

North Carolina Advisory Council on Cannabis

Prevention and Treatment Subcommittee

February 26, 2026, 11:00am-12:00pm

Virtual via Webex

Members: *Mark Ezzell, Chief David Hess, Chief Brian Harris, Deonte Thomas*. Others: Scott Proescholdbell, Hanaleah Huberman, Kaycee Deen, Kenny Benfield, Kayde-ann Miller-Ford, Caleb Doub (public)

Presentation- Recovery Courts- Kirstin Frescoln- *NC Administrative Office of the Courts*

NC has the following types of Recovery Courts:

- DWI Courts, Juvenile Drug Treatment, Family Treatment, Mental Health Treatment, Veterans Drug Treatment

State funding was eliminated in 2011- most stayed and find other sources. Limited state dollars added 2021. Other sources- grants, Opioid dollars

Recovery Courts are in 46 counties across NC

What they look like:

Specially trained team

- Work with folks 12-24 months
- Highly focused treatment & high accountability
- Probation supervision

Team members: Judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, treatment providers, case manager, program coordinator – this is extended quite a bit for family and youth treatment courts

Significant reductions in recidivism

Cannabis:

Courts can require abstinence unless physician, or can adopt a harm reduction approach prohibiting illegal drugs and allowing legal ones (relevant in places legalized cannabis)

Questions

What state to look to who has addressed this? Kirstin recommended Colorado, Washington, New Hampshire

What costs would be added with cannabis legalization? Hard to answer

Does NC have state-specific cost benefit analysis? Not yet but working on it. Sentencing Commission did one in 2002

For DWI, it's tough to create incentive to participate

Decision Matrix

Completed first section of the Decision Matrix (attached)

Group adjourned at 11:55 am.