



BJA

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



2010 ALABAMA MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONFERENCE

LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS

“We can only identify the proper balance if the two systems - criminal justice and mental health - do it together. If we can agree on common interests, we can seek common solutions.”

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Dear Conference Participants:

As Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama and on behalf of the trial and appellate courts of this great State, I welcome you to this historic mental health court conference. For the first time in this State's history, we are able to bring together representatives of the judiciary, the legal community, and the mental health community to discuss the critical issues of how to reduce recidivism as well as how to ensure that those who need mental health services receive them instead of being sent into our overcrowded corrections system.

Alabama currently has the most overcrowded prisons in the nation, with our prisons at approximately 195% capacity. Many individuals incarcerated in the Department of Corrections have mental illnesses. In fact, the Department of Corrections is the largest mental health care provider in Alabama. Through dialogue such as that which will hopefully be established at this conference, we can work together to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment services outside the prison walls for those who need them, ensure public safety, and stop the revolving door of our prisons.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come to Montgomery to help tackle these critical issues facing our State. I hope you will enjoy your stay in our Capitol City. With kindest regards, I am

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Bell Cobb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Bell Cobb,
Chief Justice

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Dear Conference Participants:

On behalf of the Alabama Department of Mental Health, I would like to welcome you to the first statewide mental health court conference. This opportunity is made available to us through a generous grant provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program. We are grateful to have a forum where we can bring justice and mental health professionals together to discuss the issue of reducing recidivism and diverting individuals with mental illness from the justice system.

As you know, the jails and prisons in Alabama are extremely overcrowded and often become the de facto mental health care centers for individuals in need of mental health and substance abuse treatment. It is our hope that through continued coordination and collaboration with the justice and mental health system in our state, we will find opportunities to develop programs that will increase public safety in our communities, provide access to much needed mental health and substance abuse treatment services for individuals, and reduce recidivism.

Please take the next few days, to ask questions, network, and discuss these issues with one another. We welcome your suggestions and ideas.

Thank you and enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,

John Houston

John Houston,
Commissioner

ALABAMA MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010

- 12:00-12:30 pm** **Registration- (Pre-Function Foyer)**
- 12:30-12:45 pm** **Opening Remarks- Callie T. Dietz, Administrative Director of Courts, AOC
John Houston, Commissioner, AL Dept. of Mental Health
Keith Camp, Director, Judicial Education, Planning, and
Court Security, AOC**
- 12:45-2:15 pm** **Opening Plenary (Wynfrey A&B)
“Establishing and Implementing a Mental Health Court: A Local &
National Perspective”
The Honorable Stephen Goss, Superior Court Judge, Dougherty Superior Court
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Albany, Georgia
Carol Fisler, JD, Director of Mental Health Court Programs, Center for Court
Innovation**
- 2:15-2:30 pm** **Break**
- 2:30-3:45 pm** **Breakout Sessions**
- 1.) Who Should a Mental Health Court Serve?**
*Identifying a Mental Health Court Target Population and Developing
Linkages to Services-* Carol Fisler, JD (**Avon Room**)
 - 2.) Choosing to Participate: Good for the Defendant and Community:**
Setting Terms of Participation and Informed Choice- Jimmy Walsh, JD
(**Cornwall Room**)
 - 3.) Creatively Using Sanctions and Incentives to Ensure Medication and
Treatment Adherence -** The Honorable Stephen Goss (**Essex Room**)
 - 4.) Understanding Serious Mental Illness and Emotional Disturbance-** Jessica
Hales, MA and Kim Hammack, MA (**Hampshire Room**)
- 4:00-5:15 pm** **Breakout Sessions**
- 1.) Who Should a Mental Health Court Serve?**
*Identifying a Mental Health Court Target Population and Developing
Linkages to Services-* Carol Fisler, JD (**Avon Room**)
 - 2.) Choosing to Participate: Good for the Defendant and Community:**
Setting Terms of Participation and Informed Choice- Jimmy Walsh, JD
(**Cornwall Room**)
 - 3.) Creatively Using Sanctions and Incentives to Ensure Medication and
Treatment Adherence -** The Honorable Stephen Goss (**Essex Room**)
 - 4.) How Do You Define Success?**
Sustainability – Outcomes Based on Reliable Data - Richard Fiore, BA, and
Melanie Harrison, BS (**Hampshire Room**)
- 4:30 pm** **Adjourn**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010

