

# THE RECOVERY VOICE

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION  
OF RECOVERY COURT  
PROFESSIONALS

January 2021  
Volume 11, Issue 1



## Latest TARCP Recovery Podcast



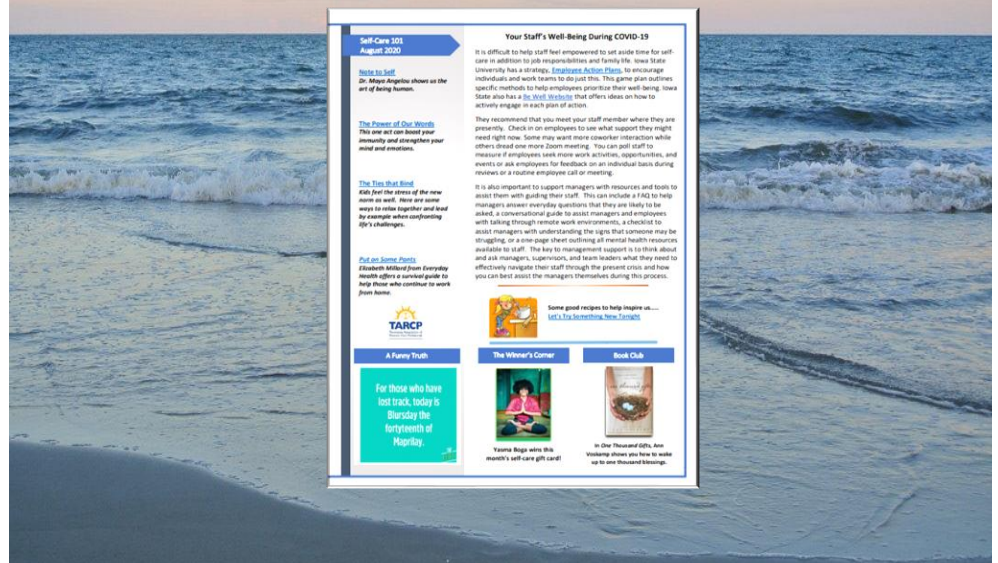
Please go to the below link for a great conversation with Blount County Library Director, K.C. Williams, Education Director, Ari Baker, and Recovery Court Treatment Specialists Stephanie Monday and Stina Nesbit from Blount County. [Recovery Court-Library Collaboration in Blount County](#)

You can find the TARCP interview with Kaylin Flamm, Occupational Therapist, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Recovery Courts, Murfreesboro, TN at [Kaylin Flamm 16th Judicial District Recovery Courts](#)

You can find all podcasts at [tarcp.org/podcast](https://tarcp.org/podcast). If you have an idea for a podcast topic, please reach out to Marie Crosson at [marie.crosson@tarcp.org](mailto:marie.crosson@tarcp.org)

## Self-Care Series

To view TARCP's Self-Care Series, please go to our website <https://tarcp.org/resource-center#43-self-care-series>





## Blount County Recovery Court Life Skills Program

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Blount County Recovery Court and the Blount County Public Library have developed a Life Skills Program to serve Recovery Court participants. The project came to fruition after K.C. Williams, Blount County Library Director, presented to court participants. Afterwards, she reached out to Stephanie Monday, Recovery Court Treatment Specialist, to ask how library services can support the efforts of the Recovery Courts moving forward. Over a cup of coffee, they discussed the need for a Life Skills Program and from there a curriculum was developed and a new resource born for the community.

The program began with two groups. The Life Skills Program offered each group a one-hour presentation on life skills and a second hour was dedicated to a group session. The curriculum grew to eight modules being developed. The modules are stand alone, meaning a participant can come and go and not be impacted by having to miss a meeting. The modules meet criteria for adult learning and strive to reflect diverse life experiences, promoting ownership while building knowledge.

The eight modules on life skills include communication, financial, social, physical health, nutrition, personal appearance, the job interview, and the resume. The weekly group schedule is Monday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Blount County Public Library is located at 508 N. Cusick Street, Maryville, TN. For more information, go to [Life Skills](#)

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Recovery Court participants at graduation.  
Image Courtesy Blount County Library.

