



Specialty Dockets Services Newsletter Spring 2026

Updates, Stories, Successes, & Systemwide Progress



Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary
Supreme Court of Virginia



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Training Updates

Training Coordinator, Danny Livengood



VIRGINIA SPECIALTY DOCKETS



Behavioral
Health
Dockets



Recovery
Courts



Veterans
Treatment
Dockets



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2026 Training Conferences

Specialty Dockets Services (SDS) Training Conference

Planning is underway for the 2026 Specialty Dockets Training, themed “Breaking Cycles, Building Futures,” scheduled for September 21–23 in Virginia Beach.

Registration is open, and we look forward to convening teams from across the Commonwealth for this annual learning and networking opportunity.

Please email dlivengood@vacourts.gov for more information.

2026 Training Conferences

All Rise Conference

The conference is in Nashville, Tennessee July 20–23. If you are attending, please share with us. We hope to see you there!

All Rise Conference Scholarships

SDS offered local specialty dockets team members an opportunity to apply for the 2026 All Rise Conference Scholarship through highway safety grant funds. This year, the SDS team was excited to award 18 scholarships to attend this national training.



Supporting Specialty Dockets Through Training

SDS coordinated a facilitator's training for the "Seeking Safety" curriculum. We had 48 participants, and each received the e-book. SDS also conducted three implementation trainings to support new and developing programs: Chesterfield Behavioral Health Docket, Patrick County Behavioral Health Docket, and Prince William Behavioral Health Docket.

We also facilitated six of the "How Being Trauma-informed Improves Criminal Justice Outcomes" curriculum for multidisciplinary teams across the state.



Supporting Specialty Dockets Through Training

These opportunities reflect our continued commitment to strengthening program fidelity, enhancing team capacity, and promoting evidence-based, trauma-informed responses within Virginia's specialty dockets. We look forward to the occasion to train with all teams.

Additionally, we hosted a Specialty Dockets Coordinators' Meeting on November 7, where 49 attendees engaged in collaborative discussions and shared updates. The next Coordinators' Meeting will be planned for after the May 5 Recovery Courts Advisory Committee meeting.



Supporting Specialty Dockets Through Training

Suggested All Rise E-Learning Modules (*Great for onboarding new staff*)

All Rise offers a range of [e-learning modules](#) to help specialty dockets become familiar with best practices and program fundamentals. We recommend beginning with the *Best Practice Standards* series (6 modules, 7.25 hours) and the *Essential Elements* series (10 modules, 7 hours 10 minutes).

Most modules take 1–1.5 hours to complete, while the *Role of the Mentor in VTC* module is 8 hours. These self-paced courses provide practical guidance and foundational knowledge to support dockets in effectively implementing specialty docket programs.

They are designed to supplement, not replace, SDS implementation or refresher training.





Grants & Budget Updates

Grants Management Analyst, Auriel Diggs &
Budget Analyst, Renee Rosales



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2027 Specialty Dockets Grant Applications

We are excited to announce the upcoming release of the state fiscal year 2027 Specialty Dockets Grant Applications in May. Funding opportunities are available for each type of specialty docket. If you are eligible, you will receive an invitation to apply.

The grant period is July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. All applications must be submitted on the grants database, <https://vacourts.smapply.us>.

(different than Specialty Dockets Dims Database)



2027 Specialty Dockets Grant Applications

A few changes that we would like to note for the fiscal year 2027 reporting period:

- A specific 25% match is no longer required to be documented. However, all other funds to support programs should be summarized in the itemized budget worksheet.
- All expenditures listed in the application must be rounded to the nearest dollar. This requirement applies only to the amounts included in the application.
- A letter designating a signing authority must be attached. We will no longer require a signed coversheet. The letter must be on official organization letterhead, include who has the authority to apply and submit quarterly financial reports and requests for reimbursement for funding and the contact information for the person eligible to apply. The letter must be signed by the city manager or county administrator.
- If your program has a funding request/needs, please reach out to Auriel Diggs, adiggs@vacourts.gov, or Renee Rosales, rrosales@vacourts.gov.



