

# Project Court REACH: Albany County Action Plan

<b>Essential Element #1: Broad legal eligibility</b>				
Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish clear written legal and clinical eligibility criteria for potential entry into the Opioid Court; and</li> <li>• Engage with law enforcement representatives to assist with identification and referrals and clarify charges that are eligible for LEAD and Opioid Court.</li> </ul>				
<b>Goal 1: Determine legal and clinical eligibility for entry into Opioid Court in an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</b>				
Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Facilitate meeting about legal eligibility criteria, especially considering which charges may be eligible for Opioid Court	Identify stakeholders with decision making authority to participate  Explore possibility of Judge Reilly accepting appropriate individuals from felony court into Albany opioid court  Schedule and hold meeting	Judge Reilly, Judge Herrick, Tina Sodhi, Cheryl Fowler, Dr. Giordano, Victoria Broomhead  Include OCA in planning if seeking to permit Judge Reilly to accept felony cases	September 2022	Stakeholders have a meeting to discuss legal eligibility criteria
Objective 1B:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures

<p>Review the MOU Template with stakeholders and determine if HOPE Court wants to use it as a guide</p>	<p>Project REACH staff will send MOU template</p> <p>Albany Opioid Court team will review and decide whether to use MOU template</p> <p>Draft written eligibility in a MOU</p>	<p>Project Court REACH Staff</p> <p>Identified stakeholders incl. LEAD</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Summer 2022</p> <p>September 2022</p>	<p>Albany Opioid Court stakeholders have reviewed MOU Template and drafted/disseminated document for review</p>
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**Essential Element #2: Immediate Screening for Risk of Overdose**

Recommendations:

- Develop formalized early identification, screening and referral protocols with all stakeholders, to potentially include screening at arraignment;
- Create a case process flow for all parties to understand where cases are referred from and how they enter the court;
- Collaborate with Albany Police Department to flag participants for opioid court who are not appropriate for LEAD; and
- Identify an opioid court team member to participate in LEAD operational workgroup meetings for identification of potential participants for opioid court.

**Goal 2: Develop early identification procedure and protocols**

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
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Review Project Court REACH screening tool	CCI will share screening tool Get Surface Pro tablet Walkthrough w/ Surface Pro including the screening tool Implement risk of overdose screening tool	Project Court REACH staff Victoria Maggie, Victoria Victoria	June 2022 Completed July 2022 Fall 2022	Risk of overdose tool implemented
Objective 1B:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Define the pathway of LEAD and Albany Police Department to Opioid Court	APD will share the MOU for LEAD with Judge Reilly Explore editing the DATs for cases going to court that are not appropriate for LEAD and screening tool for arresting officers	Judge Reilly, Judge Herrick, Tina Sodhi, Cheryl Fowler, APD, LEAD	September 2022	Meeting held with stakeholders to define the case process flow of law enforcement referral sources

**Essential Element #3: Informed Consent after Consultation with Defense Counsel**

Recommendations:

- Endure opioid court entry process, when developed, includes informed consent from defense counsel, specifically when a participant is signing a speedy trial waiver;
- Ensure opioid court appearances and completion criteria are designed with defense counsel perspective
- Create a mechanism for the transfer of cases from local town and village courts to the Opioid Court;

**Goal: Develop written documents outlining the benefits of Opioid Court participation and that unsuccessful participation will not lead to a penalty. Policy and procedure manual should include frequency of appearances and completion criteria—completed with the input of defense counsel.**

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Schedule regular planning meetings with stakeholders to determine policy and procedure manual	Ensure opioid court appearances and completion criteria are designed with defense counsel perspective	Judge Reilly, Judge Herrick, Tina Sodhi, Cheryl Fowler, APD, LEAD	September 2022	Policy and procedure manual completed
Objective 1B:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Condense Opioid Court benefits packet into a two-page to give to attorneys and clients	<p>Project Court REACH staff will share two-page bench card template that highlights eligibility and referral process</p> <p>Creation of eligibility and referral sheet to be able to hand out to attorneys and clients</p> <p>Share with town &amp; village courts for potential referrals</p>	<p>Project Court REACH staff</p> <p>Stakeholders from Essential Element #1</p>	<p>June 2022</p> <p>October 2022</p>	Eligibility criteria developed and disseminated in two-page bench card

**Essential Element #4: Suspension of Prosecution or Expedited Plea**

## Recommendations:

- Create and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that delineates suspension of prosecution, completion criteria, and opioid court benefits such as better case disposition or drug court phase credit.

Goal: Have signed MOU that delineates suspension of prosecution, completion criteria, and case dispositions or drug court phase credit.

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Create MOU w/ DA's office re: suspension of prosecution	Defining what DA would agree with re suspension of prosecution, potential for better disposition, time counting towards drug court where applicable	Judge Reilly, Cheryl Fowler, Judge Herrick; Tina Sodhi	September 2022	MOU is created and followed

**Essential Element #5: Rapid Clinical Assessment and Treatment Engagement**

## Recommendations:

- Engage with the Commissioner of Mental Health to create additional pathways for participants in need of multiple coordinated services;
- Once Opioid Court is established, outreach to providers to educate them on the court's policies and procedures; and
- Engage NY MATTERS and request their representation in the opioid court stakeholder group to increase access to MOUD and support services.