## Project Rural Recovery

TDMHSAS, Buffalo Valley, Inc., and McNabb Center have partnered for Project Rural Recovery to address the behavioral health and physical health care needs of those who reside in underserved rural communities in Tennessee.

This five-year \$10 million grant is funded to reach 10 rural counties between these two providers, who both built and will operate two mobile health clinics. Services will be by appointment with the goal being to serve 2,000 Tennesseans, scheduling roughly 4,800 clinic visits a year.

Rural counties often have higher poverty rates and limited access to health care. Transportation can be an issue for many who must drive one to two hours to reach their closest hospital. The mobile clinic providers know the importance of preventative measures, offering screening services and referrals to patients who might not have known they needed a particular service before their appointment.

McNabb Center will serve Grainger, Cocke, Jefferson, Claiborne, and Hancock counties. Buffalo Valley, Inc. will serve Perry, Lewis, Wayne, Lawrence, and Marshall counties. Debbie Hillin, Senior Vice President of Buffalo Valley, Inc., states, "Our hope and our reason that we want to partner with the state was that we want something to be sustainable within the five rural counties that are at risk and distressed."

### [Additional Information and Mobile Clinic Schedules](#)





## Milan Recovery Court



### Congratulations to Douglas Eddings Participant of the Year!

Mr. Eddings was voted by his peers as a role model for his dedication to his recovery and for helping others who are also in recovery.



The Milan Recovery Court feels very fortunate to have Pathways to set up treatment using telehealth. Telehealth has been a wonderful asset to the Recovery Court during the COVID pandemic. With Pathways they can offer self-help meetings via Zoom.

## 21<sup>st</sup> District Recovery Court



This has been two years of hard work and commitment and we are excited to celebrate the recent graduation of Scott and Tracie as they begin another chapter on their journey!



## 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Recovery Court



Congratulations to the 2020 graduating class! The court is proud of the hard work, determination, and discipline everyone put into their recovery. A thank you goes out to all graduates, their families, Chancellor Blevins-Willis, the TEAM, staff, participants and volunteers that helped make their socially-distant event a success.

## DeKalb County Recovery Court



DeKalb County held a drive-thru court and Judge Cook presented 3 certificates to phase up and spoke to every participant!



## The 22<sup>nd</sup> District Recovery Court



So grateful for the Lawrence County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition for making Christmas special for the children of our Recovery Court participants. Thank you to everyone, especially Nicole Miller for making the vision come alive!





## Lincoln County Recovery Court Graduation Ceremony November 2020



"Yes, there are plenty of heroes and heroines everywhere you look. They are not famous people. They are generally obscure and modest people doing useful work, keeping their families together and taking an active part in the health of their communities, opposing what is evil (in one way or another) and defending what is good." -*Edward Abbey*

"If you were there the other night at our graduation ceremony, your heart told you that at this very moment, all was well in the world. It was that moment that a family is brought back together again. That moment that a family is restored.

You see, in this very moment a mother showed everyone in the room the power of overcoming addiction. The power of hope, love, and pushing through adversity. The power of never giving up.

Recovery does happen. Not only does it happen, but it is a very beautiful thing."

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Taken from the Lincoln County Recovery Court Facebook Page  
Posted November 15, 2020



**Ellen Abbott**  
**Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Services**  
**Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services from 2006 to 2020**

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Sadly, on January 12<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Marie Williams, Taryn Sloss, and Matt Yancy sent an email to membership to inform us that Ellen Abbott passed away on January 11, 2021, reflecting on her life and the impact she made on so many in need of recovery services. We thank our esteemed colleague and beloved friend for her dedication and hard work that will continue to touch lives for years to come. Below are the words posted by Jeri Thomas, Executive Director of Nashville Recovery Court Support Foundation, which perfectly describe the initiative and heart of Ellen and just how much she meant to so many.

"My heart aches and mourns the loss of Ellen. I admired her and looked up to her in so many ways and I will never forget her laugh. Ellen was passionate, caring innovative and solution minded. Over the years I've been fortunate to know her, she challenged me and helped me grow in so many ways.