- 8:00-9:00 am** **Buffet Breakfast- (Pre-Function Foyer)**
- 9:00-10:15 am** **Plenary Session – “Moving towards a more effective collaboration for individuals with mental health issues involved in the justice system.”**
Thomas Grisso, Ph.D., Director of Psychology and Director of the Law,
Psychiatry Program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School
(Wynfrey A&B)
- 10:15-10:30 am** **Break (Pre-Function Foyer)**
- 10:30-11:45 am** **Round Table Discussions with Moderators**
Alabama Mental Health Courts: Discussion with Colleagues
- **Judges**, moderated by **The Honorable Ruth Ann Hall** **(Avon)**
 - **Judicial Staff**, moderated by **Jeredith Brown, BA, JPO** **(WyndSOR 1)**
 - **Attorneys**, moderated by **Bill North, District Attorney** **(Yorkshire)**
 - **Treatment Providers**, moderated by **Kady Abbott, MA** **(Wynfrey A&B)**
- 11:45-1:00 pm** **Lunch with Keynote Speaker – “The Criminal Justice and Mental Health Philosophy: Merging Two Systems to Reduce Recidivism for Individuals with Mental Illness”:** Presented by Tim Murray, Executive Director, Pretrial Justice Institute
(Wynfrey A&B)
- 1:00-1:15 pm** **Break- (Pre-Function Foyer)**
- 1:15-2:30 pm** **Breakout Sessions**
- 1.) **Co-Occurring Disorders 101**-Joan Leary, MA, LPC **(Avon)**
 - 2.) **Strategies for Identifying Youth with Mental Health or Co-Occurring Needs-** Thomas Grisso, Ph.D. **(WyndSOR I)**
 - 3.) **The Ethical and Confidentiality Crossroads of Two Systems-** Dave Slawkowski, JD **(Yorkshire)**
- 2:30-2:45 pm** **Break- (Pre-Function Foyer)**
- 2:45-4:30 pm** **Plenary Session – “Identifying ‘Success’: From Personal Stories to Empirical Evidence”-** Moderated by Tim Murray, BA **(Wynfrey A&B)**
- Part 1:** Lived Experiences- Mental Health Court Graduates- Consumers and Family Panel
- Part 2:** Using Data to Make Your Case
- 4:30 pm** **ADJOURN**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2010

8:00-9:00 am

Continental Breakfast- (Pre-Function Foyer)

9:00-10:30 am

**Plenary Session – “Building Partnerships-Cross Disciplinary Teambuilding”,
The Honorable Ruth Ann Hall (WyndSOR Ballroom)**

Update on Grant Resources and Technical Assistance Available to Local
Communities

10:30-11:00 am

Evaluations

11:00 am

ADJOURN - Hotel Room Check Out

CONFERENCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Participants will gain knowledge and understanding of the essential elements of a mental health court
- Participants will gain understanding of how the current Alabama mental health courts operate
- Participants will gain understanding of the potential pitfalls to avoid when developing a mental health court
- Participants will gain knowledge of the commonly used screening and evaluation methods to select the target population for a mental health court
- Participants will learn about building partnerships by developing cross disciplinary teams
- Participants will learn about effective sanctions and incentives for mental health court participants
- Participants will learn how to use outcome based data to demonstrate programmatic impact and sustain mental health courts
- Participants will gain understanding of the importance of confidentiality and ethics when developing and implementing a mental health court
- Participants will gain understanding from consumers and family members on the positive effects of participating in a mental health court
- Participants will learn about the goals of the Alabama BJA Grant Initiative and available technical assistance and resources for mental health courts and developing mental health courts

Outline of Course Content

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

12:45-2:15 Opening Plenary

Establishing and Implementing a Mental Health Court: A Local & National Perspective: Presented by The Honorable Stephen Goss and Carol Fisler, JD

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) State the basic fundamentals of a mental health court
- 2) Identify goals of a mental health court
- 3) List reasons to establish a mental health court
- 4) List key ideas and practical suggestions for developing a mental health court tailored to a particular jurisdiction

2:30-3:45 & 4:00-5:15 Concurrent Breakout Sessions (repeated at 3:30)

Breakout Session 1

Who Should a Mental Health Court Serve? Identifying a Mental Health Court Target Population and Developing Linkages to Services: Presented by Carol Fisler, JD

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Explain that the target population should be based on well defined clinical eligibility criteria
- 2) Identify treatment capacity within a community and explain its relation to the target population of a mental health court
- 3) Identify potential referral sources for mental health court and the process for timely linkage to services

