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UPCOMING EVENTS

Shelby County Drug Court 255th Graduation
Wednesday, October 30, 2019 @ 1:00pm
201 Poplar Ave. - Auditorium

Shelby County Drug Court 256th Graduation
Wednesday, November 27, 2019 @ 1:00pm
201 Poplar Ave. - Auditorium

**2nd Annual Hope for the Holidays
Recovery Party**
Friday, December 6, 2019 @ 8:00pm
IBEW - 1870 Madison Ave.

**Shelby County Drug Court 257th Graduation
and Hall of Fame**
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 @ 1:00pm
201 Poplar Ave. - Auditorium

Shelby County Drug Court 258th Graduation
Wednesday, January 29, 2020 @ 1:00pm
201 Poplar Ave. - Auditorium

Judge Dwyer Honored as *Champion of Justice* by MBA

The Memphis Bar Association's (MBA) Access to Justice Committee honored Judge Tim Dwyer as a *Champion of Justice* at their annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon this October. The committee selects a stand up community role model based on their commitment to helping others and the pursuit of justice for all. The Pro Bono Awards Luncheon is held, annually, and recognizes law firms, corporate legal departments, judges, attorneys, and law students who have demonstrated their commitment to pro bono service.

Memphis Bar Association was established in 1874 and serves as a professional organization for attorneys in Memphis and the Mid-South surrounding areas. They seek to provide a place for lawyers to grow, connect and serve.

The Impact of the Opioid Crisis on SCDC's Admission Rates

Shelby County Drug Court's (SCDC) admission data appears to align with the trend of opiate use and overdoses that are occurring in the Memphis community. The number of participants who enter Drug Court and identify opiates as their drug of choice continues to steadily increase.

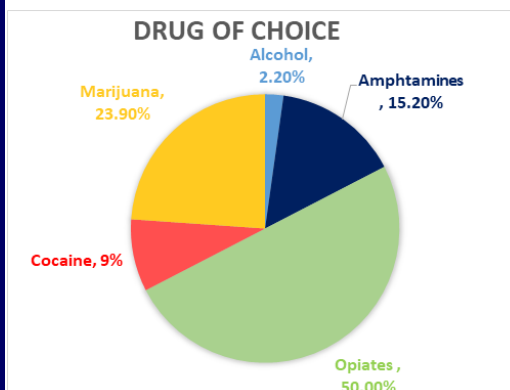
From July 2019 to September 2019, 43 clients entered the Drug Court program. Of the 43 clients, 50% identified opiates as their drug of choice and 60% of these opiate users entered residential treatment upon admission. This rate has increased from the previous quarter where 43 clients entered the program. Of the 43 clients, 44% identified opiates as their drug of choice and 37% of these opiate users entered residential treatment upon admission.

The battle with the nation's opioid crisis has been longstanding, stemming from the 1990s when pharmaceutical companies told doctors that patients would not become addicted to prescription opioid pain relievers. As a result, healthcare providers prescribed pain relievers at increasingly greater rates.

In 2012, the state of Tennessee created the Tennessee Controlled Substance Monitoring database in order to regulate the amount of opiates prescribed to patients. Since then, opiate prescriptions have decreased, leaving individuals to turn to illegal means of obtaining the same opiates they were once prescribed. The problem with this is the danger the black market presents; prescription opiates are very

expensive on the black market, causing individuals to turn to cheaper opiate forms such as Heroin and, more recently, Fentanyl. As a result, the risk of fatal overdoses is increasing.

SCDC works closely with the Memphis Police Opiate Task Force, in response to the increased overdoses, to identify individuals who have overdosed and are being charged with a criminal offense to determine their eligibility for Drug Court entry.





Folks Folly Feast for Funds

Shelby County Drug Court Foundation hosted their annual Folks Folly fundraiser on October 20th. The sold out event featured guest speaker, Daniel Moscon, a former Drug Court participant and member of the SCDC Hall of Fame.

The event raised over \$13,500, which will be used to provide treatment options for participants.



WREG Features SCDC in Opioid Crisis Segment

WREG Memphis featured a segment on the opioid crisis this October.

The special titled: "PainKILLER: The Opioid Crisis," took an investigative look into how the Opioid Crisis has impacted the Mid-South community.

It's a public health matter; while it may not affect an individual directly, the indirect effects impact the community as a whole. See the segment here:

<https://wreg.com/2019/10/15/painkiller-the-opioid-crisis/>



SCDC Partners With CrossFit for Clients

Drug Court participants can now incorporate a new lifestyle change, free of substance use. In an effort to bring new and healthy lifestyle choices to individuals who once surrounded their lives with drug-related activities, Drug Court has partnered with CrossFit Hit and Run of Memphis to provide participants in good standing with up to three free CrossFit classes per week. In exchange for classes, participants have volunteered their time to help clean up the facility.

Matthew Ian John, board member of the Shelby County Drug Court Foundation and co-owner of Crossfit Hit and Run, reached out to Drug Court in an attempt to build this connection.

"This is an amazing opportunity for our clients," said Bryan Owens, peer recovery specialist for Drug Court. "CrossFit can help transform one's self-esteem and increase their overall physical and emotional health."

Masking the Face of Addiction

Drug Court participants are offered a variety of groups and classes where they are educated about substance use and are required to participate in group therapy used to cognitively process their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The utility of art expression is one modality in therapy and is used to uncover inner thoughts and feelings about oneself and to portray them in an out-of-body experience.

Renwick Malone, intake specialist with Shelby County Drug Court, used face masks as a base to allow participants to express their emotions through different art mediums such as paint and feathers. Participants then processed the emotions they portrayed on their masks and how their emotions have affected them in their journey through Drug Court thus far.

SCDC Alumni Celebrate Recovery Month Bingo Style

September 2019 marked the 30th anniversary for National Recovery Month, a month observed to educate individuals about substance use treatment and mental health services.

According to The National Association for Addiction Professionals, Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by individuals in recovery, just as others celebrate improvements that have been made to their health after battling with conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, or heart disease.

As a way to celebrate recovery and exercise healthy lifestyle choices, the Shelby County Drug Court Alumni Association hosted a Recovery Bingo night for all participants in Drug Court.

Winners were awarded prizes and refreshments were served for an all around fun-filled night.

