to plan and carry out systems change in both child welfare and juvenile justice. As the NCJFCJ's liaison with the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), Dr. Blomquist works with members of the AECF Juvenile Justice Strategy Group to involve judges in collaboration with state juvenile correctional administrators, probation departments, and community-based organizations to promote therapeutic interventions, adolescent-appropriate services, and community connections for youths involved in serious delinquency. Her projects focus on developing and providing training and technical assistance to court and child-serving system stakeholders to help them address pressing issues. Dr. Blomquist holds a master's and Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy from the University of California Berkeley School of Law where she specialized in juvenile and criminal justice studies and research. She has taught in women's studies and criminal justice programs at several universities, has been an author or co-author of various publications issued by the NCJFCJ as well as by peer-reviewed journals, and has been a speaker at several national conferences.

Length: 60 min

Session Description

This module provides an overview of the recently completed multi-site study of juvenile drug treatment courts (JDTCs) that implement the recommended practices set forth in the JDTC Guidelines. The speaker will review the study's key findings on the impact of JDTCs, particularly with high-risk high-need youth with substance use disorders (SUD). Compared to traditional juvenile courts (TJs), JDTCs are more effective in reducing substance use – especially cannabis - reducing recidivism, increasing access to behavioral health services, and reducing self-reported mental health symptoms. The speaker will also address opportunities - that the research findings suggest – for JDTCs to increase youth access to and engagement in behavioral health services.

Learning Objectives

Describe the JDTC Guidelines as the current set of research-based recommended practices that make JDTCs effective at reducing substance use, decreasing recidivism, and increasing pro-social activities of youth with SUDs

Understand the key findings of the most recent research evaluating the JDTC Guidelines

Identify key practices in JDTCs relating to the behavioral health services cascade that are pivotal to making SUD treatment beneficial for JDTC youth participants

References

<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov › programs › juvenile-drug-treatm...>

View map of JDTC Guidelines. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has released **the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines**.<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov › xyckuh176 › files › pubsPDF>

A juvenile drug treatment court (**JDTC**) is a specially designed court docket for youth with substance use disorders at medium to high risk for reoffending. It is ...

[A Guide to the Guidelines](#)

<https://www.ncjfcj.org> › uploads › 2017/06 › NCJ...

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PDF

A Guide to the Guidelines Series: Practical Tips for Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts to Implement ... 1) **Review your JDTC's current family requirements**

[Designing Your Program - NCJFCJ](#)<https://www.ncjfcj.org> › substance-use-and-opioids › de...

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Read the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines (JDTC Guidelines), which is a **research-based set of 31 Guidelines published** by the Office of Juvenile ..

[Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Project - NDCI.org](#)

<https://www.ndci.org> › jdte

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Released in 2016, these guidelines **provide researched-based best practices** ... families, and JDTC teams using trauma-informed strategies during and after