

Fiscal Year 2025

**Problem-Solving Courts
Annual Report**



Administrative Office of the Courts

November 2025

Table of Contents

Poem for Prince George’s District Adult Drug Court Graduates	1
Executive Summary	2
Figure 1: OPSC staff at the PSC 2024 Symposium.....	2
Oversight.....	3
Direct Assistance	3
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	3
Research in Action: Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Collaborates on PSC Program Success.....	4
Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Infrastructure.....	4
Internal, Interactive, Program-Specific Best Practice Dashboards.....	4
Figure 2: Family Treatment Court Best Practice Coordinator’s Dashboard	5
Regular Site Visits with Treatment Court Teams.....	5
Empowering Treatment Court Teams	6
Results	6
Figure 3: Adult Treatment Courts Best Practice Adherence through FY 2025.....	6
Figure 4: Family Treatment Court Best Practice Adherence by Practice Level.....	7
Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 6 – Procedural Justice	8
Figure 5: FY 2025 Procedural Justice Survey Results	8
Monitoring Emerging Research Opportunities.....	8
New PSCs in FY 2025	9
Figure 6: FY 2025 Operational Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland	10
Funding.....	10
\$1.7 Million Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance Award – FY 2022- FY 2026	10
BJA Grant Funded Projects –	11
Figure 7: Service Referrals by Type of Service, Universal Risk and Need Pilot Program, FY 2025	11
BJA Grant Objectives.....	12
Figure 8: New MIS Dashboards.....	13
PSC Grants and Budget Requests.....	13
Table 1: PSC Grant/Budget Request Awards FY 2025.....	14
Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Grant for Non-Reimbursable Services.....	14
Training and Education.....	15
Training and Education Highlight–Incentives, Sanctions, and Service Adjustments (ISSA)	16
Training and Education Highlight—Case Management Essentials.....	16
Figure 9: Cecil and Frederick County Adult Drug Court Teams at ISSA training	16
Training and Education Highlight–20 th Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium.....	16

Figure 10: Court Teams at 2024 PSC Symposium.....	16
Training and Education Highlight–PSC Coordinators’ Meetings	16
Training and Education Highlight–Baltimore City District Mental Health Court Team Meeting.....	17
Training and Education Highlight–PSC Virtual Trainings	17
Figure 11: Baltimore City District Mental Health Court Team Training.....	17
Training and Education Highlight – Statewide Summit on Behavioral Health.....	17
Drug Courts	17
Figure 12: Baltimore City Circuit Court, Adult Drug Court Graduation	17
Table 2: Drug Court Statistical Summary: No. of Court Participants July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025	18
Mental Health Courts	19
Figure 14: Allegany County District Court, Mental Health Court Graduation	19
Figure 13: Frederick County District Mental Health Court Judges and Director of the Office of Problem-Solving Courts.....	19
Table 3: Mental Health Court Statistical Summary– July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025	20
Veterans Courts.....	20
Figure 15: Baltimore City District Court Administrative Judge Hengerer and VTC mentors.	20
Table 4: Veterans Court Statistical Summary– July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025	21
Truancy Reduction Courts.....	21
Figure 16: First Circuit (Somerset) truancy team, including central office and school-based professionals, utilize in person and remote technology to increase access to instruction time while recognizing program graduates.....	21
Table 5: Truancy Reduction Pilot Program Statistical Summary, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.....	22
Recommendations to Improve the Function of Current Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs, 2025 House Bill 1442 – Juveniles - Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs - Report (Chapter 577: CJP 3-8C-12)	22
Conclusion	22
Appendix A: PSCs in Maryland: History and Governance	24
Appendix B: Maryland Judicial Council - An Overview.....	25
2025 Judicial Council.....	26
Scope of Activity	27
Committee Membership	27

Poem for Prince George's District Adult Drug Court Graduates

Written by Robin Peel

Judicial Clerk for the District Court of Maryland

Prince George's County

May 13, 2025

You are believers

You are achievers

Remember you are a brave heart

You pushed through for a new start

Take what you've learned and watch you grow far.

Never give up and never give in

Never be afraid to stand out and step in

We support you, you're the inspiration

You're the star, you're the motivation

There's no wall that'll become a cave,

There's no mountain you won't climb,

There's no bridge you can't cross

Don't stop trying, keep elevating your mind

You are powerful, you are loved

You are strong, you shine bright

You've made it to where you created your own light

When in doubt, ask for help

Always know, you're never in this by yourself

Best of luck in all future endeavors

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!!!!!

TAKE A BOW!

CONGRATULATIONS ADULT RECOVERY COURT CLASS OF 2025!!!!

Executive Summary

In FY 2025, Maryland's Problem-Solving Courts (PSCs) continued to expand their reach, refine practices, and strengthen outcomes through evidence-based approaches and rigorous data monitoring. The Maryland Judiciary's Office of Problem-Solving Courts (OPSC) sustained its commitment to best practice standards, with adult treatment courts maintaining a strong 89% adherence rate, a benchmark that emphasizes Maryland's leadership in quality program delivery. Building on this success, FY 2025 marked the introduction of best practice standards for Family Treatment Courts to enhance service delivery and outcomes for families.

Training and professional development remained a central focus this year. OPSC coordinated a wide range of learning opportunities including case management, coordinators' meetings, incentives and sanctions, and the annual problem-solving court symposium, along with other targeted sessions to address evolving challenges in specialty court operations. These efforts ensure that Maryland's PSC professionals remained equipped with the latest tools and strategies to deliver effective, participant-centered justice.

The number of PSCs grew in FY 2025, with the launch of new court programs across multiple jurisdictions, broadening access to specialized mental health, veteran treatment, and truancy reduction courts. Funding allocations supported staffing, treatment, supervision, and training reinforcing the sustainability of both established and newly launched treatment programs. Research and data efforts expanded across program types. FY 2025 marked the first year of data reporting for the Back on Track Court program, which improves alignment with research-based models, enhances oversight, and provides critical insights to guide program development and outcomes.

Through these initiatives, Maryland's PSCs advance the mission to improve public safety, reduce recidivism, and promote rehabilitation by combining accountability with treatment and support services. OPSC's data-driven strategies and strong adherence to best practice standards ensure that PSCs remain at the forefront of innovative, effective, and equitable justice.

Throughout Maryland, PSCs represent the most intensive, community-based programs available to address aberrant behavior associated with substance use and mental health disorder. During FY 2025, 3,671 individuals participated in Maryland's PSCs. Judges and magistrates met with those program participants nearly 25,374 times in scheduled court hearings.

At the end of FY 2025, there were 74 PSCs in Maryland: 38 drug courts¹, 8 truancy reduction courts, 13 veterans courts, 12 mental health courts, 2 re-entry courts, and one 1 back-on-track program (Figure 6).

PSCs vary considerably by jurisdiction and case type. However, all focus on collaborating with the service communities in their jurisdictions and stress a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving that addresses the underlying issues of individuals appearing in court.



Figure 1: OPSC staff at the PSC 2024 Symposium

¹ Includes Adult Circuit and District Drug, Family Treatment, and DUI Courts.

Using its FY 2025 appropriation, the Judiciary allocated \$8.6 million to directly support PSCs in Circuit and District Court locations across Maryland. These funds were used for staffing, treatment, drug testing, travel and training, remote court needs, and ancillary services that directly benefit PSC participants.

The Judiciary provides direct assistance to both planned and operational programs to support positive outcomes and sustainability and sets high expectations for monitoring and evaluating PSCs to maintain best practices.

Oversight

As part of the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all, OPSC assists PSC programs to develop, maintain, and advance a collaborative therapeutic system.

In FY 2025, OPSC staff had **548** face-to-face or virtual contacts with programs in the field ranging from attending events such as graduations, completing programmatic site visits, attending program staffing and court hearings, and completing financial reviews.

OPSC has overseen the creation of PSCs in 23 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland and works with public and private stakeholders to develop and establish best practices in PSCs.

OPSC oversees the financial support for Maryland's PSCs, enforces programmatic guidelines, maintains a statewide management information system, and identifies new and expanding populations for PSCs. Working with justice partners, OPSC continues to serve as the courts' liaison to sustain and advance PSCs in Maryland.

Direct Assistance

OPSC provides direct assistance, expertise, and guidance to PSCs, helping them to improve operations, services, and communications. PSC teams may address protocol development, ancillary and treatment services, funding opportunities, court proceedings, and role clarification through this assistance. Teams also discuss and devise plans to institute new research and evidence-based practices into their operations.