Statewide Universal Drug Testing Grant

The Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) has awarded the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) at the Supreme Court of Virginia \$787,496.15 (including both carry-forward and new funding) for the federal fiscal year 2026 (*October 1, 2025–September 30, 2026*).

This funding supports the promotion of statewide best practice standards for drug testing across all specialty dockets and helps establish partnerships with industry leaders in drug testing.



Statewide Universal Drug Testing Grant

In the current round of funding, 21 recovery courts, behavioral health dockets, and veterans' treatment dockets were awarded a combined total of \$605,086.60. Funding is still available and is competitive.

The fiscal year 2026 performance period runs from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

The next holiday drug testing event is Memorial Day. More information will be sent out closer to the date. Please consider participating in this initiative to help reach our grant goals.

For questions or more information, please contact Renee Rosales, rrosales@vacourts.gov.





2026 SAMHSA Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month



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2026 SAMHSA

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month

SAMHSA Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month was celebrated in January. The theme for this year was “Treatment Works!”

This provided an opportunity to recognize the critical role of Virginia specialty dockets in supporting recovery. Across the Commonwealth, the continued growth of recovery courts, veterans’ treatment dockets, and behavioral health dockets is reshaping lives and strengthening the fabric of our communities.

These programs are reducing recidivism, restoring stability, and connecting individuals with the treatment and support essential to lasting change. Their growth reflects a judiciary deeply committed to a model of justice that responds not only to wrongdoing, but to the human challenges that so often lie beneath it, promoting recovery, accountability, and hope.

Each of these dockets stands as a testament to the power of partnership. Judges, commonwealth’s attorneys, defense counsel, probation officers, law enforcement, clinicians, and community organizations come together as a docket team with a shared belief that accountability and compassion are not opposing forces, but complementary ones. Their work affirms a fundamental truth: that every person has the capacity to grow, to change, and to rebuild a life.



From the Field: Celebrating Local Impact

Graduations, Milestones & Events

Celebrate your docket's successes! If you would like your docket's graduations, milestones, or special events featured in the SDS newsletter, please submit your requests to specialtydockets@vacourts.gov.



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Seeing Recovery Firsthand

Specialty Dockets Service Team Visits the Helping Addicts Recover Progressively (HARP) Program

In Chesterfield County, under the leadership of Sheriff Leonard and the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, HARP provides individuals with the structure, support, and resources needed to begin their recovery and rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

In recognition of HARP's meaningful impact, the SDS team was honored to be invited to visit and observe the program firsthand. The visit offered a valuable opportunity to see HARP's thoughtful and recovery-focused approach in action. HARP stands as a powerful example of what is possible when a community believes in second chances and invests in the success and well-being of people.



Chesterfield Jail Women's Pod: Sheriff Leonard, HARP Participants, and SDS Team



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Greater Prince William VTS Graduation Celebration Flyer & Coordinator Chris Mayers (left) and the Honorable Judge William E. Jarvis (right)



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Prince William County Veterans Treatment Docket Graduation

The Greater Prince William Veterans Treatment Docket (VTD) recently recognized several veterans for successfully completing the rigorous specialty docket program, highlighting the impact of treatment-focused judicial intervention in supporting recovery and reducing recidivism among justice-involved veterans. Program leadership noted the docket's strong outcomes, demonstrating the effectiveness of the specialty docket model in promoting long-term stability and public safety. During the ceremony, four graduates were recognized for their achievements and commitment to recovery. Their success reflects the mission of Veterans Treatment Dockets.



Treatment Court Case Manager Dana Kennedy (left) and Kayla, a Culpeper County Recovery Court Graduate (right)

Culpeper County Recovery Court Graduation

Culpeper County Recovery Court recently celebrated two inspiring graduations, bringing the program's total number of successful graduates to twenty.

Pictured is Treatment Court Case Manager Dana Kennedy and Kayla, one of the graduates, who also completed the Peer Recovery Support class with a scholarship from Encompass Community Supports.



