

SPECIALTY DOCKETS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025 Issue

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Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary
Supreme Court of Virginia



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01 Training Updates**
- 03 Grants & Budget Updates**
- 07 Database Updates**
- 08 Compliance Updates**
- 10 Highlights from the Field**
- 11 Meet the Team**

Training Request Form



The Specialty Dockets (SD) Division team has created a **Training Request Form** for you to use to request trainings (e.g. Trauma Informed Responses training, Specialty Dockets Refresher trainings, etc.). The training menu available includes the options the SD Division can schedule and facilitate with you. We expect the training menu will grow as we continue to expand training options and curriculums. **Please use this form to request the trainings listed.**

The Training Request Form is not needed for special trainings facilitated by other organizations (e.g. MRT facilitator training, All Rise Treatment Provider Training, etc.). We will continue to organize and send announcements via the listserv as these other training opportunities are announced.

This training request form link also appears on the vacourts.gov website under the [Specialty Dockets Services](#) page.

All Rise Conference:

The RISE Conference is scheduled in Kissimmee, Florida on May 28-31, 2025. If you are attending, please share your photos and lessons learned with us. We hope to see you there!

2025 Annual Specialty Dockets Training

We are pleased to invite you and your team to attend the 2025 Specialty Dockets Training. The training is scheduled for **August 4-6 in Harrisonburg, Virginia**. Event registration and lodging reservations are now both open!

This year's theme is **"Celebrating Connections, Inspiring Change"**.

Each Specialty Docket team may register up to 6 members and secure lodging for those individuals. This limit may be increased if space allows. If your team would like to send more than 6 members, do not register or make lodging reservations for additional attendees at this time. Instead, add them to the [Waitlist here](#).

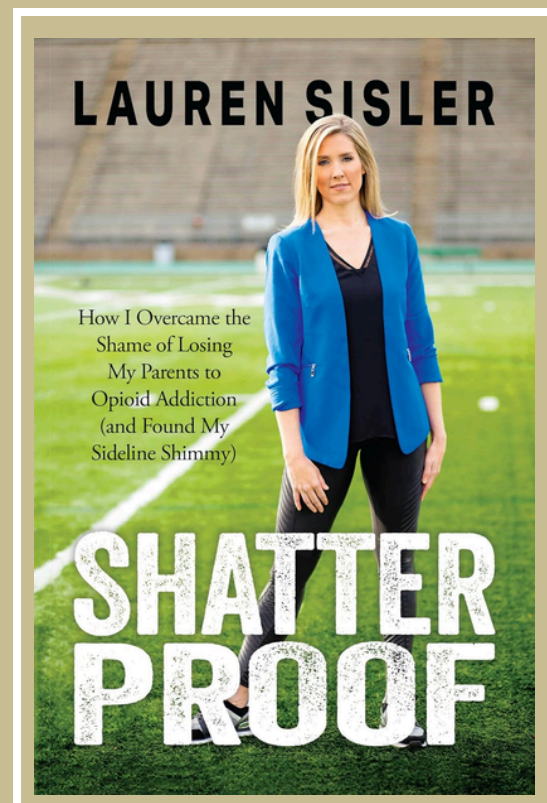
To register and secure lodging, please follow the [Registration and Lodging Information/Instructions here](#). Each attendee is responsible for completing their own registration and, if eligible, making their own hotel reservation according to the instructions provided. The deadline to complete both steps is **July 2**.

The training agenda is forthcoming. We are excited to announce that Lauren Sisler, author of Shatterproof, will join us as this year's Keynote Speaker.

Please direct any questions to dlivengood@vacourts.gov.

How I Overcame the Shame of Losing My Parents to Opioid Addiction (and Found My Sideline Shimmy)

“I lost my parents to secret opioid addictions. I lost my voice when the shame shattered my heart. But when I fell in love with my story, I became shatterproof.”



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

Specialty Dockets Grants Update

We are excited to announce that **40 Specialty Dockets** across the Commonwealth received funding administered by the Office of Executive Secretary. Notably, this is the first year that Veterans Treatment Dockets were eligible to apply for these funds.

The FY26 Specialty Dockets Grant Application will be released soon. All grant-related information will be shared via email.

If your Specialty Docket does not currently receive funding from OES and you have questions, please contact Auriel Diggs, adiggs@vacourts.gov.

Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) Regional Best Practices Workshops

During 2024, the Opioid Abatement Authority held three one-day, in-person workshops. Anna Powers, Auriel Diggs, and Renee Rosales were invited to present about the Universal Drug Testing Grant results and attended the workshop in Fredericksburg, VA. These workshops from other OAA grant fund recipients included educational and outreach activities to provide assistance to local governments, state agencies, and partnering community organizations in developing opioid abatement strategies that could qualify for opioid settlement funding.



National Resource Highlight:

The National Treatment Court Resource Center (NTCRC) offers a wealth of knowledge and resources related to Specialty Dockets. One topic generating growing interest is the development of Alumni Groups.