Direct assistance to Maryland's PSCs includes guidance to improve drug testing policies, enhance sanction and incentive responses, rework and expand program entrance criteria, develop therapeutic responses to relapse, and understand the roles and responsibilities of each team member. The teams also review staffing processes and court proceedings to help their programs operate more efficiently, effectively, and consistently.

Maryland's problem-solving court judges met with participants **25,374** times in court hearings during FY 2025.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In late FY 2024, OPSC launched a new cloud-based management information system (MIS), AutoMon Involvement Management System (AIMS), to support the improved collection, standardization, and analysis of PSC program data. The new data management system allows for case management collaboration and communication among court teams, service providers, court participants, evaluators, and state administrators. With both statewide and local-level configuration of dashboards supporting research in action, court professionals can practice real-time evidence-based decision-making and

accountability to best practice standards, while enabling state-level decisionmakers to strategically channel resources to local teams and maintain cost-effectiveness.

Research in Action: Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Collaborates on PSC Program Success

Nearly four years ago, in FY 2021, the Judiciary expanded on the longstanding collaborative partnership between the AOC's OPSC and Research and Analysis (R&A) programs to establish a research position dedicated to PSCs (PSC Senior Researcher). Under that establishment, the OPSC-R&A Research in Action initiative was conceptualized to focus on objectives that fall within the intersection of the researcher and practitioner disciplines. The PSC senior researcher is overseen by the R&A research manager and director with guidance provided by the OPSC director.

Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Infrastructure

As in the previous fiscal years, full implementation of a research-driven internal monitoring and evaluation infrastructure was a key objective throughout FY 2025. The OPSC-R&A team worked to refine internal evaluation components, a two-fold approach that includes regular best practice focused site visits and application of independent self-monitoring tools, such as interactive data dashboards. This strategy not only facilitates a comprehensive understanding of program performance but also empowers treatment court teams to access critically important information about best practice standards and proactively address adherence barriers within their own programs. This evaluation methodology serves as a template for internal evaluation across all Maryland PSC programs.

Also in FY 2025, [All Rise released updates to its national Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards, 1st Edition](#). R&A and OPSC worked together to share the information and provide relevant training opportunities to PSC teams throughout the year.

Internal, Interactive, Program-Specific Best Practice Dashboards

One of the cornerstones of the Judiciary's internal monitoring and evaluation strategy is the development and utilization of internal dashboards tailored to each PSC program. These dashboards serve as dynamic, real-time tools that provide treatment court teams with access to critical data and insights related to best practice standards and adherence. During FY 2025, in collaboration with Children and Family Futures and the Family Treatment Courts training and Technical Assistance Program, the Family Treatment Court (FTC) Best Practice Alignment Tool was introduced and designed to help FTCs assess their strengths and identify areas for development in adherence to best practice standards (Figure 2).

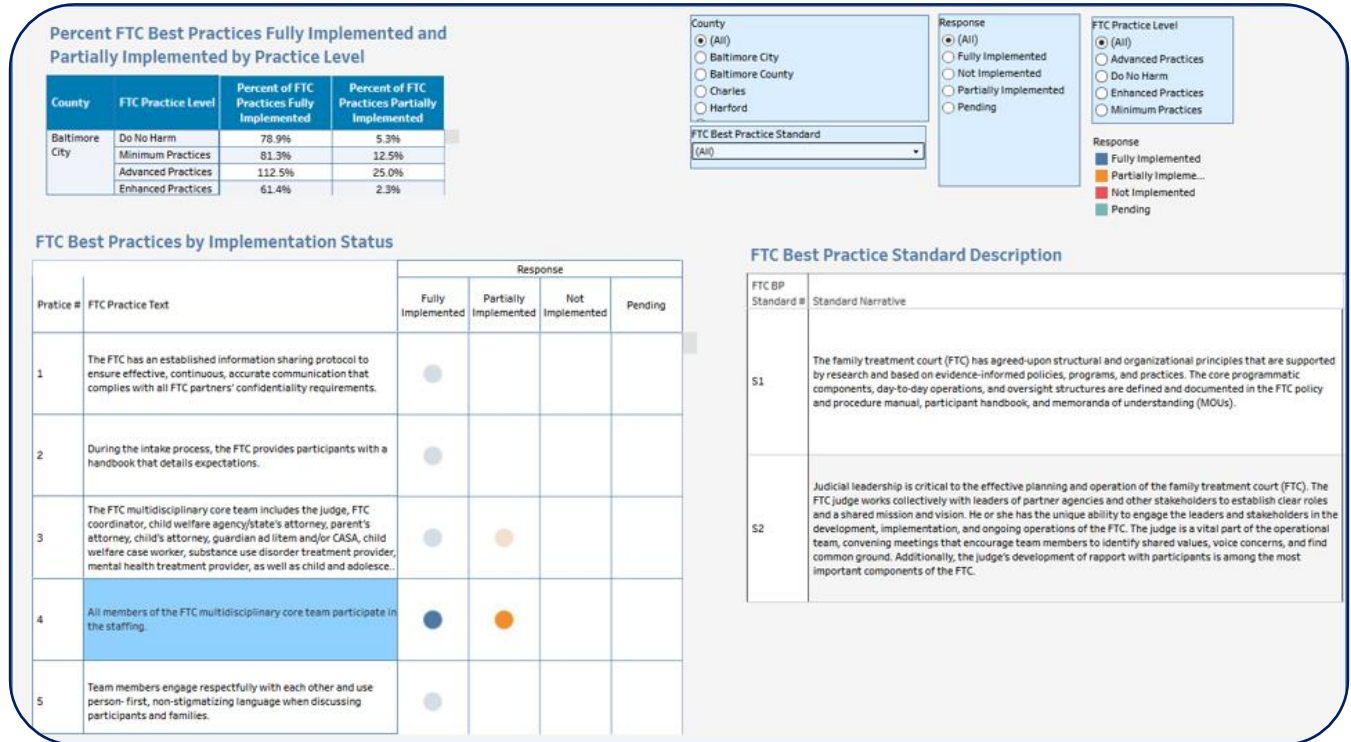
The internal dashboards are designed to:

1. **Centralize Information:** The dashboards serve as centralized repositories of data, incorporating information on best practices, program-specific performance metrics, participant outcomes, and adherence to established standards.
2. **Real-Time Updates:** They offer real-time updates, ensuring that treatment court teams have access to the most current information available, allowing for timely decision-making and course corrections.
3. **Customization:** Treatment court teams can customize their dashboards to focus on specific

metrics and best practice indicators most relevant to their program's unique needs and goals.

4. **Adherence Tracking:** The dashboards include tools for tracking adherence to best practice standards, helping teams identify areas of improvement, and potential barriers to adherence.

Figure 2: Family Treatment Court Best Practice Coordinator's Dashboard



Regular Site Visits with Treatment Court Teams

In addition to the use of dashboards, the OPSC program managers conduct regular site visits to meet directly with treatment court teams. These site visits serve as interactive sessions where program managers collaborate with local teams to review findings related to best practice adherence. The key components of these site visits include:

1. **Data Review:** During site visits, OPSC program managers and local teams jointly review data presented on the dashboards. This data-driven approach allows for evidence-based discussions on program performance and adherence to best practices.
2. **Identifying Adherence Barriers:** Site visits offer an opportunity to identify and discuss specific adherence barriers that may be hindering a program's effectiveness. By pinpointing these barriers, treatment court teams can develop targeted strategies for improvement.
3. **Sharing Best Practices:** The site visits facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches among different treatment court teams, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