We worked on so many important projects. Together with Judge Norman, Liz and many others, we traveled to East Tennessee, put the pieces of the puzzle together and in a few months (I still don't know how), but we created Morgan County Residential Recovery Court. With Ellen's ongoing help, we have nurtured that program from a mustard seed into the remarkable program of hope that it is today. Ellen loved visiting, seeing the residents and especially enjoyed their homemade chocolate chip cookies. They enjoyed packing her a few extras for the road when she would leave. Ellen believed in others and she wanted people to have a chance and the tools to help them to change their lives. She was over the moon about the evolution of the Women's Residential Recovery Court. We are going to do our best to make you proud, Ellen.

As much as my heart aches, my focus is praying for her family, the DMHSAS, her colleagues, peers and friends who also mourn her loss. May God provide peace during this time. Thank you Ellen for your service. I am so thankful for everything you have done. Love, Jeri."

- Jeri Thomas, Executive Director, Nashville Recovery Court Support Foundation

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From left: Marie Crosson (TARCP) Ellen Abbott (DMHSAS), Jeri Thomas (Nashville Recovery Court Support Foundation), Judge Angelita Dalton, Judge Seth Norman (retired)



Ellen Abbott



From left: Marie Crosson (TARCP) Ellen Abbott (DMHSAS), Monty Burks (DMHSAS), and Commissioner Marie Williams (DMHSAS)

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**"And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electrical vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed." ~ Maya Angelou ~**

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## **Thank You, Judge Grimes**

The Tennessee Recovery Court Community lost one of our longest running judges. Judge Raymond Grimes, a general sessions and juvenile judge in Montgomery County, passed away at 73 on November 26, 2020 after being hospitalized for COVID-19.

Judge Grimes was elected to the bench in 1998. He earned his law degree from the University of Memphis in 1980 and practiced law in Clarksville before being elected judge. Judge Grimes presided over the Montgomery County Drug Court from the time he initiated the court in 2005 until his death. He served as president of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in 2010. Sharon Massey Grimes, a Montgomery County attorney, was appointed to the Montgomery County General Sessions and Juvenile Court bench to complete the unexpired term of her husband, which will be up for election in 2022.

For Judge Massey Grimes the appointment represents the best move forward in a difficult situation. One part of her husband's legacy she is most passionate about continuing is the Montgomery County Recovery Court. Judge Massey Grimes recalled helping her husband draw up the policies and procedures of the court during its planning stages and noted the special satisfaction he got over the years from seeing how it helped turn lives around. "Ray took great pride in helping persons with addiction issues," Judge Massey Grimes said. "He was part of the team and never wore his robe in Recovery Court. He believed in the saying, 'You held out your hand and changed my life.'"





## Training Opportunities

For more information on the below webinars go to  
[National Drug Court Resource Center](#)

### **BJA FY21 Adult Drug Court & Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program**

**February 2, 2021 from 1:30-3pm (EST)** This webinar will provide an overview of the FY 21 Adult Drug Court & Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program request for proposals. Greg Torain, Policy Advisor with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice will be presenting an overview of the four possible application categories, solicitation goals, & proposal requirements. The webinar will be facilitated on

### **Supporting Family Drug Court Participants through Comprehensive Case Plans**

**February 22, 2021 from 2:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (EST)** Families involved in child welfare—who are also affected by substance use disorders—benefit from a family-centered case plan. Developing comprehensive plans that genuinely reflect all family members' strengths, challenges, and needs is essential. This webinar, hosted by SAMHSA's GAINS Center, explores the research supporting family-centered case plans; discusses ways to actively involve the parent, child, and family support system in both case planning and monitoring; and explains which elements the family-centered case plan should include. Presenters will share ideas on how community-based organizations can collaborate effectively with child welfare and other public agencies—enabling them to meet the requirements of regulations and funding—while creating a meaningful and manageable case plan for families.

### **Supporting Peers Providing Services at Intercept 0**

**February 25, 2021 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. (EST)** Peer support specialists often serve as first responders to individuals who are experiencing a crisis in the community and who are at risk of interfacing with the justice system. However, standardized peer trainings do not always include specific considerations for responding to a behavioral health crisis, such as physical safety and risk for secondary trauma.

