

COUNTY COURT OF MADISON COUNTY

STACI B. O'NEAL
County Judge
P. O. Box 1626
Canton, Mississippi 39046



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July 29, 2025

Madison County Board Of Supervisors
VIA Email

Dear Board Members:

In the past three years our Juvenile and Family Drug Intervention Courts have served 195 Madison County families with 77% of participants successfully completing the program.

In the Madison County Youth Court, we have two distinct Drug Treatment Courts. The first is our Juvenile Drug Treatment Court which serves youth ages 13-17 who are on probation and have a history of substance use that requires intervention. Our second is the Family Drug Treatment Court which serves the entire family where children were born addicted to drugs or have been exposed to drugs in the home leading to neglect or abuse. We see the devastating effects of drug use by youth and parents on a weekly basis in our courts. Over the past several years, our efforts to bring restoration to children and their families have been aided by grants that we were able to secure for our treatment courts. These grants were for the sole purpose of case management, rehabilitation and restoration for our youth court population.

Our Drug Courts are designed as a four-phase intense supervision program where participants are drug tested 1-3 times a week with weekly counseling sessions and court appearances twice a month. As they progress through the phases, they are expected to complete Life Skill classes and maintain a job (if age appropriate) or succeed in their education. Where students have already dropped out of school, we require them to work on getting a GED. Our staff is focused on breaking the cycle of drug addiction and the destructive effects it has on the families we serve.

For some, the drug court program begins as participants first go through detoxification and inpatient treatment. Both inpatient and outpatient treatment is very expensive and the options are very limited in Mississippi. For families with health insurance, the benefits are insufficient. For families without insurance or for children on Medicaid, the options are severely limited with a lack of funds. For all, the cost of treatment is prohibitive without the assistance of our federal grants that we have secured over the past eight years. Most of our large federal treatment grants will start expiring in the next few months. We will continue to apply for additional grants from government and private sources but the federal government has tightened purse strings and we expect a reduction in opportunities.

As you consider how to use the money that will come to Madison County as part of the National Opioid Litigation Settlement, I would respectfully request that the Board apportion some of the settlement funds to cover drug related services through our Youth Court Drug Treatment Courts for the children, youth and families of Madison County who have been affected by the opioid epidemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Staci B. O'Neal".
Staci B. O'Neal