Empowering Treatment Court Teams

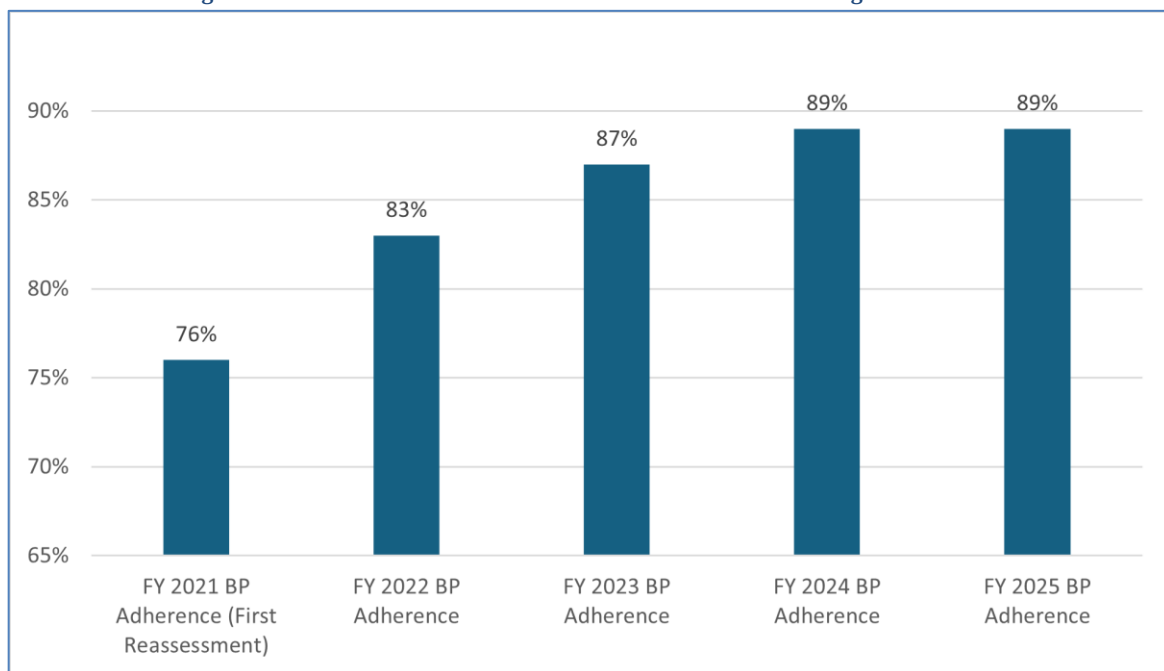
By implementing this internal monitoring and evaluation strategy, treatment court teams are empowered in several ways:

1. **Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Treatment court teams can make informed decisions based on real-time data and performance metrics, allowing for agile responses to emerging challenges and opportunities.
2. **Targeted Interventions:** The ability to identify adherence barriers through regular site visits enables teams to take proactive steps to overcome these barriers and enhance their program's effectiveness.
3. **Collaborative Learning:** The sharing of best practices during site visits fosters a culture of collaboration and learning among treatment court teams, promoting continuous improvement.

Results

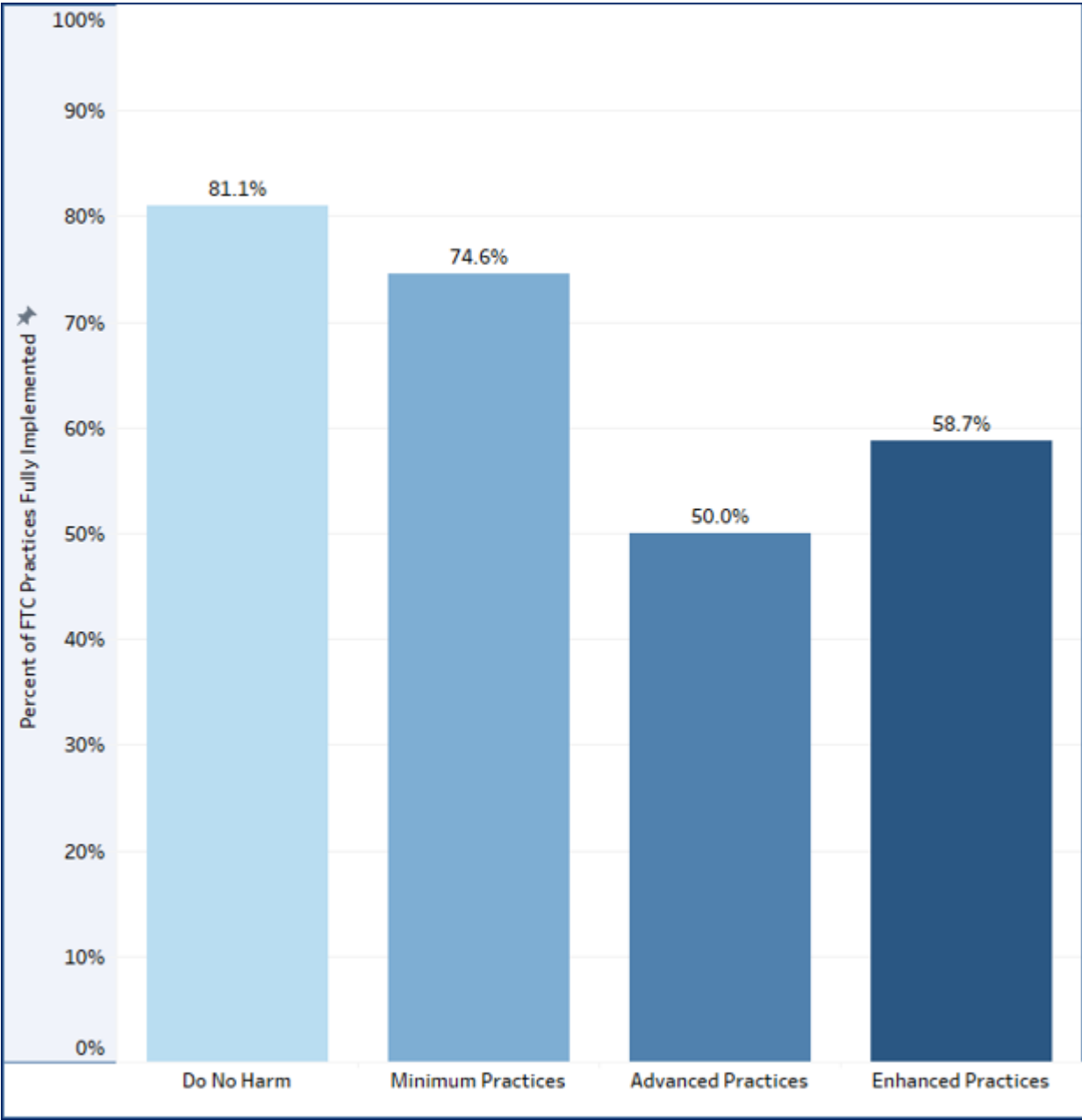
Over the course of FY 2025, Maryland's adult treatment courts achieved an 89% average adherence rate to best practice standards. Since initiating internal evaluation of best practices standards in 2021, Maryland adult treatment courts have improved best practice adherence by more than 12% (Figure 3). All Rises' new best practice standards specifically emphasize the importance of continually monitoring and evaluating court practices and performances to provide feedback to courts and improve services. OPSC is setting this standard of practice for all courts across Maryland through its monitoring program, thus ensuring a high quality of service, reduced recidivism, and fairness.

Figure 3: Adult Treatment Courts Best Practice Adherence through FY 2025



Additionally, the newly established Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards highlight an 81% adherence to the “Do No Harm” standards and 75% adherence to “Minimum Practices” standards (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Family Treatment Court Best Practice Adherence by Practice Level



Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 6 – Procedural Justice

FY 2025 Maryland adult drug courts continued implementation of [Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 6, Procedural Justice](#). Procedural justice is measured by administering a survey designed to assess participants' perceptions of fairness based on their interactions with critical members of the adult treatment court team with whom the participant has substantial ongoing interaction such as the judge, coordinator, treatment provider, supervising officer, case manager, and general court staff. Procedural justice has been broadly linked with legal compliance, willingness to accept decisions (favorable or not), and legitimacy as a result of accepting the process as fair. Procedural justice is a concept that refers to participant perceptions of interactions and decision-making during their time in the program. The surveys utilize a Likert scale with participant responses of “strongly agree” signifying the most positive

Figure 5: FY 2025 Procedural Justice Survey Results

	Percent Strongly Agree/Agree	Percent Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Percent Strongly Disagree/Disagree
Judge	91.9%	6.0%	2.0%
Case manager	92.7%	5.7%	1.6%
Treatment	92.5%	5.8%	1.7%
Supervising Officer	90.1%	8.2%	1.7%
Drug Court Personnel	91.3%	7.0%	1.7%
Court Staff General	94.6%	4.5%	0.9%
Grand Total	91.9%	6.4%	1.7%

perceptions of procedural justice, and participant responses of “strongly disagree” signifying the most negative perceptions of procedural justice. Figure 5 provides aggregated level of agreement for all programs through the end of FY 2025. Since the initiation of the survey administration, more than 2,900 participant responses have been collected across 26 adult drug treatment courts. The ongoing administration of procedural fairness surveys occurs every six months.

