

AB Drug Treatment Court Symposium 2024

April 11 – 12, 2024, The Edinburgh Castle Room, The Malcolm Hotel, Canmore

Thursday, April 11, 2024

07:30 – 08:30 **Registration & breakfast**

08:30 – 09:00 **Welcome**, Deputy Chief Justice Joanne Durant

09:00 – 10:30 **Steve Hanson**
Psychopharmacology: Understanding Addiction and Behaviour

Helping people with Substance Use Disorders requires an understanding of the mechanisms of addiction and the impact that changes in the brain have on participant behaviour. This presentation will cover the brain's reward circuit, craving, the action of key drugs as well as implications for treatment. This information should help team members better understand participants and their behaviours, particularly difficulties in achieving abstinence. During the current opioid overdose crisis, it is critical to understand the role and importance of medications used to treat SUD and prevent fatalities. A discussion of abstinence as a "distal" versus "proximal" goal and understanding how to help participants who are struggling with their addiction.

10:30 – 10:45 **15-minute break**

10:45 – 12:00 **Breakout Session by Discipline – Facilitated Discussion**
Gather in groups for a facilitated discussion of the Keynote Session content and how it can inform practices in your DTC.

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00 – 14:30

Jennifer Berard

Complex Needs Populations in DTC: Mental Health, Attachment Disorders, and Trauma Effects

DTC populations present with a range of co-occurring disorders and complex needs. Understanding these needs is essential for DTC professionals to support and intervene with participants in effective ways. This session will support attendees to understand how these disorders commonly present and to develop strategies for responding to issues and needs in DTCs.

14:30 – 14:45

15-minute break

14:45 – 15:45

Breakout Session by Team – Facilitated Discussion

Gather in groups for a facilitated discussion of the Keynote Session content and how it can inform practices in your DTC.

15:45 – 16:45

Round Table Discussion – Mixed Groups

Participate in your choice of one of the round table discussions

- Sanctions and Incentives: best practices
- Reducing Barriers to Access: Populations we struggle to serve – what can we do?
- The Role of Duty Counsel in a DTC
- Dismissal Hearings

Friday, April 12, 2024

07:00 – 08:00

Breakfast

08:00 – 09:30

Wendy Schiller

Building Trust and Competency through Effective Integrated Practice Collaboration

The session focuses on how to effectively gain the support of critical criminal justice system stakeholders and enlist their participation as active team members, including the judiciary, prosecutor, defense bar, law enforcement, and community treatment providers. The session also covers how to sustain participation through effective team communication, how to reach a state of collaborative advantage, and the importance of training.

09:30 – 09:45

15-minute break

09:45 – 10:45

Breakout Session by Discipline – Facilitated Discussion

Gather in groups for a facilitated discussion of the Keynote Session content and how it can inform practices in your DTC.

10:45 – 11:45

Round Table Discussion – Mixed Groups

Participate in your choice of one of the round table discussions

- Sanctions and Incentives: best practices
- Reducing Barriers to Access: Populations we struggle to serve – what can we do?
- The Role of Duty Counsel in a DTC
- Dismissal Hearings

11:45–12:45

Lunch