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Lynchburg Recovery Court Retreat



LARC & BFRC Teams & SDS Representative

The Lynchburg Recovery Court held its first-ever specialty docket team retreat this past November, marking a significant milestone in strengthening team collaboration and advancing specialty dockets' best practices. The retreat brought together team members from Lynchburg Adult Recovery Court (LARC) and the Bedford Family Recovery Court (BFRC), with both presiding judges, Judge James Watson and Judge Stephanie Ayers, in attendance to support this valuable shared learning opportunity.

Subject matter experts from All Rise, along with the Best Practices Specialist from SDS, were present to provide best practice guidance. Recovery court leadership expressed strong enthusiasm for the retreat's success and their goal of making it an annual event to promote continued growth, collaboration, and program improvement.



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Previous administrator Bernard L. Greene, Jr.



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Henrico Recovery Court Hosts Largest Bernard Greene Memorial 5K

The Henrico County Recovery Court recently hosted its seventh annual Bernard Greene Memorial 5K at Deep Run Park, drawing its largest group of participants to date. The event honors the legacy of Bernard L. Greene, Jr., former Recovery Court Administrator, who passed away on March 7, 2019, at the age of 48.

Greene joined the Henrico County Drug Court in 2008 as a clinician and was promoted to Administrator in 2017. Known for his compassion, leadership, and commitment to helping others, he made a lasting impact on countless individuals in recovery. Greene also had a passion for staying active, enjoying running, cycling, and spending time outdoors.

The annual 5K was created to continue his legacy while supporting Recovery Court participants and alumni. Proceeds from the event fund family days, prosocial activities, alumni engagement, and graduation celebrations.



From Left to Right: Amber Hollar, Pulaski County Case Manager (and Montgomery County Recovery Court Graduate), Micheala Brummett, Floyd County Case Manager Heather Armstrong, NRV Recovery Court Supervisor Abigail Custer, Montgomery County & Giles County Case Manager Lori Trail, NRV Recovery Court Coordinator Jordan Honaker, Montgomery County Case Manager Ferletta Martinez, NRV Recovery Court Peer Recovery Specialist (and Pulaski County Recovery Court Graduate) Cortney Flores, NRV Recovery Court Team Lead and Clinician



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New River Valley Recovery Courts Day of Hope Event

New River Valley Recovery Courts and New River Valley Community Services, in partnership with Montgomery County, are pleased to announce a “Day of Hope” Recovery 5K and Community Celebration, scheduled for Saturday, May 16 at Christiansburg’s Huckleberry Park.

The 5K will begin at 9:00 a.m. The Community Celebration will be 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public. It will be held rain or shine.

The goal of this family-friendly celebration is to promote wellness and recovery, while reducing the stigma often associated with substance use in our community through building community resiliency and connections.

There will be live music, as well as food trucks, activities for all ages, and information/resources from local service agencies. If your organization would like to have a table or booth at this event, please email Cortney Flores at cflores@nrvc.org.



Judge Joel Cunningham (right) with a graduate of the Halifax recovery court program and her husband and son upon her graduation.



Visual representation of the construction of the Halifax recovery campus.



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Halifax Recovery Court Founder Advances Vision for Regional Recovery Campus

Retired Judge Cunningham launched the Halifax County Recovery Court in 2016, the same year he retired after more than 20 years on the bench. In the decade since, the program has helped nearly 60% of participants achieve long-term recovery. Now, Retired Judge Cunningham is working toward an even larger goal: creating the Halifax County Recovery Center and Recovery Campus. Judge Cunningham chairs the Joint Committee on Recovery Housing, Inc (JCRH), an ad hoc committee of the statewide Specialty Dockets Advisory Committee.

The proposed campus would provide recovery housing alongside wraparound services, including medical care, workforce training, and life skills support. Judge Cunningham emphasizes that stable housing is critical to recovery success, noting that participants with safe living environments are far more likely to succeed. The Joint Committee for Recovery Housing has demonstrated both the vision and the capacity to make this project a success.