The NTCRC recently shared a helpful podcast on this subject: [Designing an Alumni Group](#)

This resource provides practical insights on how to create and sustain a successful alumni group within your docket.

Statewide Universal Drug Testing Grant



The next holiday drug testing date for the DMV grant is Memorial Day, May 26th.

The Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) has awarded FY25 funding to the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) at the Supreme Court of Virginia in the amount of \$500,000 (including both carryforward and new funding).

This funding supports the promotion of statewide best practice standards for drug testing across all Specialty Dockets and assists in establishing partnerships with industry leaders in drug testing.

In this most recent funding cycle, ten (10) Recovery Courts and Behavioral Health Dockets were awarded a combined total of \$436,909.

The FY25 performance period runs from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025. Funding is still available, and Specialty Dockets are encouraged to apply.

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

Budget Assistance

Budget assistance is here for you. Budget development is often the most difficult part of grant applications. After the award, keeping track of funding and the expenses they align with is sometimes a difficult task. The Specialty Dockets Budget Analyst is available to assist specialty docket teams to locate possible funding sources, research current funding sources, and provide feedback on budget and spending strategies while preparing and keeping track of your budget throughout the year. We can offer budgeting workbooks and other resources to assist local teams with goal and budget planning, budget development, and tracking your budget. Support is also available to local teams who would like assistance with preparing their itemized budgets for the Specialty Dockets Grants and/or the Statewide Universal Drug Testing Grants. Please reach out to Renee Rosales at rrosales@vacourts.gov if you have any questions or to schedule a budget discussion meeting.

Specialty Dockets in Numbers

Virginia has **90** Specialty Dockets:

21 Behavioral Health Dockets

9 Veterans Treatment Dockets

60 Recovery Courts

Frequently Asked Questions:

Specialty Docket Grants

Q: When is the grant cycle?

A: Each year's grants cover the state fiscal year, July 1 to June 30.

Q: What does the grant fund?

A: Primarily 100% dedicated full-time staff position(s).

Q: Do the grant funds carryover to the next year?

A: No. Funding is continued each fiscal year as funds are available.

Q: How much can a locality apply for?

A: The locality must meet funding eligibility criteria and funding amount depends on the funding formula and available funds.

Q: Where can I find the grant application?

A: Grant applications are available through our Apply Grants Database.

For review, all grant documents can be found on the Specialty Dockets website page at [Specialty Docket Services \(SDS\) | Virginia Court System](#) under, "Resources and Reference Materials."

Q: Where do I apply for the grant?

A: Applications should be uploaded in the grants database, <https://vacourts.smapply.us>. If you are a first-time user, then contact Auriel Diggs at adiggs@vacourts.gov for log on information.

Q: If awarded, do I get the money upfront?

A: No, the grant is awarded on a reimbursement basis. Each quarter, the locality is required to upload documents to the grants database to request reimbursement for actual expenditures.

Q: If previously/currently awarded grant funding, is it continued automatically the following year?

A: No, you must complete the full application each year funding is requested.

Q: If I have any questions, whom should I contact?

A: You can contact Auriel Diggs, the Specialty Dockets Grants Management Analyst at adiggs@vacourts.gov or Renee Rosales, the Specialty Dockets Budget Analyst at rrosales@vacourts.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Statewide Universal Drug Testing Grant

(OAA Grant)

Q: When is the grant cycle?

A: Each year these grants cover the federal fiscal year, October 1 to September 30, as funding permits. However, localities may apply at any time.

Q: What does the grant fund?

A: Drug testing supplies/fees with a leading drug testing provider in the criminal justice field.

Q: Does this grant cover personnel for conducting or collecting samples?

A: No, this grant only covers the drug testing supplies/fee.

Q: Does the grant funding carryover to the next year?

A: No, it does not. Funding is to be exhausted in the same fiscal year as awarded.

Q: How much can a locality apply for?

A: The cost of drug testing. No minimum or maximum amount, but this grant is very competitive.

Q: Where can I find the grant application?

A: Email Renee Rosales at rrosales@vacourts.gov for the application.

Q: Where can I apply for the grant?

A: Applications should be uploaded in the grants database, <https://vacourts.smapply.us>. If you are a first-time user, then contact Auriel Diggs at adiggs@vacourts.gov for log on information.

Q: If awarded, do I get the money upfront?

A: No, the grant is awarded on a reimbursement basis. Each quarter, the locality is required to upload documents to the grants database to request reimbursement for actual expenditures.

Q: If I have previously been awarded grant funding, do I automatically receive the same amount the following year?

A: No, you must complete the full application each year funding is requested.

Q: If I have any questions, whom should I contact?

A: You can contact Renee Rosales, Specialty Dockets Budget Analyst at rrosales@vacourts.gov, or Auriel Diggs, Specialty Dockets Grant Management Analyst at adiggs@vacourts.gov.

