



2025 MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONFERENCE

April 23-25, 2025 | 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*

23

April

12 - 2 CST



Ashley Birdwell, LMSW

24

April

12 - 2 CST



Eric Olson, LCPC

25

April

12 - 2 CST



Aaron Arnold, CDO All Rise

NO REGISTRATION FEE
REGISTER AT:

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

Ashley Birdwell, LMSW

Day 1 | Wednesday, April 23rd | 12:00pm - 2:00pm CST

Understanding Brain Injury and Its Impact on Survivors of Interpersonal Violence

In this training Ashley will explore the intersection of brain injuries and interpersonal violence, highlighting the physical, cognitive, and emotional effects of brain trauma. Participants will gain skills to recognize common cognitive impairments, such as challenges with memory, attention, and new learning, and gain practical case management strategies to support clients with executive functioning difficulties.

Ashley Bridwell is the coordinator and co-founder of the nation's first program to address traumatic brain injury in the domestic violence population at Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ. The Domestic Violence program was featured on The Today Show and National Public Radio in the summer of 2018 and more recently in the New York Times Magazine Sunday Edition in March of 2022. Ashley started her career with Barrow in 2004 and continues to provide clinical social work services for Barrow Outpatient Neuro Rehab, the Center for Transitional Neuro Rehab and recently facilitated the development of the Barrow Bridge Neuro Rehab, a new partial day treatment program. Ashley has dedicated her career as a social worker to address and bring awareness to traumatic brain injury in vulnerable populations through community and direct clinical care. Since finishing her masters at Arizona State University (ASU) in 2004, she has worked for Barrow Neurological Institute and served on various boards and city commissions to advocate for people with disabilities. Ashley has taught at ASU School of Social Work and is the subject matter expert for TBI in vulnerable populations at ASU's Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy. Since 2013 Ashley has provided education as a certified peace officer trainer to the City of Phoenix Police Department on cognitive disabilities. Ashley's work was published in the Journal of Neuro Trauma in the spring of 2017 and the NASW Health Section in the summer of 2017. Ashley was proud to be named as one of the Phoenix Business Journals Top 40 Under 40 in 2017 and the YWCA Advocacy Leadership Award in the Winter of 2016. She dedicates her spare time to local politics.

Eric Olson, LCPC

Day 2 | Thursday, April 24th | 12:00pm - 2:00pm CST

Treatment/Mental Health Courts Made Simple: Making Sense of Each Team Member's Role and What the Acronyms Really Mean!

Have you ever been sitting in your staffing meeting listening to your colleagues speak about participants, but are confused about the meaning of the terms being used? In this presentation Eric will explore the basics of team members' roles and the acronyms associated with each to help programs develop a better understanding of each other's duties. You can expect to leave this presentation with an enhanced understanding of team members' roles from the perspective of participants and team members, as well as learn the treatment jargon you may be unfamiliar with.

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). The Bonneville County Mental Health Court has recently been re-selected as a Learning Site for Mental Health Courts across the country by the 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.

Eric received the Kramer Award from the Idaho Supreme Court in 2010 for Excellence in Judicial Administration for his leadership with Mental Health Courts in the 7th Judicial District. 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; high-need participants and how to provide evidence-based treatment to reduce recidivism with these Treatment Court populations.

Aaron Arnold, CDO All Rise

Day 3 | Friday, April 25th | 12:00pm - 2:00pm CST

The Future of Treatment Courts

Treatment courts are the most effective justice system innovation in the last 30 years. Dozens of evaluations have shown that treatment courts reduce recidivism, save lives, strengthen families, and save money. Despite their unparalleled success, however, treatment courts are facing challenges. A shifting legal and cultural landscape is prompting reformers to turn to earlier off-ramps from the justice system, like prearrest models and prosecutor-led diversion. In addition, too many treatment courts struggle to adhere to best practices. This session offers recommendations for building on the success of treatment courts, adapting the model to changing times, and harmonizing treatment courts with emerging justice reform models. By the end of this session, Aaron will help attendees understand the common critiques of treatment courts, identify areas where treatment courts struggle to adhere to best practices, and be able to describe and implement specific strategies to maximize treatment court success.

Aaron Arnold is chief development officer at All Rise (formerly the National Association of Drug Court Professionals), where he works to develop new initiatives to strengthen justice system responses to substance use and mental health disorders. Prior to joining All Rise, Aaron spent 15 years at the Center for Court Innovation, overseeing the Center's national work in the areas of treatment courts, community justice, alternatives to incarceration, and more. Aaron has served as a prosecutor with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in Phoenix, Arizona, where he gained first-hand experience working in several problem-solving courts. Aaron is graduate of Cornell University and the University of Arizona College of Law.

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 or it can be found here: [Minnesota Judicial Branch - Mental Health Court Conference](#)

A Note for Participants Regarding CEUs

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. These certificates will be sent out upon completion of each session with the daily evaluation.