This webinar will present practical information from the field and highlight new innovations to support peers who respond to mental and substance use crises at Intercept 0 of the Sequential Intercept Model. Presenters will discuss safety considerations, opportunities for leveraging technology, and promising practices that have emerged in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **NADCP Rise21 May 12- May 15, 2021**

Since 1994, NADCP has convened the only national conference for treatment court professionals. Over the past 25 years, our numbers have grown to include public health and safety leaders working to expand treatment for people with substance use and mental health disorders. What remains constant is the unparalleled education, entertainment, networking, and fellowship enjoyed by every attendee. Whether you're a regular or first-time attendee, new to treatment courts or a seasoned pro, we invite you to attend this landmark event and join us as we march toward our mission of ensuring that every individual in the justice system has access to evidence-based treatment and restoration.

## Training Opportunities

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### NADCP Rise21 May 12- May 15, 2021 (Continued)

The education, collaboration, and inspiration found at RISE are needed now more than ever, so NADCP is proceeding with holding RISE21 as planned. We are working closely with the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center and all contracted RISE hotels to ensure that appropriate safety protocols are in place, and we are monitoring local, state, and federal health guidelines, which we will follow.

We will keep the treatment court community updated on all RISE developments. We invite you to learn more about RISE21 and the safety measures we are putting in place.

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For more information on the below trainings and education go to [TAADAS](#)

### Good Grief: Helping Clients Cope with Loss

Presenter: Mark Sanders LCSW, CADC

February 12, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

This presentation will prepare you to help clients cope with the wide range of losses they experience. To register go to [Helping Clients Cope with Loss](#)

### Roadmap for Recovery

Presenters: Ken Barton CPRS and Laura Jean Marqus CPRS

February 22-February 26, 2021 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. CST (February 26 will go to 4:00 p.m.)

Module I will discuss a process and skills for those who interact with persons in early recovery from drugs and/or alcohol. To register go to [Roadmap for Recovery](#)

### Recovery Roundtable for Lake and Obion Counties

Presenters: Mary Linden Salter, LCSW, Daryl Murray, Melesa Lassiter, Tosha Gurley, Brannon Powell, Mary Sims and other panelists

February 25, 2021 from 12:45 PM-4:00 PM CST

This course will provide a review of various components of the Recovery Support system particularly in the vicinity of the Roundtable location. To register go to [Recovery Roundtable for Lake and Obion Counties](#)

### Seeking Safety Training

Presenter: Virginia Schrooten, LPCC, LCADC

March 11-12, 2021 from 9:00 AM to Noon CST both days

Seeking Safety is an evidence-based, present-focused counseling model to help individuals understand the need for attain safety from trauma and/or substance abuse. To register go to [Seeking Safety Training](#)

### Kratom

Presenter: Dr. Christopher McCurdy Ph.D., FAAPS

March 26, 2021 from 9:00 AM to Noon CST

Understanding of kratom products and their use in the traditional and Western populations. To register go to [Kratom](#)



