

# The TASC Connection



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Special Recognition	2
Harris County WRAP	2
TASC Get to Know Board	3
TASC Bylaw Changes	3

## TASC 2020 Conference – Updates & Deadlines

The deadline for submitting award applications has been extended to December 2, 2019. Please use this opportunity to recognize a deserving individual or an outstanding specialty court team. The applications can also be found on the TASC website.



The deadline for submitting workshop proposals has also been extended to December 2, 2019. We are looking for topics in the following areas: trauma-informed court and practices, pre-trial, cultural responsiveness, telemed services, and technology.

*Don't delay in starting to work on your 90-second video submission with your court teams for the conference competition! Competition flyer with details was sent out to emails!*



## FREE Operational Tune-Up Training

NADCP's National Drug Court Institute and Justice For Vets are now accepting applications for FREE operational tune-up training in 2020. Through this training, courts will:

- Learn the latest best practices and how they should be applied to your program
- Revise policies and practices relating to incentives and sanctions, target population, community supervision and drug testing
- Receive updates on pertinent case law

Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice, operational tune-up training is free to communities that qualify. To qualify, applications must include three court teams with at least two years of operational experience and a letter of support from the state's treatment court coordinator.

Hurry! The deadline to apply is Friday, November 22, 2019.

## Special Recognition

Congratulations to Faustino Lopez III for being awarded the 2019 Practitioner Award by American Society of Criminology, Division on Corrections and Sentencing!

### *Mission:*

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



Bexar County Felony Treatment Court held a fall graduation for 35 happy graduates with an audience of family, friends, and public officials! During the ceremony, four prior graduates, who now work as recovery coaches, were awarded certificates of appreciation for their continued work in support of recovery. Keynote speaker, Leon Evans, retired CEO of the Center for Healthcare Services was given the Drug Court Champion Award. One of the graduate testimonials was delivered by Andrea...tears and tissues were all across the room!

## Harris County WRAP Training

Harris County Felony Mental Health Court hosted a 3 day workshop for participants to develop their own individualized Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP®). This is an intensive and highly engaging workshop. WRAP aims to help individuals discover their own simple, safe wellness tools; develop a list of things to do every day to stay as well as possible; identify upsetting events, early warning signs and signs that things have gotten much worse and, using wellness tools, develop an action plan for responding at these times; create a crisis plan; and create a post crisis plan. This is the second WRAP workshop offered by the FMCH and we are working with certified WRAP facilitators on developing strategies to expand the numbers we can serve.

Congratulations to all these hard working participants for their diligence and commitment to personal wellness!

(<https://mentalhealthrecovery.com/wrap-is/>)



## TASC...Get to Know the Board Members

Faustino Lopez III has been employed as a criminal justice practitioner at the Hidalgo County Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Texas for over 23 years. During his tenure, he has served as a probation officer, pre-sentence investigator, unit supervisor, and deputy director. Most recently, Faustino has been instrumental in the effective implementation of translational tools designed to convert research evidence into operational practice. In 2012, the Hidalgo County Community Supervision and Corrections Department began collaborating with George Mason University's Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence. Through this partnership, the agency adopted Staff Undertaking Skills to Advance Innovation (SUSTAIN) and the Risk-Need- Responsivity (RNR) Simulation Tool. The effective implementation of these two translational tools has transformed the organization into a data-driven agency with support systems that advance research practice from line personnel to executive decision making. As the deputy director, he continues to examine the effectiveness of programs and continues to collaborate with universities to advance the use of social science research into practice. His objective is to adopt and incorporate best-practice standards into the organizational culture of the department, where daily work is aligned with research findings to produce better outcomes. Faustino is the 2019 Practitioner Award Recipient presented by the Division on Corrections and Sentencing – A Division of the American Society of Criminology.

*Faustino Lopez III  
Region 5 Director*



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## TASC Bylaws Update

Several revisions of the association's bylaws were made and approved at the last TASC Board Member meeting held on 11/6/19. A summary of the revisions included an addition to board member removal for non-participation. An email with detailed information will be sent out to all TASC members soon.

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