

RSAT Promising Practices Guidelines: 2025 Learning Community Series

Screening & Assessment

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)







Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)
Program for State Prisoners

Training and Technical Assistance Resource

This project was supported by grant No.15PBJA-22-GK-01132-RSAT awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Point of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.



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Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar, the participant will be able to:

1

Name three differences between assessment and screening.

2

Provide examples of responsivity factors and how to address them.

3

Locate validated screening and assessment tools that respond to local needs and conditions.

Today's Agenda

- Promising Practices Overview – Screening and Assessment
- Best Practice Highlight
 - Washington County, GA
 - Northeast Correctional Facility, MO DOC
- Breakout Discussion
- Open Q&A

RSAT-TTA Presenter



Samatha Kossow, M.P.P.

Research Associate

Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.

Today's Topic

Screening vs. Assessment

Screening

Brief; used with every person entering a facility in an intake setting

Identifies individuals who might have a specific need (e.g., mental health or substance use disorder)

Helps “triage” individuals for immediate attention for an assessment

Often requires little to no training to administer – can be completed by non-clinical staff, including security

Assessment

Longer and more comprehensive; results give a multi-dimensional perspective of the person

Help to develop specific recommendations for treatment and case planning

Identifies needs that may require specialized services

Often requires training to administer and interpret the results – completed by clinical staff

Why is screening and assessment important for RSAT programs?

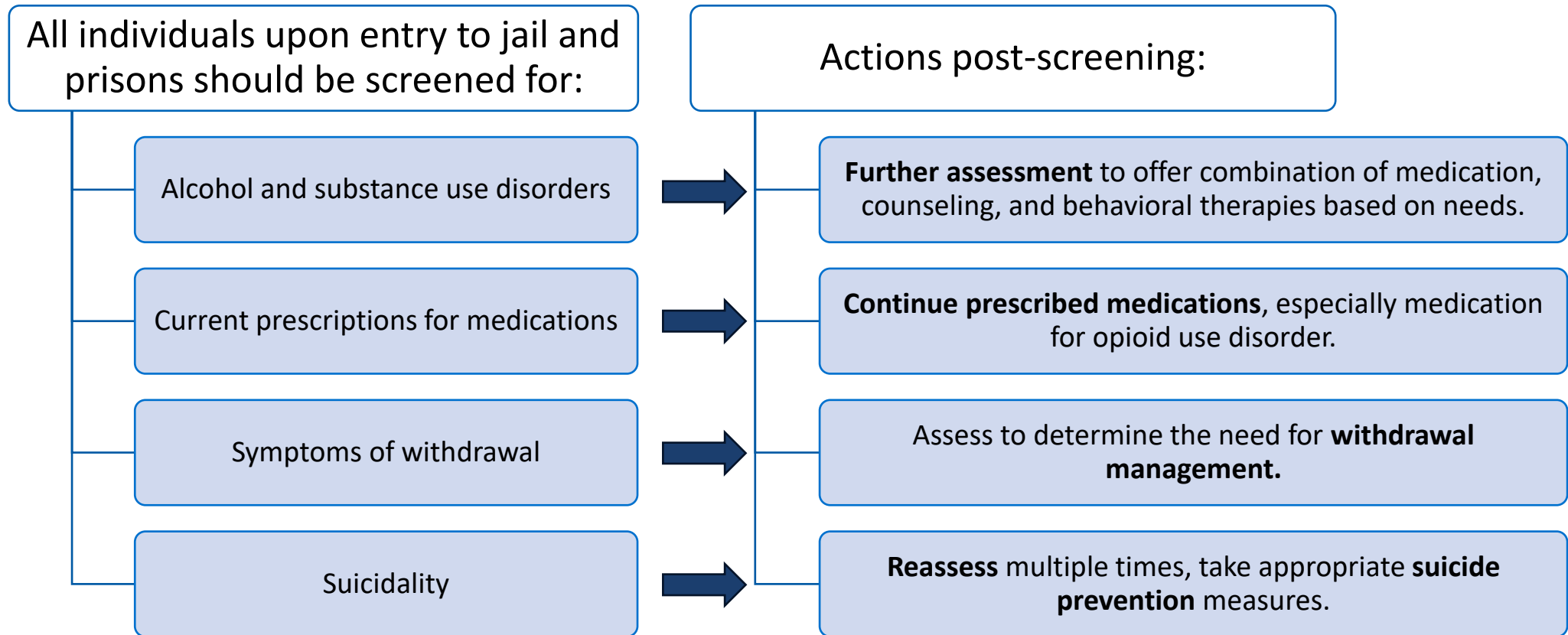
- Identify immediate needs
- Inform program eligibility
- Develop treatment plans



