



May, 1, 2023

Dear Treatment Court Professionals,

As we mark May 2023 Treatment Court Month, I write to express my deep appreciation for your incredible work every day – especially through the highs and lows of the last several years.

The COVID-19 pandemic created new and unprecedented challenges for all of us. Still, you rose to the occasion, quickly pivoting to remote and telehealth services to ensure that individuals in need continued to receive necessary care and support. Despite the logistical hurdles of virtual hearings and remote monitoring, you never wavered in your commitment to providing evidence-based treatment and to supporting individuals in their journey to recovery.

Additionally, the *Blake* decision marked a significant change for treatment courts in Washington State. Yet, you demonstrated remarkable adaptability in navigating forward to find ways to ensure that individuals in the justice system continue to have access to treatment courts. We embraced the change and the opportunities to create new treatment courts at the District and Municipal Court levels. Washington now has over 150 treatment courts, including criminal, civil, and dependency.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is committed to supporting treatment courts in Washington. In 2021, AOC received funding to create its Behavioral Health Team. This Team assists courts in improving their response to people with behavioral health needs. Since then, the AOC Team has partnered with the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, the Center for Justice Innovation, the Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals, and many others to expand state-based training, technical assistance capacity, and to offer remote training opportunities to serve Washington Courts.

As we celebrate Treatment Court Month, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for all that you do. Your hard work, resilience, and adaptability in the face of change have made a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals across our state. I am proud to work alongside you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn Marie Rubio".

Dawn Marie Rubio, J.D.
State Court Administrator