Monitoring Emerging Research Opportunities

The OPSC-R&A team also monitors and reviews emerging research in the field for practical application in Maryland's PSC programs. This year, the OPSC-R&A team continued to work towards the incorporation of evidence-based data tools used to measure race and gender equity and inclusion in treatment courts. The PSC senior researcher will continue to spend time in the field with program managers and their teams to identify technical assistance needs, improve data collection, best practice adherence, and performance measure monitoring.

New PSCs in FY 2025

[Maryland Rule 16-207](#) provides a formal process for PSCs to become operational and be recognized as such by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland. Applicants are expected to prepare a completed application and any supporting materials to provide the most accurate details of the proposed PSC.

The prospective PSC leadership confers with OPSC and any organization or government official whose participation in the program will be required under the plan. Examples of officials to be consulted, depending on the nature of the proposed program, include, but are not limited to, the Office of the State's Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Department of Juvenile Services, behavioral health, substance use and educational organizations, the Department of Parole and Probation, and the Department of Human Services.

The Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee reviews the application to:

- Determine whether the application is complete and comprehensive.
- Identify potential program weaknesses or areas of concern.
- Determine whether the application has adequate facilities, staff, and management capacity.

The committee may request clarification and offer recommendations or corrections as necessary.

In FY 2025, Baltimore City District Court launched the Central Maryland Regional Veterans Treatment Court, extending services beyond Baltimore City to include Baltimore County, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. This extension of services marks Maryland's third multi-county veterans' treatment court and the fourth multi-county problem-solving court in the state. Originally founded in 2015 under Judge Halee F. Weinstein, the regional expansion now brings court-supervised, voluntary treatment, intensive case management, and peer monitoring to justice-involved veterans charged with misdemeanors, with goals to reduce recidivism, connect participants to VA benefits, and improve housing and support service access. This expansion reflects Maryland's commitment to offering a robust, regional model that leverages existing infrastructure to better support veterans across five jurisdictions, promoting stability and rebuilding lives through treatment-focused justice.



In FY 2025, 6 new PSCs became operational in Maryland:

PSC Name	Operational Date
Anne Arundel County District Mental Health Court	September 30, 2024
Baltimore County District Veterans Treatment Court	November 12, 2024
Carroll County District Veterans Treatment Court	November 12, 2024
Harford County District Veterans Treatment Court	November 12, 2024
Howard County District Veterans Treatment Court	November 12, 2024
Frederick County Circuit Truancy Reduction Court	January 24, 2025

Figure 6: FY 2025 Operational Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland

County1	Adult District Drug Court	Adult Circuit Drug Court	Juvenile Drug Court	Family Treatment Court	District Mental Health Court	Circuit Mental Health Court	Truancy Reduction Prog.	Re-entry Court	Veterans Court	Back on Track	No PSC Program	DUI Court	Grand Total
Allegany		●			●								2
Anne Arundel	● 1	● 1			● 1				● 1			● 1	5
Baltimore City	●	●		●	●	●			●				6
Baltimore Co.	● 1	● 1		● 1	● 1				● 1				5
Calvert		●											1
Caroline		● 1											1
Carroll		●							●				2
Cecil		● 1											1
Charles		●		●									2
Dorchester	● 1						● 1		● 1				3
Frederick		●			●		●		●				4
Garrett											●		1
Harford	●	●		●	●		●		●				6
Howard	● 1								● 1			● 1	3
Kent							●						1
Montgomery		● 1			● 1	● 1						● 1	4
Prince George's	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●			8
Queen Anne's		● 1											1
Somerset		●					●		●				3
St. Mary's		● 1		● 1								● 1	3
Talbot		●						●					2
Washington		● 1							● 1				2
Wicomico		●					●		●				3
Worcester	● 1	● 1			●	● 1	● 1		●				6
Grand Total	● 8	● 20	● 1	● 5	● 9	● 3	● 8	● 2	● 13	● 1	●	● 4	74

Funding

\$1.7 Million Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance Award – FY 2022- FY 2026²

In December of 2021, the Maryland Judiciary was awarded a four-year \$1.7 million grant through the Adult Drug and Veterans Court Discretionary Grant Program, a competitive grant program within the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The grant provides the Judiciary funding for the implementation of a statewide risk and need assessment tool in all adult drug and veterans treatment courts³ and for a new statewide MIS that will enable PSCs to improve program monitoring and evaluation including tracking performance measures and best practice adherence.

In addition to the statewide implementation of a risk and need assessment tool, the grant also provides funding for three pilot treatment courts to institute special implementation of the assessment tool by offering pre-adjudication risk and need assessments to all non-violent criminal offenders. This special implementation allows pilot locations the opportunity to provide all non-violent criminal offenders an objective, non-discriminatory tool to help inform risk, treatment needs and decisions concerning

² The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) approved a one-year no-cost extension, allowing the Judiciary to continue implementing its grant-funded programs through FY 2026.

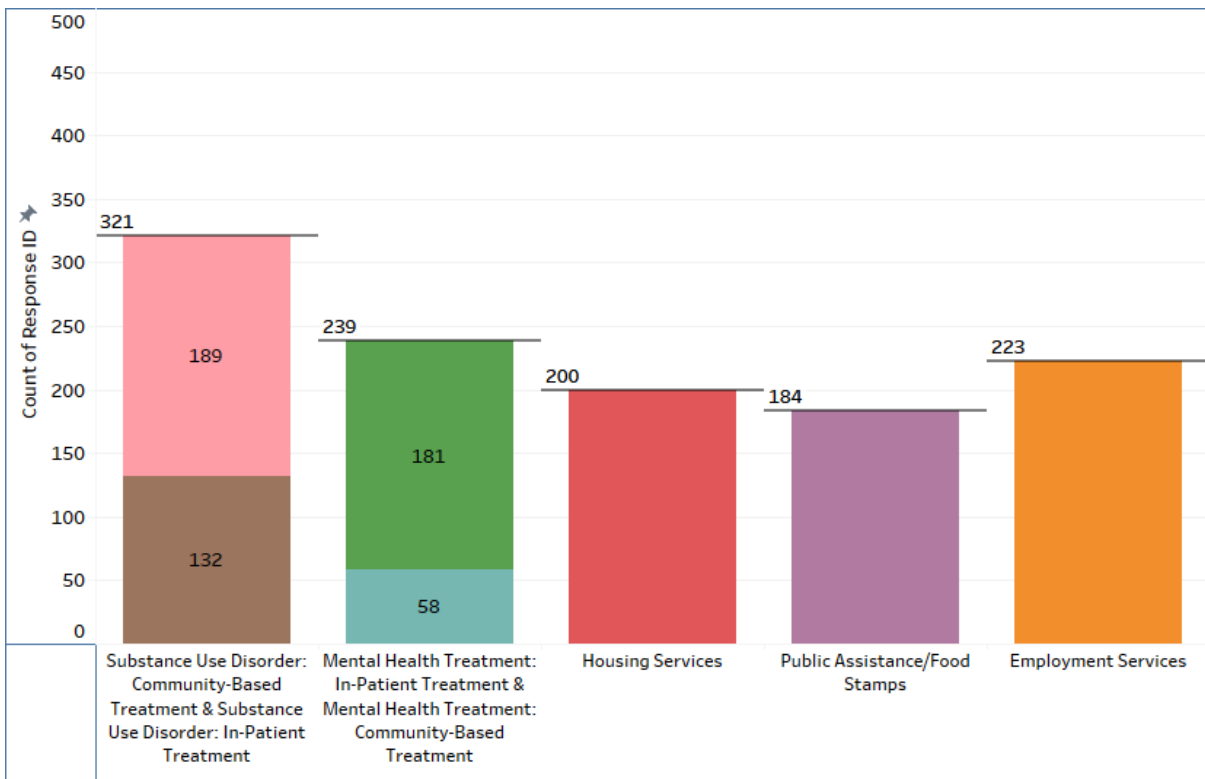
³ In FY 2022, the Judiciary entered a contract with Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) to implement the Risk and Needs Triage (RANT) assessment tool in all adult drug and veterans treatment courts.

sentencing, diversion, pretrial detention, and release.