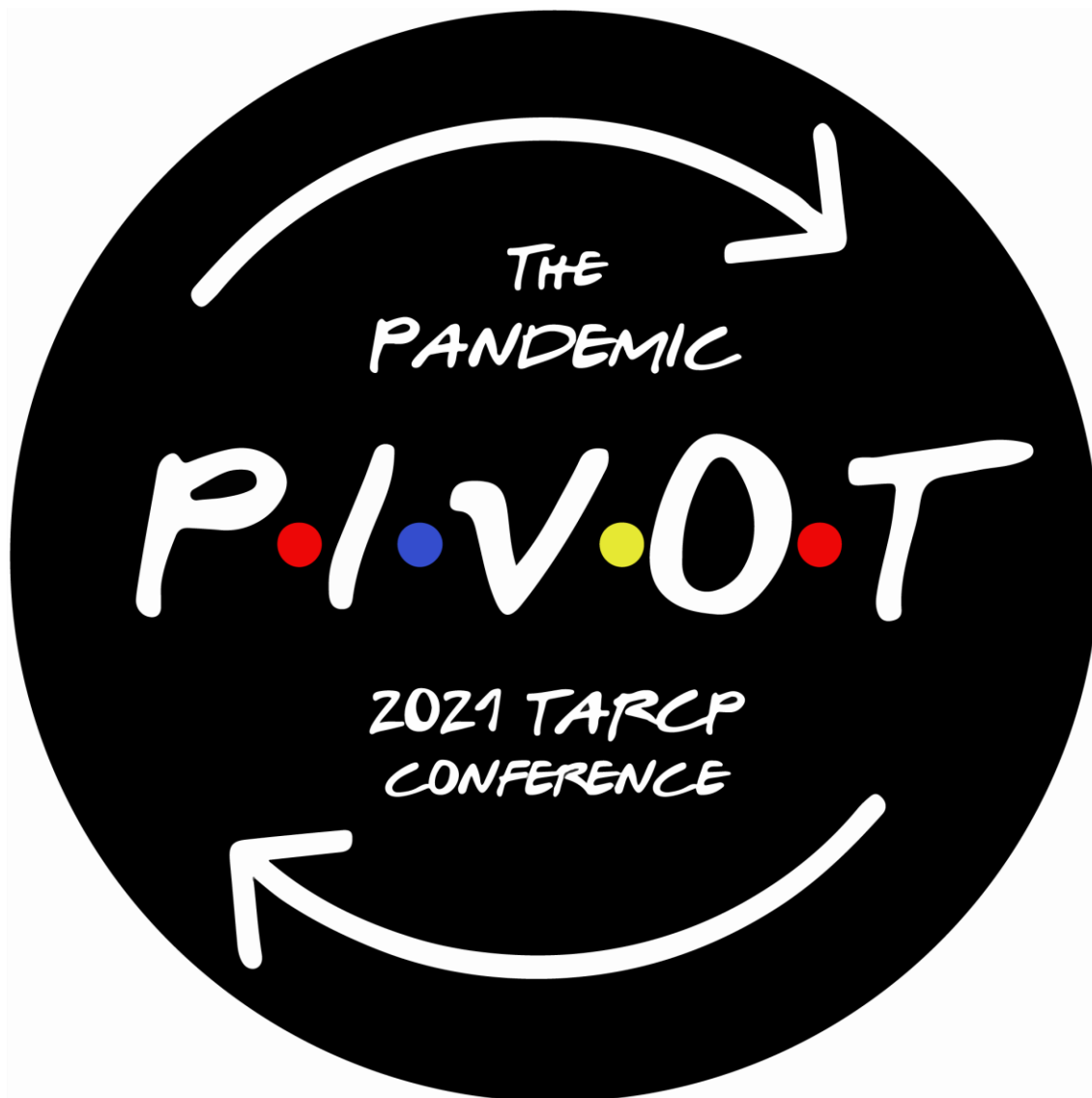


## **16<sup>th</sup> Annual TARCP Conference** **March 30 through April 1, 2021**

**Special Announcement:** As promised, we have continued to monitor the rising COVID-19 numbers and the affects the virus is having on states across the country. Due to this, TARCP decided that we can best serve our membership and recovery court communities by transitioning from an in-person conference to a virtual conference. We look forward to offering you this fully online event and will provide complete details over the next two weeks on how to register as well as program updates.

Our virtual conference will have the same quality of material and presenters with the only difference being that we cannot gather in the same space to learn and fellowship. The online event will be inclusive of our regular conference agenda consisting of sessions, workshops, keynotes, and spaces to connect with sponsors and exhibitors. You will find the reimagined conference remarkably similar to your past TARCP conference experience and we appreciate your collective resilience as we continue to navigate this pandemic together.

You will soon receive a conference video teaser to kick off the TARCP Virtual Conference! If you have any suggestions or questions, please email these to [phdjonesk@gmail.com](mailto:phdjonesk@gmail.com) with the subject line "16<sup>th</sup> Annual TARCP Conference Question/Request." We look forward to virtually seeing everyone in March, giving us another pandemic story to share in the years to come!



**March 30 through April 1, 2021**

**Kick-off Campaign Begins February 5, 2021 with Open Registration**  
*#theTARCP2021pivot*





**TARCP**

Tennessee Association of  
Recovery Court Professionals

**1321 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 140**

**Nashville, TN 37217**

**<https://tarcp.org/>**