



2024 MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONFERENCE

May 7-9, 2024 | Virtual Conference Series

Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, law enforcement, treatment providers, case managers, client advocates and others who serve mental health court participants are invited to attend this comprehensive training.

Questions?

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OUR SPEAKERS

Virtual Conference
Hosted via Zoom Webinar,
virtual platform



Brian L. Meyer, Ph.D., LCP



Donald Linhorst, Ph. D., MSW



Eric Olson, LCPC

NO REGISTRATION FEE
REGISTER AT:

https://courts-state-mn-us.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_8pT8QoFCRzWq9Y594X-bbg#/registration

Brian L. Meyer, Ph.D., LCP

Day 1 | Tuesday, May 7th | 12:00pm - 2:00pm CST

Preventing Overdoses and Suicides in Mental Health Courts in Stressful Times

There have been significant increases in mental health and substance use problems, relapses, high-risk behaviors, overdoses (ODs), and suicides since the confluence of COVID-19, stressors related to racial injustice, political tension, and economic uncertainty. Recent reports show increases in ODs and suicides in treatment and collaborative courts during this time, which is not surprising given the populations we work with are already stressed, vulnerable and traumatized individuals dealing with multiple new stressors. The question is, what can mental health courts do to prevent ODs and suicides in their participants so that treatment can take place? This presentation discusses the next steps needing to be taken to decrease the likelihood of life-ending outcomes and the multiple ways treatment courts can intervene in the judicial process. Among others, we will discuss such areas as increased contacts, facilitating access to treatment, building resilience, becoming trauma-informed, utilizing harm reduction, discussing suicidality more openly, making crisis safety plans, managing loss, and taking self-care. The presentation will be followed by a 30-minute question and answer session.

Brian L. Meyer, is a clinical psychologist and the Psychology Program Manager for community-based outpatient clinics at the Central Virginia VA Health Care System and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University. He earned his AB from Harvard University in 1980 and his PhD in clinical psychology with a specialization in adolescents and families from Duke University in 1990. He has been the deputy clinical director of the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department Protective Services Division; the executive director of the Virginia Treatment Center for Children; and the interim associate chief of mental health clinical services and PTSD-SUD specialist at the Richmond VA Medical Center. In his current role, Dr. Meyer oversees psychologists at six regional VA community clinics; provides evidence-based treatments for, and conducts treatment development research with, veterans who have problems with PTSD, substance use, depression, and other co-occurring conditions. A nationally in-demand speaker, Dr. Meyer has given more than 450 presentations and trainings on a wide range of topics and is the co-author of *Transcending Self-Therapy: Group Integrative Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Book for Facilitators* (2019), a treatment manual for people with substance use disorders.

Donald Linhorst, Ph.D., MSW

Day 2 | Wednesday, May 8th | 12:00pm - 2:00pm CST

Persons with Developmental Disorders in Mental Health Courts: Challenges and Opportunities

This presentation identifies the challenges and opportunities of incorporating persons with developmental disorders in mental health courts. It begins by providing diagnostic criteria for neurodevelopmental disorders and which disorders are most likely to present a challenge for mental health courts. It then describes how developmental disorders can impact individuals' participation in the criminal justice system. It also reviews innovative programs in the criminal justice system for persons with developmental disorders to illustrate specialized responses. With this background information, the presentation then focuses on the challenges and opportunities of including persons with developmental disorders in mental health courts. The presenter concludes by contending that with appropriate planning and resources, individuals with developmental disabilities can and should be incorporated into mental health courts.

Dr. Don Linhorst is a Professor Emeritus in the School of Social Work at Saint Louis University located in St. Louis, Missouri. He holds a Master of Social Work degree and a PhD in Political Science with an emphasis in Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation. Prior to his university work, he was an administrator for 14 years at a community mental health agency and at a long-term state psychiatric hospital. He worked for 24 years at Saint Louis University as a teacher, administrator, researcher, and community volunteer. His research has focused on the intersection of the mental health and criminal justice systems, including the insanity defense, mental health courts, corrections-based treatment and rehabilitation, and police officer-social work collaborations. He has authored one book, over 60 articles and book chapters, and over 90 program evaluation reports

Eric Olson, LCPC

Day 3 | Thursday, May 9th | 12:00pm - 2:00pm CST

The Importance of Intentionality in our Treatment Courts in Dealing with Difficult Issues; Relationships, Legalized Marijuana, and Others.

Eric Olson will be presenting on the importance of intentionality in the treatment courts. His presentation, among other things, will focus on the importance of our teams being intentional in responding to participant needs and behaviors. He will also address other difficult issues that treatment court teams frequently encounter and how to effectively address those issues. Beyond this, Eric will highlight the relevant issues of legalized marijuana in treatment courts and how to address those concerns.

Eric Olson is the District Manager for Adult and Juvenile Mental Health Courts in the State of Idaho's 7th Judicial District. He is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC). He received his bachelor's degree in Family Science from Brigham Young University and his master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Idaho State University. Eric has worked as an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team Clinical Supervisor for 7 years with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. He worked closely with community members to start the first Mental Health Court in the State of Idaho and one of five National Learning Site Mental Health Courts through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Council of State Governments (CSG). Eric has served as the Coordinator of this Court since its inception in 2002. He also serves as the Coordinator for 4 other Mental Health Courts including the first two Juvenile Mental Health Courts in the State of Idaho. He has also worked as a Consultant with the Council of State Governments and Allrise for several years working with mental health and drug court programs throughout the country and assisting them in improving their programs, providing technical assistance, and applying evidence-based practices. Eric has worked more specifically on improving integrated treatment and focusing on high-risk participants and how to provide evidence-based treatment to reduce recidivism with these moderate to high-risk populations in Treatment Courts.

Presenters' Materials

Presenter materials from the conference will be provided on the official Minnesota Judicial Branch website. The link to these materials will be given at the conclusion of each presenter's session during the conference.

A Note for Participants Regarding CEUs

Unfortunately we were unable to apply for CEUs this year: It is the attendees' responsibility to determine whether an education activity meets the continuing education requirements of their respective licensures and/or professional boards. Please keep a copy of your certificate(s) of attendance for your records.