BJA Grant Funded Projects –

1. **Statewide Implementation of a Risk/Need Assessment Tool:** Implemented statewide in early FY 2023, the Risk and Need Triage (RANT) risk and need assessment tool continues to be used statewide in all adult drug and veteran's treatment courts, to enable effective triaging of criminal offenders to specialty courts and service referrals. Use of the RANT tool ensures court resources are used in a cost-effective manner and court participants are referred to providers according to their specific needs. During FY 2025, Maryland's adult drug and veterans treatment courts completed 828 screenings, with 74% of screenings identifying people as high-risk/high-need, the target population⁴ for adult drug and veterans treatment courts.
2. **Launch of the Universal Risk and Need Screening Pilot Program at Three Locations:** In September 2023, three pilot sites in Caroline, Harford, and Cecil Counties were selected to participate in the Universal Risk and Need Screening Pilot Program. The program's phased rollout began in January 2024, with full implementation completed by April 2024. During FY 2025, the pilot sites collectively screened over 393 individuals for risk and need, resulting in more than 1,167 service referrals (Figure 7). In FY 2025, the OPSC and OPSC-R&A collaborated with and continues to work with the Omni Institute, who are actively assisting with the evaluation process of the Universal Risk and Need Pilot Program.

Figure 7: Service Referrals by Type of Service, Universal Risk and Need Pilot Program, FY 2025



⁴ All Rise Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards. https://allrise.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Adult-Treatment-Court-Best-Practice-Standards_07.28.2025.pdf

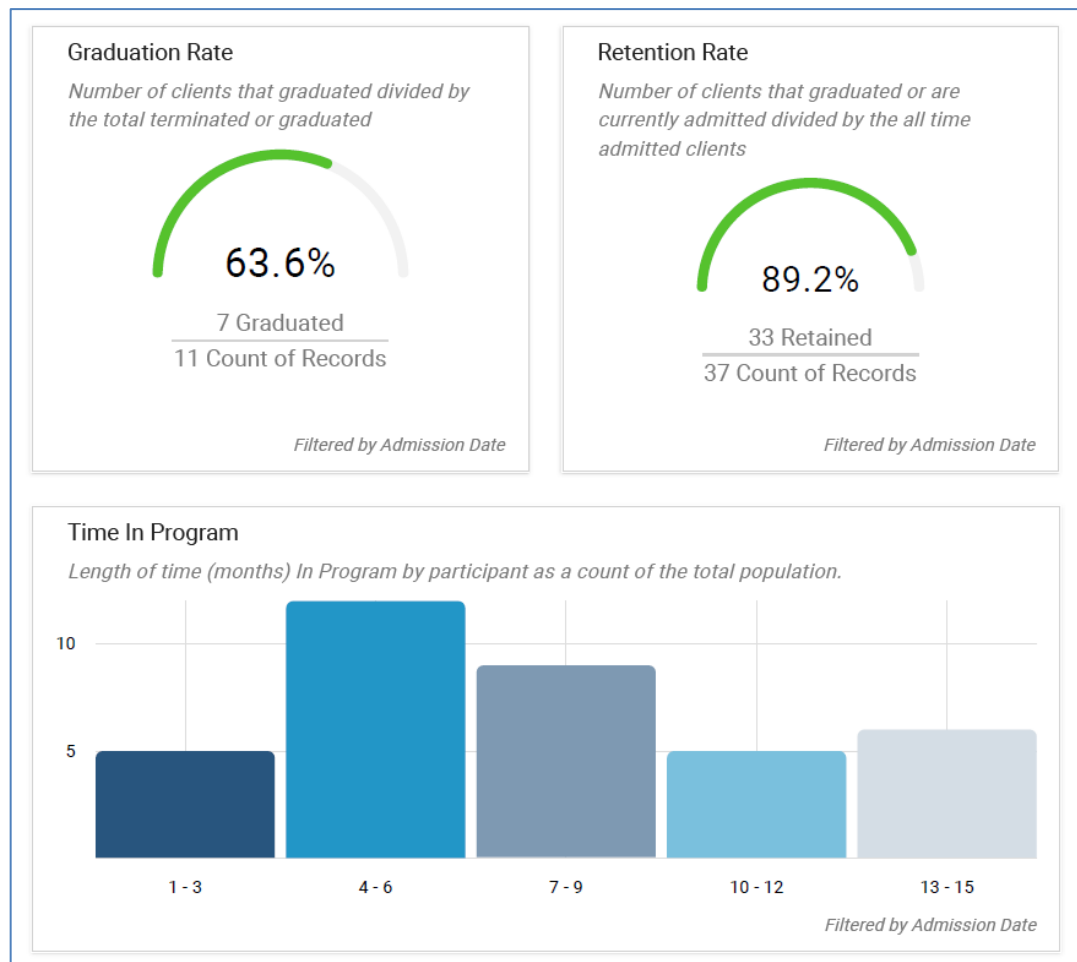
3. **New Statewide MIS:** Implemented in June 2024, OPSC’s new MIS, AIMS, improves program data collection and tracking, case management collaboration, and communication among court teams, service providers, court participants, evaluators, and state administrators. Statewide and local-level configuration of dashboards (Figure 8) supports research in action and assists PSC teams in practicing real-time evidence-based decision-making, track court performance, and monitor adherence to best practices. State-level administrators can strategically channel resources to local teams and maintain cost-effectiveness in spending by easily identifying areas of need. The Omni Institute, non-profit social science consultancy specializing in rigorous research and evaluation to drive meaningful community-centered change, is also assisting in the evaluation of the new MIS system.

BJA Grant Objectives

The BJA grant objectives support adherence to following Maryland-specific and All Rise evidence-based practices and performance measures:

- **Facilitate implementation of Maryland Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 1, Target Population and All Rise best practice for target population:** The defined objective of the Maryland ADC target population performance measure is to target high-risk, high-need populations, with a benchmark of achieving 100% target population admissions. All Rise Adult Drug Court Best Practices Volume I recommends adult drug courts use a validated risk-need assessment tool to target high-risk/high-need offenders for admission who have substance use disorder due to illicit drugs or alcohol and are at a substantial risk for reoffending or failing to complete a less intensive disposition, such as standard probation or pretrial supervision. Implementation of an assessment tool enables drug court teams to identify and target this population for potential admission to drug court.
- **Facilitate implementation of Maryland Adult Drug Court Performance Measures 3 and 4, “Processing Time” and All Rise Key Component #3 “eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program”:** Research indicates that effectiveness of treatment and long-term adjustment are linked to swift entry into treatment, with shorter processing times related to greater reductions in recidivism. The Maryland Adult Drug Court performance benchmark for measures three and four is defined as less than 50 days from referral to first treatment episode. Administration of an assessment tool early in the process increases the efficiency of referral and admission to drug court.
- **Facilitate implementation of Maryland Adult Drug Court Performance Measure 18, “Access and Fairness” and All Rise best practice for equity and inclusion:** All Rise Adult Drug Court Best Practices Volume I recommends addressing equity and inclusion for individuals who have historically experienced sustained discrimination or reduced social opportunities because of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental health, religion, or socioeconomic status receive the same opportunities as other individuals to participate and succeed in the drug court. Implementation of an assessment tool for all criminal defendants enables courts to offer unbiased access to diversion programs.

- Facilitate improved implementation of All Rise best practice for monitoring and evaluation:**
 All Rise Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards Volume 2 recommends several best practices for meeting monitoring and evaluation standards, including regularly monitoring adherence to best standards, in-program outcomes, criminal recidivism, and racial and gender disparities among participants. Best practice monitoring of these measures depends on timely and reliable program entry, and performance data in concert with a MIS that provides for the ability to access and analyze data regularly so that program improvements can be swiftly identified and implemented. The acquisition and implementation of a new MIS facilitates greater adherence to this standard.



PSC Grants and Budget Requests

In FY 2025, the Judiciary solicited its annual grant applications from circuit courts and budget requests from District Court programs to support and maintain the capacity of existing and planned PSCs across Maryland. The PSC Discretionary Grant and PSC Budget Request processes address staffing needs within the Judiciary and collaborating agencies, provide support for needed ancillary services, cover critically needed drug and alcohol testing costs, support

trainings, and fund services that are deemed non-reimbursable by managed care. See [Table 1](#) for a list of problem-solving court grants and budget requests funded by the Maryland Judiciary.

