

The TASC Connection



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TASC 2021 Conference – Updates & Deadlines

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts will be hosting a poster board competition during the 2021 conference in Galveston. Images of team posters will be displayed on the conference application only, so teams do not have to bring their posters to the conference. This is a great opportunity for teams to work together to represent their specialty court. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will receive conference assistance for a designated team



Conference. Pictures of all poster submissions can be submitted electronically to Erin Morgan at Erin.Morgan@traviscountytexas.gov. Check out TASC website for further details.

Cancellation Policy:
Full refunds will be given to those who cancel ten (10) working days prior to the training. No refunds will be processed after that time. Substitutions are permitted anytime.

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Full refunds will be given to those who cancel ten

2021-2022 TASC Slate of Officers

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El Paso DWI Intervention and Treatment Program

Research demonstrates that families impacted by alcoholism are more likely to experience less bonding, independence, and ability to express themselves openly. Consequently, families and spouses are often impacted physically and emotionally. As a result of the damage done, it only makes sense to include as many members of the family as possible in therapy to begin the healing process and rebuild trust within the relationship.

2Love1 LLC offers services, assistance, and treatment for the alcoholic/addict and all members of the family. Often when the relationship foundation is damaged, the focus is to build a stable foundation through open and honest communication. This process builds trust. 2Love1's unique approach is to engage participants in casual, informal, and playful strategies aimed at lowering the participant's defense barrier, which is a critical component of the healing process.

Some of the strategies and therapeutic approaches include family picnics, scavenger hunts within the home, art, cooking, and couples working together on puzzles. All activities are designed to enhance emotional bonding and self-expression. Additionally, topics include nutrition, co-dependency, nurturing, parenting, anger management, domestic violence, English as a second language, couples enrichment (to include LGBQ couples), finances, and a Sesame Street program. All are designed to meet the specific needs of each family and person.

The pictures below show our providers and participants at work. If a picture is worth a thousand words, we will let these speak for themselves. *(article written by Leticia Medina, Program Coordinator)*



Mission:

The Texas Association of Specialty Court Courts (TASC) builds and strengthens Texas specialty courts through collaboration, advocacy and education.

Bi-Monthly Newsletters!!

Although we have moved to Bi-Monthly Newsletters, we still want to hear from you! Send us what your court programs are doing in this time of pandemic and decreased resources. Please send your submissions to Kimberly Duran at Kimberly.Duran@dallascounty.org



Bexar County Family Drug Court

“You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.” Desmond Tutu.

The Bexar County Family Drug Court is proud to be a vessel in which these five mothers chose to assist them in addressing their addictions. The most common thread with each of these women is not their addictions but the love they each have for themselves and their children. Even through a Pandemic, these mothers have persevered through many obstacles and are on the road to leading clean and sober lives. The Gift of Reunification was granted by Judge Peter Sakai to these five families over the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. The Family Drug Court participants received Thanksgiving dinners in order to celebrate their reunification with their children. For the month of December, the reunified families received a Christmas Night package! The package included a popcorn tin, hot chocolate, marshmallows, a gingerbread house, and a Christmas movie.



We're on the Web!
<http://www.tasctx.org>
**Check us out on
Facebook!**



Judicial Summit on Mental Health

The 4th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health will be held October 14-15, 2021 at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center. Capacity for their in-person meeting is limited to ensure they can follow all safety protocols in place including social distancing. Those who are not able to attend the meeting in person, will have the opportunity to live-stream the event from their home or office. The Summit will include opportunities to connect with colleagues, establish new relationships, and engage in learning sessions designed to be inspiring yet practical. Participants will receive tools to help navigate the complex mental health laws.

For additional information visit <http://texasjcmh.gov/>

Paul's Testimony

"In 2009, I was accepted into the Bexar County Felony Drug Court Program. I remember asking for Drug Court in lieu of lock-down treatment, thinking I could keep using as long as I was physically free. This worked for about a nanosecond before the addiction-savvy Drug Court staff saw how ill I was and sent me to a local treatment program.

After spending ninety days in a transitional treatment facility, I moved into a sober house in May of 2010. I was as happy then – sleeping on a twin bed, waiting tables, and riding the bus – as I have ever been. I finally learned that happiness was internal, and everything else was just a bonus. I worked my way into management, and that newfound responsibility meant the world to me since when I was in my disease, I couldn't be trusted with anything!

I was in my mid-twenties and finally able to buy a car, move into my own apartment, and then, in 2010, a few months after making amends to my high school sweetheart, we went on our first real date since we were teens. In 2012, I asked her to be my wife. On November 9, 2013, I married the one that got away with family and friends I never thought would forgive me there to support us. My 12-step sponsor was my best man. It was one of the greatest days of my life.

I decided it was time to get serious about education and entered Texas Lutheran University Business School in January 2014. Next came Law School at the University of Maine from which I graduated in May of 2019, although I spent one of the three years in St. Mary's Law School in San Antonio Texas to be closer to my father, who had terminal cancer. I sat for the July 2019 Bar and then began the Maritime Law LL.M. program at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom. In 2020 I received my degree with highest honors. During the summers between law school semesters, I went to work as an intern for the Felony Drug Court where I used to be a client, and then for the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, the office that once prosecuted me!

Today, I live a life better than I could have ever hoped for. My beautiful wife is pregnant with our first child. I am a practicing attorney, fully licensed by the State Bar of Texas. I have had the pleasure of working with lawyers in recovery in TLAP (Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program), and I hope to eventually help expand that program. I work as Assistant County Attorney for a rural county in South Texas, I have a small civil practice, and I even do some corporate work for a small start-up in San Antonio. Credit for everything I am and everything I have goes to Christ, and his servants like Judge Ernie Glenn and the Bexar County Felony Drug Court staff. I don't know what comes next in this life, but I sure am enjoying the ride. I am still happy, joyous, and free because I still do what has always worked: trust God, clean house, and help others."



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