



DATE: April 9, 2026

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Seeking Nominations

FROM: Noreen Plumage, Director of Treatment Courts, on behalf of DCAC

STATEWIDE DRUG COURT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Call for Nominations

The Statewide Drug Court Advisory Council (DCAC) is looking for people to nominate for membership. We are seeking individuals who are knowledgeable, dedicated, and want to help improve South Dakota's treatment court system.

The DCAC helps guide policies and make recommendations to the South Dakota Supreme Court. These recommendations focus on how treatment courts should operate and follow best practices.

Purpose of the Council

The DCAC reviews statewide treatment court policies and looks at new and growing needs. The Council gives guidance to help treatment courts run effectively.

The goal is to make sure treatment courts across the state follow proven, research-based practices.

Appointment Process

All nominations will be reviewed by the Council and then sent to the Chief Justice, who makes the final decision.

Members can serve up to two terms, with each term lasting three years.

The Council usually meets four times a year. Most meetings are held online unless decided otherwise.

Current Vacancies

The DCAC is looking for people who can represent one or more of the following:

- A treatment court graduate or participant with personal experience
- A representative from a federally recognized Tribe
- Other individuals who want to help improve treatment courts across the state



Nominations are due by May 8, 2026. You may nominate yourself or be nominated by someone.

If you nominate someone else, please make sure they are willing and able to serve.

Roles and Responsibilities

Members are expected to:

- Attend and take part in quarterly meetings
- Review and give feedback on treatment court policies
- Support the use of effective, research-based practices
- Share knowledge to help make strong recommendations to the South Dakota Supreme Court
- Promote public safety, accountability, and long-term recovery

Additional Information

Nominations can be submitted at any time. However, nominations for 2026 must be received by May 8, 2026.

If members attend in-person meetings, travel costs (mileage, meals, and lodging) will be reimbursed based on state rates.

Questions?

Please contact:

Noreen Plumage

Phone: 605-773-4161

Email: Noreen.Plumage@ujs.state.sd.us

Thank you for supporting the success of South Dakota's treatment court system.



**South Dakota Drug Court Advisory Council
306 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 310
Pierre, SD 57501**

NOMINATION FORM

Name: Kern Parce

Address: 40232 244th Street Letcher, SD 57359

Personal Phone: 605-630-6222 Work Phone: _____

Occupation: Addiction Counselor

Email: k.parce@dakotacounseling.net

Please select the vacancy(s) for which you are nominating:

- A treatment court graduate or participant with lived experience
- A contracted provider who provides recovery support, peer support, or crisis care services.
- Other stakeholder committed to advancing treatment court effectiveness statewide

Length of Recovery: 4+years (June 15th will be 5 years sober)

Experience with Behavioral Health Services:

Mental Health Treatment Services Yes No

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services Yes No

Prevention and Crisis Services Yes No

Recovery Support Services Yes No

Please describe:



I've personally participated in mental health therapy to help support my recovery and overall well-being. During a period of sobriety, along with regularly attending multiple 12-step meetings each week, I worked with a therapist to better understand my mental health, develop coping skills, and work through challenges in a structured way. Over time, with continued stability and support, I was able to safely stop taking medications and end formal therapy with guidance from my providers. I still stay active in my recovery and continue to attend about three support meetings each week.

Previous Board, Council or Community Advocacy Experience:

I regularly share my personal testimony at several treatment and recovery-focused facilities, including monthly presentations at Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services in Yankton, SD, and IRECOVER Treatment Center in Howard, SD, as well as ongoing scheduled speaking engagements at Stepping Stones Treatment Center in Mitchell, SD.

In addition, I have been invited to speak at the ARCH in Sioux Falls, SD; Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD; and James Valley Treatment Court. I am also scheduled to present at the Rooted 23 event in Mitchell, SD on September 3, 2026.

Sharing my story is a meaningful part of my ongoing recovery, but it is also something I feel deeply called to do. I am passionate about using my lived experience to support others who are facing addiction and mental health challenges. My goal is to offer hope, reduce stigma, and let individuals know they are not alone in their struggle. Being able to connect with others in recovery and encourage them on their journey is one of the most important and fulfilling parts of my own healing process.

Other Information:

I have personally participated in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services as a participant in a treatment court program. During that time, I was actively engaged in a structured recovery process that included accountability, counseling, and ongoing support through the treatment court program. My experience as a participant gave me a first-hand understanding of the challenges individuals face in recovery, as well as the impact that consistent structure, support, and personal accountability can have on long-term change.

Following my completion of the treatment court program, I continued to build on my recovery by pursuing a professional path in the behavioral health field. I am currently an Addiction Counselor at Stepping Stones in Mitchell, SD, where I facilitate IMT services as well as domestic violence MRT groups. In this role, I'm able to draw directly from both my lived



experience and professional training to support individuals who are working through their own recovery journeys.

My long-term goal is to become a member of the James Valley Drug/DUI Court team. I am committed to continuing my work within the treatment court program, using both my personal experience and professional skills to support participants, strengthen program outcomes, and help individuals achieve lasting recovery and stability.

Nominated By (if other than self): James Valley Treatment Court Team/Sharon Kraft

Phone Number: 605-661-6587 Email: Sharon Kraft

Please Return by May 8, 2026:

Noreen.plumage@ujs.state.sd.us or

Treatment Courts

306 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 310

Pierre, SD 57501



**South Dakota Drug Court Advisory Council
306 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 310
Pierre, SD 57501**

NOMINATION FORM

Name: Raven Tiger

Address: 3231 N. Martindale Rd unit 1

Personal Phone: 605-937-2533 Work Phone: 605-339-0420

Occupation: SDUIH Wo'Okiye Outreach Specialist

Email: Raven.tiger@sduih.org

Please select the vacancy(s) for which you are nominating:

- X A treatment court graduate or participant with lived experience
- X A contracted provider who provides recovery support, peer support, or crisis care services.
- X Other stakeholder committed to advancing treatment court effectiveness statewide

Length of Recovery: 3year 3months

Experience with Behavioral Health Services:

Mental Health Treatment Services X No

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services X No

Prevention and Crisis Services X No

Recovery Support Services X No

Please describe:



I have experience supporting individuals with mental health and substance use recovery through both professional and lived experience. I have participated in individual counseling and DBT classes and work alongside mental health counselors to connect relatives with services and support. As part of a street outreach team and as a Certified Recovery Support Specialist, I respond to mental health and crisis calls, help individuals enroll into treatment programs, provide peer support, and connect unhoused relatives with resources that support recovery, stability, and wellness

Previous Board, Council or Community Advocacy Experience:

I advocate for unhoused relatives by collaborating, connecting, and communicating with community partners and service agencies to ensure individuals and families have access to essential resources, support services, and housing opportunities. I work to build positive relationships with agencies, coordinate services effectively, and maintain clear communication to support client needs and promote long-term stability.

Other Information:

I currently work on a street outreach team and serve as a Certified Peer Support Specialist, where I provide guidance, advocacy, and support to unhoused relatives facing various challenges. As an enrolled member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe and a graduate of Drug Court, I bring both professional experience and lived experience to my work. I am deeply dedicated to supporting individuals who are struggling by building trust, connecting them with resources, and encouraging pathways toward stability, recovery, and overall wellness.

Jason Lillestol

Nominated By (if other than self):

Phone Number: 605-2014312

Email: Jason.Lillestol@UJS.STATE.SD.US

Please Return by May 8, 2026:

Noreen.plumage@uj.s.state.sd.us or
Treatment Courts