Table 1: PSC Grant/Budget Request Awards FY 2025

Problem-Solving Court Grant/Budget Request Awards FY 2025		
Problem-Solving Court Jurisdiction	OPSC Grant/Budget Request Awards	Total by County
Allegany Circuit Court	\$272,692.69	\$327,692.69
Allegany District Court	\$55,000.00	
Anne Arundel Circuit Court	\$465,969.41	\$918,088.41
Anne Arundel District Court	\$452,119.00	
Baltimore City Circuit Court	\$492,412.86	\$800,753.86
Baltimore City District Court	\$308,341.00	
Baltimore Co. Circuit Court	\$374,030.57	\$430,030.57
Baltimore Co. District Court	\$56,000.00	
Calvert Circuit Court	\$302,598.48	\$302,598.48
Caroline Circuit Court	\$119,582.00	\$119,582.00
Carroll Circuit Court	\$381,822.42	\$381,822.42
Cecil Circuit Court	\$438,624.69	\$438,624.69
Charles Circuit Court	\$189,355.69	\$189,355.69
Dorchester Circuit Court	\$502,090.00	\$542,090.00
Dorchester District Court	\$40,000.00	
Frederick Circuit Court	\$452,426.03	\$546,226.03
Frederick District Court	\$93,800.00	
Harford Circuit Court	\$291,935.42	\$375,395.42
Harford District Court	\$83,460.00	
Howard District Court	\$215,400.00	\$215,400.00
Kent Circuit Court	\$85,650.01	\$85,650.01
Montgomery Circuit Court	\$397,841.57	\$507,131.57
Montgomery District Court	\$109,290.00	
Prince George's Circuit Court	\$563,131.50	\$691,119.50
Prince George's District Court	\$127,988.00	
Queen Anne's Circuit Court	\$119,941.20	\$119,941.20
Somerset Circuit Court	\$278,435.35	\$278,435.35
St. Mary's Circuit Court	\$315,126.12	\$315,126.12
Talbot Circuit Court	\$182,484.87	\$182,484.87
Washington Circuit Court	\$278,349.49	\$278,349.49
Wicomico Circuit Court	\$341,667.17	\$341,667.17
Worcester Circuit Court	\$235,133.97	\$245,613.97
Worcester District Court	\$10,480.00	
TOTAL	\$8,633,179.51	\$8,633,179.51

Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Grant for Non-Reimbursable Services

In FY 2025, BHA provided \$1 million, and the Judiciary provided \$800,000 for a total of \$1.8 million

to provide grant awards to drug treatment providers to purchase non-reimbursable services delivered in ambulatory treatment settings. Such services are treatment provider time spent in court on behalf of the client such as at status hearings, pre-court meetings, and case consultation meetings with drug court personnel; non-reimbursable clinical case management associated with substance use disorder treatment services; correspondence with court officials on behalf of participants; and transportation as needed for substance use disorder treatment.

Training and Education

Participation in technical assistance and evidence-based education is a priority for the Judiciary. Every year, Judiciary staff and the Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee plan and fulfill a wide array of technical assistance and evidence-based trainings.

Technical assistance engagements equip teams with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to effectively address the complex challenges presented by PSC participants and offer practical guidance and support, assisting problem-solving court teams to implement best practices and navigate programmatic complexities. Evidence-based trainings provide a solid foundation in proven methods and interventions, ensuring that participants receive the most effective treatment and support available. Having a well-trained team means learning new skills that can improve outcomes, reduce mistakes, build confidence, and create a better working environment. By engaging in these initiatives, PSCs enhance their ability to deliver equitable justice outcomes, reduce recidivism, and ultimately, improve the lives of those they serve. Additionally, ongoing participation in training and education fosters a culture of continuous improvement and innovation, ensuring that PSCs remain at the forefront of advancing the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all.

In FY 2025, OPSC sponsored or attended Best Practice-Focused and Technical Assistance trainings for Maryland's PSC teams. These trainings contributed to enhanced knowledge and skills in best practice standards among court professionals including participant selection, mental health needs, equity and inclusion, family life, and community advisory boards.

Training and Education Highlight—Criminal Justice & Opioid Use Disorder

In July 2024, OPSC hosted a lunch and learn webinar exploring the public health impact of opioid use disorder on incarcerated individuals, the disease of addiction and brain changes that occur in response to the disease, the impact of childhood trauma, and medications for Opioid Use Disorder.

Training and Education Highlight—Medication Assisted Treatment & Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program

In August 2024, OPSC hosted lunch and learn webinars on medication assisted treatment (MAT) and Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP). MAT involves the use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a whole-patient approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Studies have shown that MAT reduces illicit drug use, disease rates, overdose, mortality, and criminal behavior. HVRP provides employment-focused case management and service coordination to help veterans experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness build a foundation for finding and keeping long-term employment. This program also addresses veterans' complex needs, helps them enroll in local support services, and

provides funds for job skills training, equipment, and transportation.

Training and Education Highlight—Incentives, Sanctions, and Service Adjustments (ISSA)

In September 2024, PSC teams from across Maryland participated in a national training initiative to reassess their PSC’s policies and procedures according to treatment court models. Conducted by All Rise, this training aimed to educate teams on theory and application of behavior modification as it applies to an effective adult drug treatment court.



Figure 9: Cecil and Frederick County Adult Drug Court Teams at ISSA training

Training and Education Highlight—Case Management Essentials

In October 2024, PSC teams attended a virtual best practice-focused training on case management. This training focused on key components of a drug court outlined in *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components* and how case management is essential to this framework. The components are a series of inter-related functions that provided need coordination and seamless collaboration and is the force that holds the varied and many drug court elements together, ensuring that 1) clients are linked to relevant and effective services; 2) all service efforts are monitored, connected, and in synchrony; and 3) pertinent information gathered during assessment and monitoring is provided to the entire drug court team in real-time. Case management forms the framework for which the drug court process can credibly and effectively operate.

Training and Education Highlight—20th Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium

In November 2024, OPSC hosted the 20th Annual Problem-Solving Court Symposium in Towson, MD. This event brought together professionals from treatment courts across the state to explore the latest trends and best practices in the field. The symposium offered a multidisciplinary platform for attendees to enhance their knowledge and share valuable experiences. Participants represented a variety of court types, including adult drug courts, DUI courts, family recovery courts, juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, re-entry courts, truancy courts, and veteran treatment courts.



Figure 10: Court Teams at 2024 PSC Symposium

Training and Education Highlight—PSC Coordinators’ Meetings

In September 2024, January 2025 and June 2025, OPSC conducted hybrid training sessions for all PSC coordinators focused on the latest trends and best practices for adult drug courts, DUI courts, family recovery courts, mental health courts, truancy courts, and veteran treatment courts.

Training and Education Highlight–Baltimore City District Mental Health Court Team Meeting

In January 2025, OPSC hosted a training for the Baltimore City District Mental Health Court team on the newly implemented AIMS system, All Rise Best Practices Updates, community resources, peer support, and an annual MHC team training.

Training and Education Highlight–PSC Virtual Trainings

In January, February, and March 2025, in collaboration with the National Center for State Courts, OPSC hosted virtual trainings for PSC teams. These trainings included topics, such as coordination levels of care and phases in treatment courts, the role of the treatment provider in a treatment court setting and working with justice-involved populations in a treatment court setting. These training courses focused on therapeutic interventions integrated into All Rise treatment court phase structures, how treatment provider roles play into each of the 10 guidelines of the All Rise best practice standards, and in-depth understanding of barriers, tools, and practices involved in treating justice-involved clients.



Figure 11: Baltimore City District Mental Health Court Team Training

Training and Education Highlight – Statewide Summit on Behavioral Health

In May 2025, the Maryland Judiciary in collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) and the Maryland Department of Health/Behavioral Health Administration hosted a two-day statewide summit. This summit, titled An Opportunity for Collaborative Change, included information and presentations by national, state, and local leaders on crisis intervention, competency, diversion, community behavior health, re-entry, trauma, and the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM).

Drug Courts

Drug courts, broadly referred to as adult treatment courts, constitute a Judiciary-led coordinated system that demands accountability of staff and court participants and provides immediate, intensive, and comprehensive drug treatment, supervision, and support services using a variety of incentives and sanctions to encourage participant compliance. Drug courts represent the coordinated efforts of criminal justice, behavioral health, and social service agencies, along with treatment communities that actively intervene in, and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions, such as incarceration or general probation, drug courts quickly identify individuals with substance use disorder and place them under strict court monitoring and community supervision coupled with effective, individually assessed treatment, and ancillary services. [Table 2](#) provides a comprehensive list and key statistics of all Maryland adult, family, and juvenile drug courts, and DUI treatment courts.



