

# FOREWORD

*Kim Ball*<sup>1</sup>

Welcome to the second edition of the *Drug Court Review*, which focuses on innovations in the treatment court field. To be successful, treatment courts must continue to innovate to address emergent treatment modalities while being guided by research at every turn. This issue highlights the importance of the mutually beneficial relationship between innovation and research.

Throughout my career, I have promoted innovation and risk taking, recognizing that failure is a catalyst for learning and innovation. One must have the room to learn from failure in order to identify effective solutions and achieve success. As a senior policy advisor at the US Department of Justice, I remember being introduced to the concept of learning from failure when my then director advised me to go develop great programs and not be afraid to fail. Now, as the director for the Justice Programs Office (JPO), I not only get to champion this principle, I am able to build upon it by incorporating research.

As more research becomes available, treatment courts can continue to innovate, learn from failure, and apply what they learn in their process. Impactful innovation must be data-driven and grounded in research. Often, research reveals areas in which innovation is needed. And when research is not available, data can help a program or topic innovate in the absence of research. Regardless of the environment, the innovation should be systematically documented and studied to ascertain its effects – whether the innovation is better than practice as usual and achieves its intended effects.

In reviewing this issue, I kept thinking of JPO’s tagline: “From Research to Policy to Practice to People.” For me, leading with research and ending with people is at the heart of what we do. When we leverage research-driven innovation to improve process and bring humanity back into the system, then I know we are on the path to success.

This journal is the result of the work of the *Drug Court Review*’s Editorial Board and input from the Advisory Committee. I greatly appreciate their efforts on this issue. I hope you enjoy reading this issue and that it inspires you to think about innovation and research in the treatment court field in a way you haven’t before.

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<sup>1</sup> Director, Justice Programs Office, School of Public Affairs at American University