

INITIAL REPORT OF RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES: JANUARY, 2018

EXCERPT: EXPLORE EXPANDED ACCESS TO TREATMENT DOCKETS

SUPPORT THE VERMONT JUDICIARY'S PLAN TO EXPLORE EXPANDED ACCESS TO TREATMENT DOCKET TECHNIQUES:

- Adult Treatment Dockets in the Criminal Division, and
- The Family Abuse and Neglect Docket in the Family Division

Action: The OCC will support the Vermont Judiciary's plan to explore expanded access to the above treatment docket techniques.

Related goals:

- Reduce the number of children in state custody as a result of SUDs.
- Reduce the number of youth using illegal substances.
- Prevent, reduce, eliminate opioid related crime.
- Increase the number of people in treatment.
- Increase the number of people in recovery who have housing, jobs and social supports.
- Vermont communities will be strong, safe, and resilient.

Narrative (from Superior Court): In addition, Judiciary plans to continue its ongoing work to bring existing treatment dockets into compliance with evidence-based best practices, including:

- Collaborate with prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, and policymakers to adopt statewide shared principles, based on evidence-based best practices, applicable to treatment dockets.
- Explore innovative and cost-effective ways to manage Adult Treatment Dockets, such as the possibility of judicial masters sitting in Adult Treatment Dockets.
- Support statutory, rule, and operational changes to ensure that individuals throughout the State who are clinically eligible for treatment dockets have access to existing dockets without limitation by county borders, including consideration of subsidized transportation for treatment docket participants, video communications and tele-services, and travel by treatment docket teams to other counties.
- Explore use of treatment docket techniques to promote rehabilitation by parents in the Abuse and Neglect Docket.

The Judiciary will convene and lead a commission on treatment dockets, chaired by Chief Justice Reiber, to make specific recommendations.

President's Commission: #38 - The Commission recommends DOJ broadly establish federal drug courts within the federal district court system in all 93 federal judicial districts. States, local units of government, and Indian tribal governments should apply for drug court grants established by 34 U.S.C. § 10611. Individuals with an SUD who violate probation terms with substance use should be diverted into drug court, rather than prison.

VT response to NGA recommendation: Prioritize federal support for state efforts that address justice-involved populations at risk from the opioid epidemic. **YES.** Vermont Department of Corrections currently provides interim maintenance; however, we lack the resources to initiate MAT prior to the patient's discharge. Vermont would welcome federal resources to develop and implement Outpatient Treatment Programs.