Figure 12: Baltimore City Circuit Court, Adult Drug Court Graduation

Table 2: Drug Court Statistical Summary: No. of Court Participants July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

County	Location Type	Program Type	Year Established	FY 2025 Annual Report Statistic				
				Entered Program	Successful Completion	Admin. Discharge	Unsuccessful Completion	Total Served
Allegany	Circuit	Adult	Jun-18	14	17	2	10	62
Anne Arundel	Circuit	Adult	Dec-05	49	31	8	19	146
	District	Adult DUI	Feb-97 Jan-05	54	37	3	6	165
Baltimore City	Circuit	Adult	Oct-94	27	11	11	16	100
		Family	Aug-05	13	12	4	11	53
	District	Adult	Mar-94	36	6	1	12	55
Baltimore Co.	Circuit	Adult	Sep-20	8	12		3	38
		Family	Aug-10	9	11	4	3	22
	District	Adult	Jun-21	3				3
Calvert	Circuit	Adult	Feb-15	32	28	7	10	112
Caroline	Circuit	Adult	Nov-11	11	3		5	20
Carroll	Circuit	Adult	Apr-07	25	9	1	2	46
Cecil	Circuit	Adult	Jun-06	32	27	5	8	112
Charles	Circuit	Adult	Jun-22	6		2	1	15
		Family	Jan-11	4	3	3	1	17
Dorchester	District	Adult	Oct-06	17	16	1	10	63
Frederick	Circuit	Adult	May-05	23	10	2	1	63
Harford	Circuit	Adult	Dec-18	22	9	1	2	82
		Family	May-04	20	3	3	3	31
	District	Adult	Nov-97	29	10	5	6	46
Howard	District	Adult	Jul-04	7	5	10	1	26
		DUI	Jul-04	15	8	4	2	40
Montgomery	Circuit	Adult	Nov-05	22	8	1	2	73
	District	DUI	Aug-23	18	5		6	49
Prince George's	Circuit	Adult	Aug-02	10	3	1	3	36
		Juvenile	Aug-02	19	8	5	6	32
		Re-Entry	Oct-13	17	17	2	2	51
	District	Adult	Apr-06	41	23	14	2	100
Queen Anne's	Circuit	Adult	Jun-22	12	6	3	2	23
Somerset	Circuit	Adult	Aug-18	12	4	4		28
St. Mary's	Circuit	Adult Drug/DUI	Jul-09	23	16	1		49
		Family	Aug-16	11	4	4	4	24
Talbot	Circuit	Adult	Aug-07	13	4	1	1	22
Washington	Circuit	Adult	May-19	6	7	2	3	26
Wicomico	Circuit	Adult	Sep-05	11	18	8	2	59
Worcester	Circuit/District	Adult	Dec-05	20	15	4	4	50
Grand Total				691	406	127	169	1,939

Note: Administrative Discharge is defined as a case closure during the reporting period for reasons such as death, probation expired, or moved jurisdictions.

Mental Health Courts



Figure 13: Frederick County District Mental Health Court Judges and Director of the Office of Problem-Solving Courts

participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. The overarching goal of the mental health court is to decrease the frequency of participants' contact with the criminal justice system by providing judicial oversight to improve their social functioning with respect to employment, housing, treatment, and support services in the community. Mental health courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address mental health needs and public safety concerns. These courts also seek to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior and the overall recidivism rate of this population.

In Maryland, as in other states, those with mental health disorder are increasingly becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Mental health courts were established in response to the increased numbers of individuals with mental health disorders found caught in the revolving door of the criminal justice system. See [Table 3](#) for a comprehensive list and basic information of all mental health courts.

A mental health court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with a primary mental health diagnosis. A problem-solving approach substitutes for the traditional adversarial criminal court process. Participants are identified through mental health screenings and assessments, and they voluntarily



Figure 14: Allegany County District Court, Mental Health Court Graduation

Table 3: Mental Health Court Statistical Summary– July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

County	Location Type	Program Type	Year Established	FY 2025 Annual Report Statistic				
				Entered Program	Successful Completion	Admin. Discharge	Unsuccessful Completion	Total Served
Allegany	District	Mental Health	Dec-24	7				8
Anne Arundel	District	Mental Health	Dec-24	25				25
Baltimore City	Circuit	Mental Health	May-17	41	9	32	2	278
	District	Mental Health	Nov-21	80	12	66	4	356
Baltimore Co.	District	Mental Health	Nov-21	14	6	5		21
Frederick	District	Mental Health	Jul-20	1	5	5		16
Harford	District	Mental Health	Jan-03	31	14	4		42
Montgomery	Circuit	Mental Health	Jan-17	16	2	1	3	27
	District	Mental Health	Jan-17	20	14	7	1	52
Prince George's	District	Mental Health	Jul-07	101	26	28	13	370
Worcester	Circuit/District	Mental Health	Mar-24	9	1	2		12
Grand Total				345	89	150	23	1,207

Veterans Courts

Veterans courts provide services to those who served in the military and suffer from conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, other mental health issues, and/or substance use disorders. Veterans can resolve outstanding criminal offenses, obtain the treatment and services they need, and stabilize their lives. A veterans court connects eligible participants to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, long-term supportive housing, and other benefits for participants whose service-related disabilities prevent their return to the workforce. The veterans court can also access local resources when a veteran does not qualify for VA benefits. See [Table 4](#) for a comprehensive list and basic characteristics of all veterans courts.



Figure 15: Baltimore City District Court Administrative Judge Hengerer and VTC mentors.

Table 4: Veterans Court Statistical Summary– July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

County	Location Type	Program Type	Year Established	FY 2025 Annual Report Statistic				
				Entered Program	Successful Completion	Admin. Discharge	Unsuccessful Completion	Total Served
Anne Arundel	District	Veterans Court	Nov-18	22	18	6	5	55
Baltimore City	District	Veterans Court	Oct-15	28	12	1	1	49
Dorchester	District	Veterans Court	Jun-18	7	14	1	1	30
Frederick	District	Veterans Court	Dec-23	6				6
Prince George's	Circuit	Veterans Court	Apr-15	6	9			21
Grand Total				69	53	8	7	161

Note: Dorchester Regional Veterans Treatment Court consists of Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

Note: Baltimore City District Regional Veterans Treatment Court consists of Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties.

Truancy Reduction Courts

Truancy Reduction Courts improve school attendance and positively affect the youth's attitude about education through a nurturing approach that ultimately will build a relationship between the family, the school, and the court. The court program is an alternative to punitive measures such as having parents prosecuted in criminal court or stigmatizing the child and further souring their outlook on education and the criminal justice system. A social worker, counselor, or case manager works with families to determine reasons for poor attendance and makes referrals to community-based services when appropriate. In FY 2025, Maryland's truancy reduction courts welcomed 135 new students and their families into their programs and continued to make contact with current participants, providing needed resources and motivation to continue with their lessons (Table 5).



Figure 16: First Circuit (Somerset) truancy team, including central office and school-based professionals, utilize in person and remote technology to increase access to instruction time while recognizing program graduates.

Table 5: Truancy Reduction Pilot Program Statistical Summary, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

County	Location Type	Program Type	Year Established	FY 2025 Annual Report Statistic				
				Entered Program	Successful Completion	Admin. Discharge	Unsuccessful Completion	Total Served
Dorchester	Circuit	Truancy Reduction	Mar-07	22	12	10	17	58
Frederick	Circuit	Truancy Reduction	Jan-25	3				3
Harford	Circuit	Truancy Reduction	Jan-08	4	11			16
Kent	Circuit	Truancy Reduction	Sep-14	11	2	2	1	37
Prince George's	Circuit	Truancy Reduction	May-09	20	8	11	10	50
Somerset	Circuit	Truancy Reduction	Mar-07	27	7	8	6	51
Wicomico	Circuit	Truancy Reduction	Mar-07	27	15	4	15	55
Worcester	Circuit	Truancy Reduction	Apr-07	21	15	6	3	50
Grand Total				135	70	41	52	320

Recommendations to Improve the Function of Current Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs, 2025 House Bill 1442 – Juveniles - Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs - Report (Chapter 577: CJP 3-8C-12)

As part of its mission to deliver fair, efficient, and effective justice for all, the Maryland Judiciary remains committed to strengthening program performance and participant outcomes across all of Maryland's PSCs. In its oversight role, the OPSC program managers regularly meet with truancy reduction pilot program teams to review program data and site visit observations, facilitating accountability and identifying opportunities for continuous improvement.