Breakout Session 2

Choosing to Participate: Good for the Defendant and Community: Setting Terms of Participation and Informed Choice: Presented by Jimmy Walsh, JD

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Identify program parameters for a mental health court and the impact of program completion
- 2) Identify least restrictive and highly restrictive supervision conditions
- 3) Identify the various legal outcomes for successfully completing mental health court
- 4) Discuss issues related to informed choice and voluntary participation

Breakout Session 3

The Carrot; the Stick and Carrot sticks! Creatively Using Sanctions and Incentives to Ensure Medication and Treatment Adherence: Presented by The Honorable Stephen Goss

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Identify the process to gather clinical information to determine program adherence
- 2) Describe how status hearing play a key role in sanctions and incentives
- 3) List examples of incentives and sanctions mental health court teams can utilize

Breakout Session 4 (1st breakout)

Understanding Serious Mental Illness and Emotional Disturbance: Presented by Jessica Hales, MA and Kim Hammack, MA.

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Identify what is mental illness and how different illnesses present themselves
- 2) Describe how co-occurring substance abuse disorders affect other mental illnesses
- 3) List the types of treatment for mental illnesses
- 4) Explain the impact of social factors on mental illness
- 5) Describe how mental illness can impact individuals in the criminal justice system

Breakout Session 4 (2nd breakout)

How do you Define Success? Sustainability: Outcomes Based on Reliable Data: Presented by Richard Fiore, BA and Melanie Harrison, BS

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Explain how to collect performance measures and outcome data
- 2) Identify the process to determine outputs and outcome measures
- 3) Show the linkage between data and funding
- 4) Identify a process to collect data that will be functional to local courts

Thursday, October 14, 2010

9:00 – 10:15 Plenary Session

Moving Towards a More Effective Collaboration for Individuals with Mental Health Issues Involved in the Justice System: Presented by Thomas Grisso, Ph.D.

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Understand the juvenile justice reform social movements over the last 25 years
- 2) Identify the impact of the juvenile justice- mental health reforms
- 3) Identify positive effects and several unintended consequences of the reform efforts
- 4) Develop strategies to eliminate and avoid similar consequences in their local communities

10:30-11:45

Alabama Mental Health Courts: Discussion with Colleagues

Judges Roundtable- Moderated by The Honorable Ruth Ann Hall

Judicial Staff Roundtable- Moderated by Jeredith Brown, BA

Attorney Roundtable- Moderated by Bill North, District Attorney

Treatment Provider Roundtable- Moderated by Kady Abbott, MA

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe the functions of the existing mental health courts in Alabama
- 2) Identify the pros and cons of starting a mental health court
- 3) Develop strategies for developing a mental health court with limited funding

11:45-1:00 Lunch w/Keynote Speaker

The Criminal Justice and Mental Health Philosophy: Merging Two Systems to Reduce Recidivism for Individuals with Mental Illness: Presented by Timothy Murray, BA, Executive Director of the Pretrial Justice Institute

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Explain how mental health courts emerged throughout the country
- 2) Describe current mental health court trends
- 3) Discuss issues related to justice involved individuals with mental health needs

1:15-2:30 Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 1

Co-Occurring Disorders 101: Presented by Joan Leary, MA, LPC

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Identify common characteristics of individuals diagnosed with mental illness and substance abuse disorder
- 2) Identify common screening instruments utilized to determine clinical eligibility criteria
- 3) Show the linkage between clinical criteria and service availability

Breakout Session 2

Strategies for Identifying Youth with Mental Health or Co-Occurring Needs: Presented by Thomas Grisso, Ph.D.

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Identify common diagnoses of individuals who participate in juvenile mental health courts
- 2) Identify common screening instruments utilized to determine clinical eligibility
- 3) Identify the various pitfalls to avoid when determining a target population for a juvenile mental health court
- 4) Discuss issues related to juveniles with mental health needs who come in contact with the justice system

Breakout Session 3

The Ethical and Confidentiality Crossroads of Two Systems: Presented by Dave Slawkowski, JD

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Explain the ethical considerations of establishing and implementing a mental health court
- 2) Identify potential ethical violations
- 3) Discuss confidentiality as it relates to adults and juveniles with mental health needs
- 4) List potential areas for concern as it relates to ethics and confidentiality

2:45 – 4:30 Plenary Session

Identifying Success: From Personal Stories to Empirical Evidence: Presented and Moderated by Timothy Murray, BA

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Discuss the benefits of a mental health court from a consumer and family perspective
- 2) Identify the role family members play in the treatment/support process