**Goal: Create clear pathways of access to services across the county including the use of LEAD, Opioid Court, NY Matters, and other supportive services**

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Set regular meetings to review provider referral pathways for treatment	<p>Identify stakeholders to participate</p> <p>Create a pathway map/ comprehensive list</p> <p>Educate stakeholders and the greater community about Opioid Court</p> <p>Set-up meeting with Dr. Giordano and Craig Stratton to discuss pathways already in place</p>	Victoria Broomhead, Dr. Giordano, NY Matters, Judge Reilly	Ongoing	Stakeholders will be educated on the goals and assets of opioid court

## Essential Element #6: Recovery Support Services

### Recommendations:

- Explore additional partnerships and funding opportunities to help support a full-time dedicated CRPA;
- Integrate the CRPA into the opioid court stakeholder group; and
- Include Second Chance Opportunities in the planning process and use them as a resource to engage with the recover community.

### Goal: Incorporate CRPA into court team operations to assist in recovery services and in-community engagement

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
<p>Locate a CRPA to be on the court team</p> <p>Define the role of the CRPA in court **Concern about single entity use***</p>	<p>Review use of CRPA in other courts/ programs</p> <p>Identify and onboard CRPA (part time or fulltime)</p> <p>Integrate CRPA into stakeholder meeting and regular staffings</p>	<p>Victoria Broomhead, Judge Reilly, Dr. Giordano, Second Chances and any other community providers TBD</p>	<p>Fall 2022</p>	<p>CRPA's will be identified in the community and participate in stakeholder meetings</p>
Objective 1B:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
<p>Explore existing opportunities to utilize current CRPAs in other specialty courts for Opioid court in the courthouse</p>	<p>Connect with providers offering CRPA</p> <p>Explore funding sources for dedicated CRPA</p>	<p>Victoria Broomhead, Judge Reilly, Dr. Giordano, Second Chances and any other community providers TBD</p>	<p>Fall 2022</p>	<p>CRPA's will be incorporated into any specialty court program, where appropriate</p>

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<b>Essential Element #7: Frequent Judicial Supervision and Compliance Monitoring</b>				
Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delineate in an MOU the process for court hearings and team meetings;</li> <li>• Discuss the process to respond to participants whom do not follow agreed upon treatment plans</li> </ul>				
<b>Goal: Plan for operational stakeholder meetings to discuss court operations</b>				
Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Analyze the successes and areas of improvement in the opioid court	Schedule biannual meetings to review court operations	Victoria Broomhead, J. Reilly	Early 2023	First operational meeting held



**Essential Element #8: Intensive Case Management**

## Recommendations:

- Create a participant handbook to include program overview and expectations

**Goal: Include case management responsibilities into Opioid Court operations**

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Define case management role in Opioid Court	Define case management role in written materials	Victoria Broomhead	October 2022	Completed court policies and procedures or MOU
Identify intensive case management services in the community for individuals who need additional support	Create policy and procedure manual	Victoria Broomhead	October 2022	Linkage with treatment agencies providing intensive case management, where needed.
	Once identified, share REACH Training Modules with case managers from treatment providers to review	Victoria Broomhead	Ongoing	

**Essential Element #9: Program Completion and Continuing Care**

Recommendations:

- Create a formal completion criteria checklist that includes elements of social stabilization to be addressed through case management;
- Once program completion is determined, court staff and the clinician should jointly work together to develop a continuing care plan with participants;
- Schedule stakeholder meetings to create and update policies and procedures, discuss case process flow, monitor outcomes and make changes as needed;
- Develop an MOU to formalize how time spent in opioid court will count towards treatment court participation (when applicable).

**Goal: Create a checklist for successful completion (ie. Meaningful engagement) standards.**

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Develop and have consensus on program completion guidelines	Review existing completion standards developed with other courts to determine applicability for Albany (CCI will share docs)  Review data entry of opioid court vs. drug court	J. Reilly, Victoria Broomhead, Columbia, Cheryl Fowler, Judge Herrick, Tina Sodhi  Include Susan Sturges for data entry	October 2022	Completion criteria defined and used

**Goal: Memorialize time from opioid court counting towards time in drug court**

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Include in policies and procedures, a formalized plan for time in opioid court to count towards drug court time	Review what other court have done  Identify who needs to have consensus	CCI to provide templates  Judge Reilly, Cheryl Fowler, Judge Herrick, Tina Sodhi	October 2022	Criteria will be included with program completion guidelines regarding time spent in opioid court for individuals moving on to drug treatment court

**Essential Element #10: Performance Evaluation and Program Improvement**

Recommendations:

- Work with Project Court REACH staff to identify areas and strategies around data entry, including the use of the Opioid Court dashboard; and
- Implement recommendations from this report with the help of technical assistance from Project Court REACH.

**Goal: Work with OCA on UCMS entry education, including the use of the Opioid Court dashboard**

Objective 1A:	Action Steps	Persons Responsible	Timeline	Performance Measures
Proficiency in UCMS data input	Receive support from OCA for UCMS/dashboard	Victoria Broomhead, Susan Sturges	Ongoing	