



Project Manager's — Message —

As we move into August, we continue to be inspired by the dedication of specialty court professionals across Texas. Every staff meeting, participant interaction, treatment partnership, and judicial decision contributes to changing lives. Thank you for the work you do each day to strengthen your communities and support individuals on their recovery journey.

One of the greatest highlights over the past several weeks has been the opportunity to **connect directly with courts across the state.** It was wonderful visiting face-to-face with court teams and hearing the powerful stories of participants and their families. Witnessing the impact that specialty courts have on individuals, families, and communities' serves as a meaningful reminder of why this work matters.

It has also been a pleasure meeting with court teams virtually to review their BeST Assessment results. These conversations have provided valuable opportunities to celebrate each court's strengths, discuss areas for continued growth, and offer evidence-based recommendations that support ongoing program improvement. We appreciate each team's openness, collaboration, and commitment to excellence.

As always, we remain committed to supporting Texas specialty courts through technical assistance, peer reviews, and evidence-based resources. Thank you for your continued partnership and for the extraordinary work you do every day to create lasting change.

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SCRC JULY HIGHLIGHTS

The SCRC team attended the All Rise Conference, joining specialty court professionals from across the country to learn about emerging research, innovative practices, and evidence-based strategies that strengthen specialty court programs. The knowledge and connections gained will help support Texas courts through enhanced technical assistance and resource sharing.

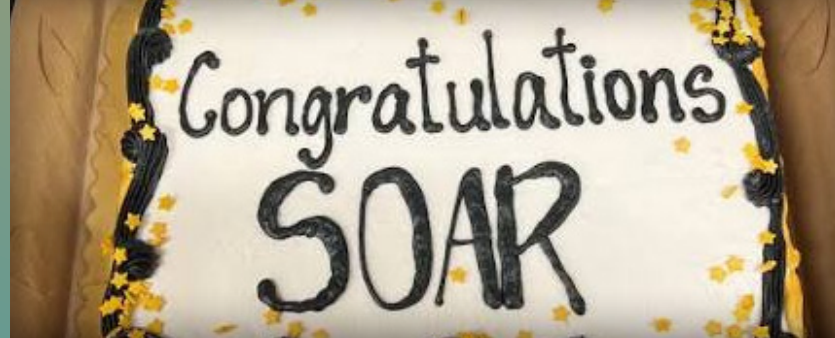
SCRC continued conducting Court Connection Visits across Texas, providing opportunities to observe court operations, strengthen relationships with multidisciplinary teams, and learn firsthand about each court's unique successes and challenges. These visits reinforce SCRC's commitment to collaboration and supporting courts through meaningful engagement.

During July, SCRC met with 13 specialty courts to review their BeST Assessment results. Each meeting celebrated program strengths while providing individualized, evidence-based recommendations for continuous improvement. Courts were also given access to their revised BeST Assessments and guidance on implementing recommendations to further strengthen their programs and align with national best practices.



Need Assistance? We're Here to Help!
Click Here to Request Technical Assistance Online >>

COURT OF THE MONTH— SOAR DRUG COURT PROGRAM



This month's Court of the Month recognition goes to the **SOAR Drug Court Program** for its unwavering commitment to serving youth and families through compassion, accountability, and teamwork.

One of the most impactful moments was watching the judge personally engage with each participant. Rather than simply recognizing accomplishments, he took the time to speak directly to every teen, offering words of encouragement, practical guidance, and tools they could carry with them as they continue building successful futures. Those conversations reflected more than judicial oversight—they demonstrated mentorship, hope, and a genuine investment in each young person's potential.

The hearing also highlighted the critical role families play in the recovery process. Parents were invited to share their experiences and speak about their child's journey through the program. Their heartfelt stories reflected gratitude for the support, structure, and encouragement the SOAR Drug Court had provided. It was clear that the program's impact extended far beyond the individual participant, strengthening entire families along the way.

The celebration concluded with a memorable tradition that beautifully symbolized the trust and confidence the court places in its participants. Each graduate was invited to sit in the judge's chair and hold the gavel for a commemorative photo. While simple in appearance, this gesture carried profound meaning. It represented achievement, responsibility, and the belief that these young people can lead lives marked by positive choices and lasting success. Moments like these help build confidence, strengthen relationships, and create lasting memories that participants can carry with them long after they leave the program.

The SOAR Drug Court Program exemplifies the principles of effective specialty courts by fostering meaningful relationships, engaging families as partners, celebrating progress, and working together as a unified multidisciplinary team. We are grateful for the opportunity to witness the life-changing work taking place and congratulate the entire SOAR team on the incredible difference they continue to make in the lives of Texas youth and their families.

VISIT THEIR WEBSITE HERE TO LEARN MORE >>

Data with Dr. Bills

Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to complete the Texas Specialty Court Staff Stress and Burnout Survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and your willingness to share your experiences is helping lay the foundation for meaningful research that can benefit specialty court professionals across Texas.

If you have not yet completed the survey, there is still time to participate. This first-of-its-kind study seeks to better understand the experiences of specialty court professionals and identify factors that contribute to workplace stress and burnout. The anonymous survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete, and every response helps create a more comprehensive picture of the challenges and successes experienced by court teams throughout the state.

We also encourage you to share the survey with your entire court team. Broad participation from judges, coordinators, community supervision officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, case managers, and other specialty court professionals will help ensure the findings accurately reflect the diverse perspectives within Texas specialty courts.

The results of this study will be used to make recommendations for strengthening resources, enhancing staff support, and promoting workforce well-being. Together, we can gain a clearer understanding of burnout in specialty courts and help shape future initiatives that support the dedicated professionals who make these life-changing programs possible.

Thank you for helping us build a healthier, stronger specialty court community

Dr. Matthew Bills
Research Associate, SCRC

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



Upcoming Event

SCRC Weekly Virtual Office
Mondays at 10:00am

SCRC Weekly Virtual
Mondays at 10:00am



COURT SUCCESS STORIES

MODEL COURT SPOTLIGHT: EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE

Congratulations to the **Bexar County Esperanza Court** and **Tarrant County Family Recovery Court** for earning Model Court status with an impressive 8 out of 10 on its recent BeST Assessment. This achievement reflects the court team's dedication to implementing evidence-based practices, fostering strong multidisciplinary collaboration, and continually striving for excellence in serving participants and their families.

Every specialty court has a story worth celebrating, and we'd love to highlight yours! Visit our website to submit your court success stories—including graduations, participant achievements, innovative practices, community partnerships, operational successes, team milestones, and other accomplishments—to be featured in an upcoming