As mentioned on [page 12](#) this report, in FY 2025, with support from BJA funding, the Judiciary implemented a new PSC MIS. The capabilities of this new system enhance program data collection and tracking while also improving case management, communication, and collaboration among court teams, service providers, participants, evaluators, and state administrators.

To further improve the function of the Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs, and in accordance with directives outlined in 2025 HB 1442, R&A, in partnership with OPSC, will develop internal evaluation processes designed to track progress over time on key truancy-related factors. These processes may include the use of standardized intake and exit forms to capture issues such as transportation barriers and school refusal, providing a clearer picture of participant needs and program impact.

Conclusion

OPSC's accomplishments in FY 2025 underscore progress made in advancing the effectiveness of PSCs across the state. The Judiciary's commitment to internal monitoring and evaluation of treatment court best practice standards has yielded real results, with a notable increase in statewide best practice adherence. This commitment to excellence has positioned Maryland's PSCs as examples of innovation and accountability within the justice system.

Moreover, FY 2025's heightened investment and engagement in technical assistance and evidence-based trainings has empowered PSC teams with the knowledge and tools needed to excel in their roles. As a result, teams are better equipped to address the complex challenges that PSC participants face, ultimately leading to improved outcomes and reduced recidivism.

OPSC's FY 2025 accomplishments under the BJA grant's universal risk and need pilot program demonstrate the Judiciary's continued commitment to the early identification of court-involved individuals in need of substance use disorder and mental health treatment. With the new MIS,

OPSC is tracking performance measures, monitoring best practice adherence, and making data-driven decisions that will further enhance Maryland's PSC programs.

Continuing into FY 2026, OPSC will further develop its capabilities in data-informed programming, refine program practices, increase impact, and help advance the Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all.

For more information, please contact Gray Barton, OPSC director at 410-260-3617 or richard.barton@mdcourts.gov.

Appendix A: PSCs in Maryland: History and Governance

In 1994, one of the first drug courts in the country was initiated in Baltimore City to address substance use issues for those involved in the criminal justice system. In 2002, the Maryland Judiciary established the Drug Treatment Court Commission, which led the Judiciary's effort to implement and maintain drug court programs statewide. Commission members included circuit and District Court judges, legislators, and representatives from all appropriate executive branch agencies.

In December 2006, then-Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issued an administrative order establishing a Judicial Conference Committee on PSCs to institutionalize the work of the Commission and to expand its scope to include all PSCs.

In 2015, then-Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera revamped the Judiciary's committee structure by appointing a new Judicial Council and a new set of Judicial Council committees including a Committee on Specialty Courts and Dockets. This new structure has continued under the guidance of current Chief Justice Fader, preceded by Chief Judge Getty, who served as chief judge from September 11, 2021, through April of 2022. The Judicial Council continues to serve as the principal policy advisory body to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee continues to promote and oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets statewide. The committee advances best practices in areas such as substance use disorder, mental health, and alcoholism. The committee monitors and directs the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, funding, and support for specialty courts and dockets. See [Appendix B](#) for more information on the Judicial Council, this committee, and its membership.

The Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee, chaired by Hon. Kimberly M. Davis, is comprised of two subcommittees: the Problem-Solving Courts Subcommittee and the Behavioral Health Subcommittee. The PSC Subcommittee assists courts and provides a comprehensive and collaborative approach to assist each program in employing best practices, including providing performance measurement, evidence-based training, direct assistance, research, and funding.

The Behavioral Health Subcommittee explores trial court sentencing alternatives for the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with mental health needs and those with substance use disorder not enrolled in specialty courts. This subcommittee works closely with the Maryland Department of Health and other governmental agencies to monitor and provide information regarding community and residential-based treatment.

Appendix B: Maryland Judicial Council - An Overview

The Judicial Council serves as the principal policy advisory body to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Judicial Council consists of 22 members, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Chief Judge of the District Court, the State Court Administrator, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Clerks, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Administrators, the Chair of the Supreme Court of Maryland Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Chief Clerk of the District Court, the Chair of the Senior Judges Committee, three circuit court judges, four District Court judges, and two District Administrative Clerks. The Deputy State Court Administrator serves as Secretary to the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council's Executive Committee, which meets at the request and direction of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to provide input to the Chief Justice on matters that arise between sessions of the Judicial Council, consists of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Judges, the Chief Judge of the District Court, and the State Court Administrator.

As indicated above, several of the members serve by virtue of their position, while the remaining members are appointed by the Chief Justice. Each appointed member of the Judicial Council is appointed to a two-year term but can be reappointed as the Chief Justice deems necessary and appropriate. Unless otherwise directed by the Chief Justice, the Judicial Council meets bi-monthly.

As the highest governance body, the Judicial Council is the central hub for all Judiciary-wide policy changes, judicial reforms, legislative issues, and other internal and external developments that impact the administration of justice. To that end, the committees develop recommendations for the Judicial Council's consideration and the Chief Justice's approval that address policies, programs, and initiatives that help to ensure the effective and efficient administration of justice in Maryland. In addition, the Judicial Council takes up external matters that impact the Maryland Judiciary.

The diverse and focused members of the Judicial Council and its committees, including justices, judges, magistrates, trial court clerks and administrators, and commissioners, represent all geographical areas of the state. It is through their collective work that the Maryland Judiciary is fulfilling its mission and achieving its goals, all for the betterment of those who enter the courts and utilize the services the Judiciary offers.

2025 Judicial Council

***Honorable Matthew J. Fader**

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Maryland

Matthew Barrett

Chair

Conference of Circuit Court Administrators

Honorable Bibi M. Berry

Montgomery County Circuit Court

Term: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026

Honorable Wayne A. Brooks

District Court in Howard County

Term: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026

Honorable Debra J. Burch

Vice-Chair

Conference of Circuit Court Clerks

Honorable Yolanda L. Curtin

Vice-Chair

Conference of Circuit Judges

Honorable Heather DeWees

Chair

Conference of Circuit Court Clerks

Nancy Faulkner

Secretary

Deputy State Court

Administrator

Maria Fields

Administrative Clerk

Baltimore County

Term: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026

***Honorable Fred S. Hecker**

Chair

Conference of Circuit Judges

Honorable Geoffrey Hengerer

District Court of Baltimore City

Term: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026

Honorable James A. Kenney III

Chair

Senior Judges Committee

Honorable Stacey Mayer

Baltimore County Circuit Court

Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025

***Honorable John P. Morrissey**

Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland

Honorable Harris P. Murphy

Circuit Court in Kent County

Term: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026

Kara Pollak

Vice-Chair

Conference of Circuit Court Administrators

***Judy Rupp**

State Court Administrator

Rebecca Sloane

Administrative Clerk

Cecil County

Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025

Hon. Shaem Spencer

District Court of Anne Arundel County

Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025

Roberta Warnken

Chief Clerk, District Court of Maryland

***Honorable Greg E. Wells**

Chief Judge, Appellate Court

Honorable Yvette M. Bryant

Chair, Rules Committee

***Executive Committee Member**

The Judicial Council's Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee Purpose

The Specialty Courts and Dockets' charge is to promote and oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of specialty courts and dockets in the courts.

Scope of Activity

The committee ensures the utilization of best practices by specialty courts and special dockets, in areas such as substance abuse, mental health and alcoholism. It monitors and directs the evaluation of the delivery of evidence-based training, technical assistance, research, funding and support for specialty courts and special dockets. The committee reports on its initiatives and other activities, at least annually, to the Judicial Council.

Committee Membership

Hon. Kimberly M. Davis, Chair

Committee Member	Term Expires
Hon. Kimberly M. Davis, Chair	December 2025
Hon. Louis A. Becker	December 2025
Hon. Makeba Gibbs	December 2025
Administrative Clerk Kathryn Glenn	December 2026
Magistrate Lena Kim	December 2026
Hon. Sherri D. Koch	December 2025
Hon. Tameika M. Lunn	December 2026
Hon. Patrice Lewis	December 2025
Hon. Thomas Pryal	Ex Officio
Hon. Holly D. Reed III	December 2026
Hon. Michelle R. Sanders	December 2025
Hon. Ronald Silkworth	December 2026
Hon. Rachel Skolnik	December 2025
Hon. Joseph Stanalonis	December 2025
Hon. Ann Wagner-Stewart	Ex Officio
Court Administrator Burgess Wood	December 2026
Gray Barton, Staff, OPSC Program Director	