- 3) Identify key factors that contribute to successful completion of a mental health court program
- 4) Describe the role data plays in connection with personal stories of success
- 5) Identify the process of collecting data and outcome measures that will empirically show success
- 6) Show the linkage between data and funding

Friday, October 15, 2010

9:00 – 10:30 Plenary Session

Building Partnerships- Cross Disciplinary Teambuilding for Mental Health Courts: Presented by The Honorable Ruth Ann Hall

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe the functions of a mental health court team
- 2) Identify composition of a mental health court team that is common across jurisdictions
- 3) Identify role of court team members
- 4) List potential areas for cross-training mental health court team members

About the Speakers

Richard Fiore joined Alabama's Administrative Office of Courts' (AOC) Family Court Division as a Senior Data Analyst in 2009, bringing with him over 20 years of analyst, project management and information technology experience in the private and public sectors. Before AOC, Mr. Fiore served as the Deputy Director of Auburn University at Montgomery's Center for Advanced Technologies. Prior to that, he was the Program Management Officer for the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC). During his nearly four years at ACJIC, Mr. Fiore had leadership roles in developing several interoperable systems and with the development and implementation of new technologies in collaborative systems within the criminal justice and homeland security communities. His experience in the private sector includes systems and software development and analyses, configuration management, data migration and project and contract management. Presentation and training topics for local, state-wide and national groups include those with a focus on data quality and representation of descriptive statistics.

Carol Fisler is the Director of Mental Health Court Programs at the Center for Court Innovation, overseeing initiatives that address mental illness and the courts. She coordinated the planning and implementation of the Brooklyn Mental Health Court, the first specialized court for offenders with mental illness in New York, and a new juvenile justice/mental health initiative for young people with mental health disorders charged with delinquency. She has provided extensive training and technical assistance to more than 40 mental health court planning teams in New York State and around the country and speaks frequently at national conferences. Ms. Fisler has extensive public and private sector legal and managerial experience, serving as the president of a start-up welfare-to-work staffing company, deputy general counsel of the New York City Housing Authority, assistant commissioner for legal affairs of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and an associate at a major New York City law firm. Ms. Fisler graduated from Harvard University and Stanford Law School.

The Honorable Stephen Goss is a state Superior Court Judge presiding in Albany, Georgia. He is an honor graduate of the University of Georgia and University of Georgia School of Law. He is a native southwest Georgian and practiced law in Albany in a civil litigation practice for thirteen years. He is a past president of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association and former Dougherty Circuit Juvenile Court Judge. Judge Goss has served on the Superior Court bench since 1999. He has served on the Judicial Council of Georgia and is the immediate past president of the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia. Judge Goss founded and continues to preside over the Dougherty Superior Court Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment Program, the first felony mental health court in Georgia. This program was designated by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Council of Superior Court Judges as one of five national Learning Sites for mental health courts. He also serves on the national advisory board for the Judges Leadership Initiative. Judge Goss has served on the Georgia Mental Health Services Commission and the Georgia Chief Justice Task Force on mental health issues in the criminal justice system. He has published on the topics of mental health courts and competency issues. He has been an active faculty member of the National Judicial College since 2003 and lectures on co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Thomas Grisso is Professor of Psychiatry, Director of Psychology, and Director of the Law-Psychiatry Program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. His research interests include clinical forensic assessment in criminal and juvenile cases, developmental issues in juvenile law, mental health needs of youths in the juvenile justice system, and risk of violence in adults and youths with mental disorders. Associations providing special acknowledgement of Dr. Grisso's research contributions have included the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy (1995), the American Psychiatric Association's Isaac Ray Award (2005), an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice (1998), and an Honorary Fellow Award by the Royal College of Psychiatrists (U.K.). Dr. Grisso's current research focuses on forensic mental health issues in juvenile justice. His research objectives are 1.) To improve the identification and provision of mental health services to youths as they enter the juvenile justice system 2.) To improve juvenile court clinicians' evaluations of youths pertaining to protection of constitutional rights (competence to stand trial, capacity to waive Miranda rights), and 3.) To create models and standards for criminal and juvenile court clinical evaluation services. In addition, he is a part of the MacArthur Foundation's "Models for Change" initiative in juvenile justice, which includes assistance to several states in creating models for juvenile justice programs that are consistent with youths' developmental characteristics. Finally, as Executive Director of the American Board of Forensic Psychology, Dr. Grisso is actively involved in the development and refinement of standards for forensic mental health assessments.