DATABASE UPDATES

7

Database Analyst, Celin Job

Specialty Dockets DIMS Database Training

The Specialty Dockets DIMS Database (SDDD) continues to function effectively, with new users being successfully added to the system. We are pleased to see staff actively utilizing SDDD. As a reminder, the Virginia Specialty Dockets Standards require that data be kept current in the system to ensure the generation of accurate reports.

If you experience difficulty locating information in SDDD, please refer to the **DIMS Wiki** and **DIMS Tours**, or feel free to contact Celin Job at cjob@vacourts.gov for assistance.

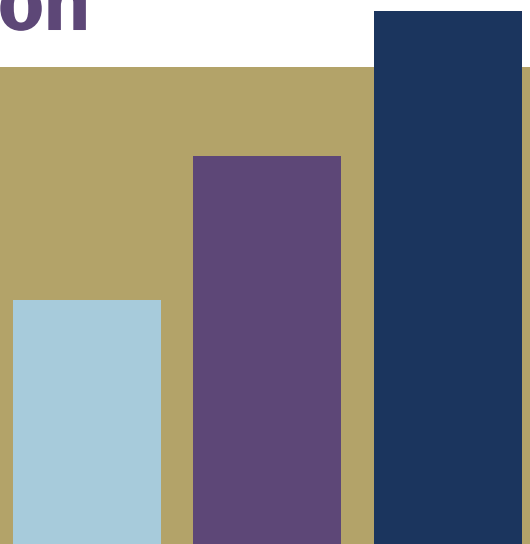
The DIMS team is currently working on the following updates:

- Adding instructions to the DIMS Wiki on how to enter Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) data.
- Creating reference documents that identify the data fields used in generating specific reports.
- The DIMS Users' Guide is also available on the Specialty Dockets webpage and can be viewed [\[here\]](#).

The Specialty Dockets Team is responsible for onboarding new users, which occurs when coordinators submit SDDD access request forms. We offer both virtual training for new users and refresher training for current users. To schedule training for your team, please reach out to Celin Job at cjob@vacourts.gov.

Drug Testing Data Integration

The Specialty Dockets DIMS Database (SDDD) has incorporated **automatic data transfers** from the national leader drug testing agencies. For dockets using a national leading partners for drug testing, the drug test results will be **directly migrated to SDDD** using the company's test ID. This will save time in data entry.



Compliance Analysts, Liane Hanna and Olivia Terranova

Familiarity Visits

Over the past two years we have attempted to meet with as many docket teams as possible in what we are referring to as “familiarity visits.” Getting to introduce ourselves to your teams, observe team staffings and the docket hearings helps us to become familiar with one another prior to the compliance visits beginning. If we have not visited your docket yet and your team would like to meet us, please don’t hesitate to reach out!

Target Population and Eligibility Criteria

Evidence shows that specialty dockets are **most effective and cost-efficient** when they serve **high-risk and high-need** persons who require an intensive combination of treatment and supervision. Having thorough eligibility criteria is the first step in ensuring your dockets participants are the target population. The goal is for your eligibility criteria to be as **objective** as possible, eliminating “voting” a participant into the docket.

When looking at your docket’s eligibility criteria, consider the following:

- High-Risk
- High-Need
- Age
- Any necessary primary diagnosis (Substance Use Disorder, Serious Mental Illness)
- Residency (Can your docket effectively serve participants outside of your locality?)
- What offenses are eligible. Please see § 18.2-254.1 H for Virginia’s recovery court eligibility criteria statutes.
- Criminal history

Update on All Rise Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

9

Last September, the Compliance Analysts held 5 successful regional Compliance Trainings across the state to meet with coordinators and other docket team members to share about the compliance tool and process. Thank you to everyone who joined us at those trainings; it was great being able to connect with each of you.

All Rise updated the Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards which were published in late March. We are currently reviewing them for consideration with Virginia's Best Practice Standards. As they are reviewed and considered by the State Advisory Committees, we will keep you updated regarding next steps. In the meantime, if you would like to view the most recent version of **All Rise's Treatment Court Best Practice Standards**, they can be found [here](#).



Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding best practices, we are here to support you in any capacity.

Virginia Specialty Dockets are growing!
In the past year, 5 new specialty dockets and one docket expansion have been approved!



Does your docket have an upcoming graduation?

We would love to join you in celebrating your participants!

You can reach us at

specialtydockets@vacourts.gov.

Decade of Hope Event - New River Valley Recovery Court celebrates its 10-year milestone!

Since the initial program was launched in Pulaski County in December 2014, the region's Recovery Courts have expanded into four other jurisdictions – serving a total of 311 participants, with 116 of those individuals successfully completing the program. The program was highlighted by special recognition of Lori Trail, who has overseen the region's Recovery Court program since its inception.



Keeping Up With The Field

As specialty dockets across the state continue to expand and grow, we want to be able to celebrate your team and docket participants' accomplishments! Please email success stories of any kind to specialtydockets@vacourts.gov. Who knows, you may be featured in the next newsletter!

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