Fundraising is underway for the \$30 million project, which would be the first of its kind in the Southside Virginia region. Plans include a 100-bed residential facility and workforce training center, with construction anticipated to begin as early as 2027. Judge Cunningham believes the campus will not only save lives but also strengthen the community by reducing crime, lowering public costs, and supporting workforce growth.

Please join us in thanking Judge Cunningham for his commitment to innovative, results-driven solutions that strengthen Virginia's communities.



Best Practices Updates

Best Practices Specialists, Liane Hanna and Monica DiGiandomenico



Best Practice Support

Virginia's specialty dockets continue to grow and evolve, offering new opportunities to enhance program effectiveness and improve participant outcomes. The Best Practices Specialists (BPS) provides tailored tools and expert guidance to support each docket's unique needs, including:

- Needs assessments to identify program strengths and areas for growth;
- Personalized technical assistance, guidance, and training aligned with evidence-based best practice standards;
- Review and feedback on policy and procedure manuals and participant handbooks; and
- Assistance throughout the specialty dockets application process.



Best Practice Support

Dockets awarded grants through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) are encouraged to contact the BPS team for best practice–focused technical assistance to support compliance with grant requirements.

The BPS team can assist with conducting needs assessments, implementing best practices, and strengthening overall program effectiveness. Specialty dockets interested in receiving support are encouraged to complete the [Best Practice Request Form](#).



Specialty Dockets Services Launches

Updated Specialty Dockets Applications

SDS recently released revised applications for behavioral health dockets and veterans' treatment dockets to streamline the application process.

The revised applications provide clearer guidance on required content and included detailed instructions on what information to include and how to organize the application.

These changes are designed to improve clarity, simplify the process, and help jurisdictions more effectively demonstrate implementation of best practices.



All Rise Releases 2026 Best Practices Standards

In January 2026, All Rise released its updated Adult Treatment Court Best Practices Standards, providing comprehensive guidance for program development and operation. Each standard includes detailed commentary to explain its purpose, offer practical examples, and support implementation across diverse treatment court types. The commentaries also include references to the extensive research related to each standard. These standards are designed to help treatment courts enhance program effectiveness, improve participant outcomes, and align with evidence-based practices. Specialty docket teams are encouraged to review the [updated standards](#) and use the accompanying commentary as a resource for continuous improvement and program excellence.



Best Practices Spotlight Standard

[Complementary Services and Recovery Capital” Standard pgs. 104–106 Commentary pgs. 107–118](#)

The 2026 All Rise Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards emphasize the importance of complementary services and recovery capital as key drivers of participant success in treatment court. Specialty dockets serve participants with complex needs, including substance use disorders, mental health conditions, and trauma histories. While traditional interventions focus on reducing harmful behaviors, treating clinical symptoms, and limiting exposure to high-risk peers, research shows that participants also need strengths-based support to achieve long-term recovery.

Recovery capital is the mix of personal, physical, financial, social, family, and community resources participants can use to sustain recovery and pursue meaningful goals. Many enter treatment courts with limited recovery capital, relying mainly on formal systems rather than supportive networks. Strengthening recovery capital is linked to longer abstinence, reduced criminal behavior, fewer legal and mental health issues, and improved quality of life.