Jessica Hales is the Adult Services Coordinator in the Office of Mental Illness Community Programs at the Alabama Department of Mental Health where she serves as the Alabama State PATH Contact. She provides support to five PATH-funded agencies located in the most populous areas of Alabama and is involved in planning and monitoring community based programs provided by 25 community mental health centers throughout the state. In addition to her duties as State PATH Contact, Ms. Hales is the Olmstead Coordinator and a SOAR Trainer. Prior to working for the Department, she worked at non-profit community mental health agencies for 13 years providing direct services and developing and managing children's services, adult day programs, and adult residential sites. Ms. Hales has extensive teaching experience and was an adjunct professor in the Psychology department at Auburn University, Montgomery for ten years.

The Honorable Ruth Ann Hall is the presiding judge for the adult and juvenile mental health court for the 23rd Judicial Circuit District Court Bench, the juvenile conference committee, and is founder of the Juvenile Intervention Liaison Program. Prior to being appointed to the 23rd Judicial Circuit, Judge Hall was the lead defense counsel in jury trials for personal injury, property damage and business torts. Judge Hall is recognized as one of the *Most Prolific Trial Lawyers* in the State of Alabama by the Alabama Jury Verdict Reporter. Judge Hall received her Juris Doctorate from Cumberland School of Law Magna Cum Laude and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Judge Hall is a member of the Alabama District Judges Association, Madison County Children's Policy Council, Alabama Bar Association, and Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association.

Kim Hammack is currently the Coordinator for Child and Adolescent Services for the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Ms. Hammack is responsible for direct planning and coordination of child and adolescent mental health services, monitoring the development and provision of publicly supported children and adolescent services, providing direct consultation with families of consumers, local child providing agencies, and state child providing agencies. Ms. Hammack provides direct consultation and assistance with best serving juveniles who have been involuntary committed to DMH and to providers contracted and certified by DMH. Ms. Hammack participates with the state multi-needs team as a member of the case review committee, coordinates and conducts trainings, and participates in departmental committees and task forces. Ms. Hammack is the former Program Director for the Adolescent Center Group Home at SpectraCare. Ms. Hammack received her Masters of Science Degree in Counseling and Psychology for Agencies from Troy State University-Dothan.

Melanie Harrison is currently the Information Technology Project Manager for the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Ms. Harrison is responsible for the development and maintenance of all information systems related to community services for mental illness, intellectual disability, and substance abuse services and ensures compliance with HIPAA Electronic Transactions and Code Sets. Ms. Harrison is the DMH HIPAA Security Officer. She also coordinates projects between state facility management information systems and community services systems. Ms. Harrison received her Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Judson College.

Joan Leary is currently working at UAB, Department of Psychiatry, Substance Abuse Programs as the Alabama Project Manager for the Southern Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center where she is focusing on providing training opportunities for addiction clinicians and practitioners throughout the state. Joan also has a private practice and has experience working as a substance related disorders counselor both in short term and in long term inpatient treatment, dealing with impaired professionals as well as working with clients suffering alcoholism, drug dependence, childhood trauma issues, codependency, and anger management. Joan received her BA in Humanities with a specialty in Spanish from Ohio State University in 1973, a Masters of Arts in Counseling from University of Alabama Birmingham in August 2000. Joan completed a practicum and internship in substance abuse at The UAB Addiction & Recovery Program in 2000.

Timothy Murray is currently the Executive Director of the Pretrial Justice Institute in Washington D.C. Mr. Murray's extensive pretrial experience includes management and executive positions with the pretrial services systems in Washington, D.C. and Miami-Dade County, Florida. Mr. Murray provided technical assistance to numerous programs and organizations, nationally and internationally. Prior to joining PJI, Tim served in a variety of executive positions with the Bureau of Justice Assistance including Deputy Director. Tim was instrumental in the design and implementation of the nation's first Drug Court in Miami FL. He convened the first national drug court conference and served as the first federal Drug Court Program Office Director. Tim is the proud recipient of Pioneer Awards from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA), as well as NAPSA's Olgiati and Member of the Year award. Mr. Murray completed his federal service as part of the start up team for the Transportation Security Administration, now part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Murray received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology from the University of Maryland.

