

This document is a primer, meant to serve as a general, step-by-step guide for any court contemplating starting a new Recovery / Treatment Court. Additional in-depth documents are available for implementation information. North Carolina has a unified court system and any court officials seeking to start new Recovery / Treatment Courts are asked to notify the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) Court Management Specialists of their intent. Staff are available to help you plan, implement, and sustain your new Recovery / Treatment Court.

Contact the NCAOC Court Management Specialists:

Kirstin Frescoln kirstin.frescoln@nccourts.org Alyssa Gentri alyssa.gentri@nccourts.org A'Brea Smith a'brea.d.smith@nccourts.org

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Assemble a Recovery Court stakeholder planning team and begin meeting to discuss the most appropriate Recovery / Treatment Court(s) for your local jurisdiction. Most Recovery / Treatment courts are sited at the District Court level where high-level misdemeanors and H & I felonies are heard as well as where juvenile dependency and delinquency court is set. Invited stakeholders should include:

PLANNING TEAMS

CORE TREATMENT COURT TEAM MEMBERS

- Chief District Court Judge / Resident Superior Court Judge
- Clerk of Superior Court
- District Attorney
- Public Defender (or Local Defense Attorney)
- Judicial District Manager or Chief Probation / Parole Officer
- Law Enforcement Chief or Designee
- Managed Care Organization
- Area Treatment Provider(s)
- County or Town Elected Official(s)
- Recovery Community Member(s) / Peer Support Specialist(s)
- Beneficial Community Organization(s)
- Evaluator / Researcher

FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

- DSS Attorney and Social Worker
- Guardian ad Litem
- Parent Defense Bar

DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED (DWI) COURT

- Core Team Members

JUVENILE TREATMENT COURT

- Core Team Members

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

- Mental Health Specialist
- Health Care Professional

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

- Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator
- Mentor Coordinator
- VA Representative



Prior to the initial meeting of your planning team, have stakeholders review the following materials:

North Carolina Recovery Courts
www.nccourts.gov/courts/recovery-courts

Eligibility Criteria, Standards and Guidelines for Local Judicially Managed Accountability and Recovery Courts
<https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/north-carolina-recovery-courts-standards>

Treatment Courts Explained – This video provides a quick overview of Recovery / Treatment Courts
[youtube.com/watch?v=M6Enu3aS0ic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6Enu3aS0ic)

Ten Key Components – Model for Adult Drug Treatment Courts
[Ten_Key_Components_To_Adult_Drug_Court_Best_Practice_Standards_Crosswalk.pdf](#)

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Determine what type of Recovery / Treatment Court is needed in your jurisdiction and why. Review your court case and probation data to determine if an Adult (Criminal), Mental Health Court, DWI, Veterans, Juvenile Delinquency, or Family Dependency Treatment Court is needed.

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Map out available Resources and gaps in your area. Meet with the providers to discuss treatment eligibility and access. Map out community resources and gaps for behavioral health service providers that could support the court such as substance use and mental health treatment, domestic violence support, parenting services, recovery groups, peer support, vocational rehabilitation, etc. A community mapping exercise is available from the NCAOC or your jurisdiction may want to engage in a Sequential Intercept Mapping process.

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Visit established Recovery / Treatment Courts to observe practices and seek their guidance and materials to review. NCAOC's Court Management Specialists can provide contact information for specific courts in North Carolina with similar demographics to your jurisdiction.



Consult and seek technical assistance / training from AllRise, Children and Family Futures (CFF), National Treatment Court Resource Center (NTCRC), and NCAOC:

NCAOC <https://www.nccourts.gov/courts/recovery-courts>

AllRise <https://allrise.org> AllRise Divisions (Treatment Court Institute, Justice for Vets, Impaired Driving Solutions, Juvenile Treatment Court Project, and Center for Advancing Justice)

CFF <https://www.cffutures.org/family-treatment-courts-focus/>

NTCRC <https://ntcrc.org/>

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Establish funding needs for court implementation. Potential costs include positions (coordinator and/or case manager, peer support specialist, etc.), office furniture and equipment, drug screening materials and toxicology testing, participant incentives, graduation supplies, ongoing training needs for team, and materials and forms. **Planning teams should be mindful that most participants in Recovery Courts are indigent and will not have the resources to pay fines, fees, or costs for participation.**



Highlight the cost, safety, and health benefits of Recovery Courts. There is robust data demonstrating that recovery courts save lives, reduce the costs of incarceration, foster care, and health care, reduce criminal recidivism and reoccurrence of neglect or abuse, and keep communities and families safer.

National Treatment Court Resource Center https://ntcrc.org/literature_search/

Seek and secure funding needs. Recovery Courts in North Carolina are not currently funded by a statewide budget allocation. Existing programs are funded by counties, cities or towns, ABC Boards, opioid settlement dollars, state grants, national grants (e.g. Department of Justice / BJA, OJJDP, SAMSHA, etc.), or a combination of these sources.

If grant writing assistance is required, consider contacting your local city and county offices, and / or your local colleges and universities. Additionally, the NCAOC can put you in contact with other courts that have grant writing experience.

Ensure access for participants to Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT). MAT is an evidence-based practice for treating individuals with certain substance use disorders including opiates and alcohol and should be available to participants, where appropriate and recommended by a medical professional.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/substance-use/treatment/options>

STUDY NATIONAL BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

<https://allrise.org/publications/standards/>

<https://allrise.org/publications/ten-key-components-of-veterans-treatment-courts/>

https://allrise.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Guiding_Principles_of_DWI_Court.pdf

https://www.cffutures.org/files/OJJDP/FDCTTA/FTC_Standards.pdf

OTHER RESOURCES

<https://allrise.org/publications/the-drug-court-judicial-benchbook/>

https://www.nycourts.gov/LegacyPDFS/courts/problem_solving/FamilyTreatmentCourtPlanningGuide.pdf