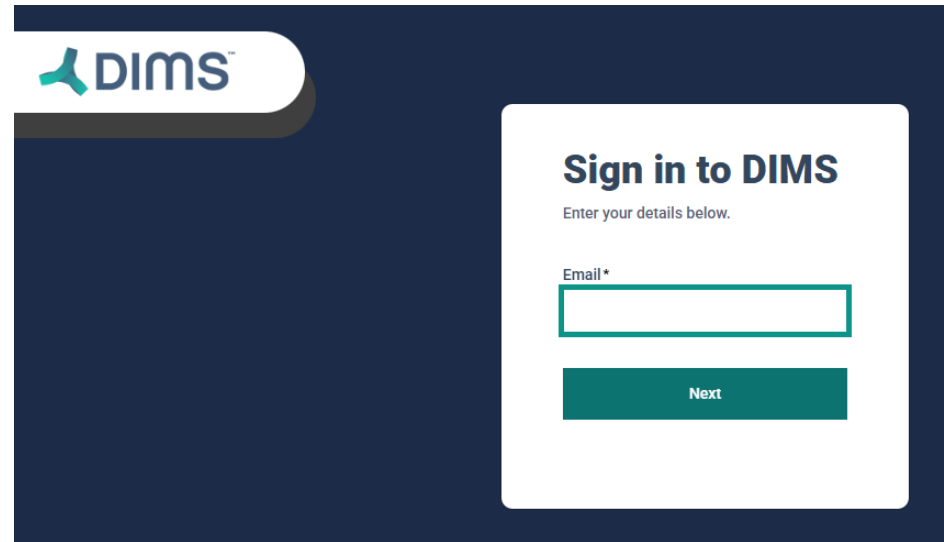
Best Practices Spotlight Standard

[Complementary Services and Recovery Capital Standard pgs. 104–106](#)
[Commentary pgs. 107–118](#)

Complementary services strengthen recovery capital by addressing key areas of need. They promote health and safety through risk prevention, provide stable housing and recovery residences, enhance family and social support, and develop vocational, educational, and life skills to help participants thrive.

Several assessment instruments have been developed to measure participants' recovery capital, identify complementary services that may strengthen their recovery resources, and track improvements in recovery capital during and after treatment. These tools represent a range of validated, recovery-oriented assessments designed to evaluate the strengths, supports, and resources that contribute to an individual's recovery. Hyperlinks to these assessment tools are provided on page 108 in the callout labeled "Resources."





The image shows a login interface for DIMS. In the top left corner, there is a logo consisting of a teal icon and the text "DIMS". The main content area is a white box on a dark blue background. Inside this box, the heading "Sign in to DIMS" is displayed in bold. Below the heading is the instruction "Enter your details below." followed by a label "Email*" and an empty text input field. At the bottom of the input area is a teal button with the text "Next".

Database Updates

Database Analyst, Celin Job



Specialty Dockets Participant Transfer in Specialty Dockets DIMS Database (SDDD)

Specialty Dockets Participant Transfer Specialty Dockets Dims Database (SDDD)

These are instructions for transferring Recovery Courts, Behavioral Health Dockets, and Veterans Treatment Dockets participants' cases in the specialty dockets dims database (SDDD). Specialty docket teams are encouraged to request assistance to transfer participants from one docket to another. The Specialty Dockets Services team assists with case transfers upon request.

Note: Specialty SDDD . The receiving specialty docket will maintain and keep the participant profile after the case transfer in the database. The same case will not be transferred multiple times.

Transfer Process

Step 1: Notify Specialty Docket Services

The local specialty docket coordinator shall notify the Specialty Docket Services (SDS) team by email at specialtydockets@vacourts.gov about the need for assistance to transfer a case in SDDD. The email shall include the following information:

- Participant case number
- Transferring specialty docket name and jurisdiction
- Receiving specialty docket name and jurisdiction
- Effective transfer date
- Coordinators' contact information (sending and receiving). Both coordinators should be cc'd on the request.

The Specialty dockets services team will notify both coordinators after the transfer is complete.

Specialty dockets sometimes need to transfer a participant's case from one docket to another in the SDDD. The following are instructions to transfer a case in the SDDD. The SDS team will assist with a case transfer upon request.

Transfer Process

Notify Specialty Dockets Services

The local specialty docket coordinator notifies SDS by email to specialtydockets@vacourts.gov, requesting assistance in transferring a case in SDDD.

Please include the following information:

- Participant case number
- The transferring specialty docket's name and jurisdiction
- The receiving specialty docket's name and jurisdiction
- Effective transfer date
- Coordinators' contact information (sending and receiving). Both coordinators should be copied on the request.

SDS will notify both coordinators after the transfer is completed.

Note: The receiving specialty docket will maintain and keep the participant profile after the case transfer in the SDDD. The same case will not be transferred multiple times.



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