



IDAHO JUDICIARY

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Treatment Courts

Report to the 2020 Legislature

Idaho Treatment Courts

Criminal justice involved individuals or those with an open child protection case with behavioral health needs and that are high risk for continued criminal behavior can apply to participate in a treatment court (formerly known as a problem-solving court). Treatment courts provide access to services and accountability to attend critical treatment appointments. These programs admit participants into the various courts based on objective assessments and established entrance criteria that seek to match the correct individual to the appropriate intervention. Studies have found this community-based option to more effectively change unproductive and illegal behaviors than traditional probation or incarceration alone.

Once a participant is admitted into a treatment court, judges, court staff, and other partners use a more intensive approach than would typically occur in a traditional court case. Based upon an individual's needs, coordinators help the participant identify community resources for treatment, housing, education, and employment, and other team members focus on ensuring the participant is meeting their requirements to drug test, attend court hearings and treatment sessions. Judges lead frequent and regular team meetings with attorneys, treatment providers, law enforcement, and probation officers, among others, to document and discuss a participant's progress. Participants are expected to utilize the resources to develop healthy and productive behaviors, and are rewarded for their positive efforts and quickly held accountable for inappropriate or unproductive actions.

In FY19, there were 71 Treatment Courts such as Felony Drug Courts, Juvenile Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Mental Health Courts, Child Protection Drug Courts, Domestic Violence Drug Courts, Juvenile Mental Health Courts, Misd/DUI Drug Courts, and Veterans Courts.

Idaho's treatment courts served **2,640** individuals in FY2019 with **685** graduates. **26,305** individuals have been served throughout Idaho's history of treatment courts, beginning in 1998, with over **9,065** graduates. These courts serve those who are at high risk of recidivism and who have significant behavioral health treatment needs. The majority of individuals that participate in these courts are bound for state penitentiaries that are exceeding capacity and present a significant cost to taxpayers.

Follow the link below to the Idaho Supreme Court-Treatment Court main page where you will find more information about Treatment Courts and at the top of the page, a link to a map of all Idaho Treatment Courts!

isc.idaho.gov/solve-court/home

Reducing Recidivism

Several process and outcome evaluations have demonstrated the effectiveness of Idaho's felony drug courts, DUI Courts, juvenile drug courts, and mental health courts. Most recently, a study found that recidivism rates for mental health court participants (34%) was lower than for a comparison group (43%). Recidivism rates for mental health court participants decreased as risk scores increased; the highest-risk participants had the lowest rate of felony recidivism (7%). See isc.idaho.gov/solve-court/rd

Idaho Supreme Court Orders New Standards for Adult Drug Courts and the Implementation of a Quality Assurance Plan

On January 23rd, 2019, the Idaho Supreme Court adopted the *Revised Idaho Adult Drug Court Standards*, which are based on the most up-to-date research that identifies practices associated with positive outcomes. In addition, the Court ordered that a Quality Assurance (QA) Plan for treatment courts be implemented in conjunction with the Standards. This historic action taken by the Idaho Supreme Court will ensure that Idaho's treatment courts have the necessary tools to adhere to evidence-based practices and engage in continuous quality improvement efforts. The standards and QA Plan are here: isc.idaho.gov/solve-court/home

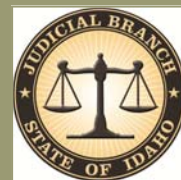
Idaho Treatment Court State Conference Held

The Drug Court and Mental Health Court Coordinating Committee Chair, Justice Richard Bevan, delivered the opening remarks at a statewide treatment court conference held in Boise in March of 2019. The conference was well received and more than 250 judges, coordinators, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, probation officers and other multi-discipline stakeholders were in attendance. Experts at the top of their field presented on a variety of topics covering the following: Trauma, Idaho and National Adult Drug Court Standards, Neurobiology of Opioid Dependence, Legal Issues Surrounding Medication Assisted Treatment, and Drug Testing.

The Impact of Medicaid Expansion

The expansion of Medicaid in Idaho is likely to have a significant impact on the delivery of treatment and other services to Idaho's treatment court participants. Approximately 58% of participants are expected to be eligible to receive benefits under Medicaid at any given point in time, representing a 42% increase in eligibility. Many outpatient treatment services received by Medicaid-eligible participants will be covered. In this sense, Medicaid presents a unique opportunity to enhance treatment and recovery support services for those participating in treatment courts, bringing practices in closer alignment with evidence-based models that are proven most effective at reducing recidivism and effectuating other positive outcomes.

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Mission Statement of the Idaho Courts

As the Third Branch of Government, we provide access to justice by ensuring fair processes and the timely, impartial resolution of cases.

The Idaho Judiciary Stands For:

*Integrity
Fairness
Independence
Respect
Excellence
Innovation*

The Idaho Judiciary Strives To:

*Provide Timely,
Impartial Case
Resolution Through
Legally Fair
Procedures*

*Ensure Access to
Justice*

*Promote Effective,
Innovative Services*

*Increase Public
Trust and
Confidence In
Idaho's Courts*