Daniel Pitts is a consumer advocate and certified peer specialist for the Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority. Daniel played an instrumental role in establishing the first drop in center for consumers in Montgomery. In 2006, Daniel completed the Passport to Leadership training conference, and immediately became active to improve the mental health system in Alabama. As a consumer in the mental health system, he joined the first class of individuals who trained as certified peer specialists in 2007. After passing the certification examination in 2008, Daniel became a full-time certified peer support specialist at the Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority. Shortly thereafter, he was elected to the Board of Directors for Wings Across Alabama, the statewide consumer organization for individuals with mental illness. Daniel's vision is to pull together consumer advocates who share a passion to make a difference in the lives of consumers of mental health services. Daniel is a former participant in the Montgomery Adult Mental Health Court.

Danny Reeves was born in Montgomery County in 1954 and graduated from G.W. Carver High School. He has been a U.S. Army Veteran for over 12 years. He currently is a licensed hairstylist and volunteers for the Montgomery County Detention Facility as the Narcotics Anonymous Coordinator. Mr. Reeves is on the Family Sunshine Center Speakers Bureau and the Domestic Violence Task Force. Prior to participating in the Montgomery Adult Mental Health Court, Mr. Reeves was addicted to both alcohol and crack cocaine for 12 years.

Dave Slawkowski is currently a staff attorney with the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program and has been in practice with ADAP since 2009 principally in the area of Disability Rights. Mr. Slawkowski is the Founding Partner of Anderson, Rasor & Partners in Chicago, Illinois and practiced with this group from 2000-2009. From 1975-2000, Mr. Slawkowski practiced principally in the area of defense of medical and hospital negligence, trial of medical negligence cases, representation of health care providers before state administrative agencies, legal ethics. Mr. Slawkowski received his J.D. from Harvard University Law School and his BA degree from the University of Notre Dame magna cum laude.

Jimmy Walsh is a private practice attorney where he primarily focuses his litigation practice in the areas of commercial litigation, consumer practices with an emphasis on breach of warranty and Lemon Law claims and product liability defense. His practice also includes representing clients in matters involving medical and mental health issues, claims filed under the Federal Torts Claims Act, criminal defense and military law matters. Mr. Walsh also represents private and public medical facilities and healthcare providers in cases alleging malpractice. He also represents clients in matter involving mental health issues, in both the civil and criminal courts. Mr. Walsh is a West Point graduate and retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Walsh earned his Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from the Cumberland School of Law. Mr. Walsh is an active member of the Birmingham community. He is a member of the state Executive Board of the Alabama National Alliance on Mental Illness and serves on the Birmingham Board of the American Diabetes Association.

CLE and CE Credits

The following course(s) sponsored by Alabama Judicial College have/have been accredited for 12.5 continuing legal education credits in Alabama on 08/27/2010. Please note that CLE Credits are the total number of hours approved for the seminar, including the Ethic hour(s). As required under Regulation 4.1.10, all sponsors of in state (Alabama) programs must give all participants the opportunity to complete an evaluation questionnaire addressing the quality, effectiveness and usefulness of the program. A numerical or statistical summary of the participants' critiques will be due within 30 days following the course date. The questionnaires must be maintained for a period of 90 days following this approved program, pending a request to submit them for the Commission's review.

The Alabama Department of Mental Health is accredited as a provider of continuing education in social work in the state of Alabama by the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners. This program is offered for 11.5 contact hours. The Alabama Department of Mental Health is also recognized by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) to offer continuing education of National Certified Counselors. DMH adheres to NBCC continuing education guidelines. This program is approved for 11.5 contact hours.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Alabama Administrative Office of Courts and the Alabama Department of Mental Health would like to thank the Alabama Justice and Mental Health Conference Planning Committee for their time and effort to make this conference possible. We would also like to thank New Life for Women for being an exhibitor.

This conference is made available through the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program Planning and Implementation Grant. The purpose of this grant is to increase the number of mental health and justice personnel trained by developing an integrated training initiative for court personnel and mental health/ co-occurring service providers who work directly with adult and juvenile offenders with mental health or co-occurring disorders. The project will provide education and training to interested courts and mental health and substance abuse providers to effectively design, implement and evaluate specialty courts in their community. Alabama has seen an increase in specialty courts and diversion programs for adults and youth aimed at diverting low-risk, nonviolent offenders with a mental health or substance abuse issue to appropriate community-based services. Through cross-training of state and local key stakeholders and the use of systematic data collection, the effectiveness of these programs can be demonstrated for individuals and their families, community leaders, agency heads and policy makers.

The statewide training initiative will: 1.) Increase the knowledge needed to implement effective mental health / co-occurring courts and 2.) Develop a systematic evaluation process across jurisdictions in order to monitor and track participant progress and outcomes. This training initiative is a direct result of collaborative planning among various justice and mental health stakeholders across Alabama in 2006.