Screening and Assessment

PPG Section Reference
Section II.B.
pg. 8

Identify Immediate Needs



Screening and Assessment

PPG Section Reference
Section II.A.
pg. 7

Inform Program Eligibility

Primary criteria for admission into an RSAT program should be based on:

- Presence of moderate to severe substance use disorder (SUD)
- Screening for co-occurring mental health disorders
- Medium to high criminogenic risk/needs
- Logistic fit (time left on sentence, security concerns, associates, etc.)

These determinations should be made using evidence-based or validated screening and assessment tools.

Share in the Chat

- What should admission into an RSAT program NOT be based upon?
- Admission should NOT be based upon:
 - Perceived or assessed motivation levels
 - If someone “really wants recovery” or is “serious about treatment”

PPG Section Reference
Section II.D.
pg. 10



Screening and Assessment

PPG Section Reference
Section II.C. & II.D.
pg. 9 & 10

Treatment and Continuing Care Plans

- After initial screening for admission, a more comprehensive assessment should take place that includes:
 - Substance use disorder
 - Mental health disorders
 - Criminogenic risk and need
 - Responsivity factors

Responsivity factors include:

- Trauma
- Physical health
- Literacy
- Motivation levels
- Primary language

Screening and Assessment

PPG Section Reference
Section II.C. & II.D.
pg. 9 & 10

Treatment and Continuing Care Plans

- Programs should have policies and procedures on what is included in the comprehensive assessment.

The ASAM Criteria Dimensions and Subdimensions

Dimension 1 – Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications

- Intoxication and associated risks
- Withdrawal and associated risks
- Addiction medication needs

Dimension 2 – Biomedical Conditions

- Physical health concerns
- Pregnancy-related concerns
- Sleep problems

Dimension 3 – Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions

- Active psychiatric concerns
- Persistent Disability
- Cognitive Functioning
- Trauma exposure and related needs
- Psychiatric and cognitive history

Dimension 4 – Substance Use Related Risks

- Likelihood of risky substance use
- Likelihood of risky SUD-related behaviors

Dimension 5 – Recovery Environment Interactions

- Ability to function in current environment
- Safety in current environment
- Support in current environment
- Cultural perceptions of substance use

Dimension 6 – Person-Centered Considerations

- Patient preferences
- Barriers to care
- Need for motivational enhancement

<https://www.asam.org/asam-criteria>

1

Screen for immediate needs

- Substance use disorder
- Current prescriptions for medications
- Symptoms of withdrawal
- Suicidality

2

Screen or assess for program eligibility

- Substance use disorder
- Co-occurring mental health disorders
- Criminogenic risk/needs
- Logistic fit

3

Assess for treatment planning

- Substance use disorder
- Mental health disorders
- Criminogenic risk and need
- Responsivity factors

Review

Share In The Chat

- What assessment or screening tools does your facility use for:
 - Substance use disorder
 - Mental health and trauma
 - Criminogenic risk and need
 - What else?



Screening and Assessment – In Practice

Evidence-Based or Validated Tools



Use **pre-made resources** to find evidence-based or validated tools.



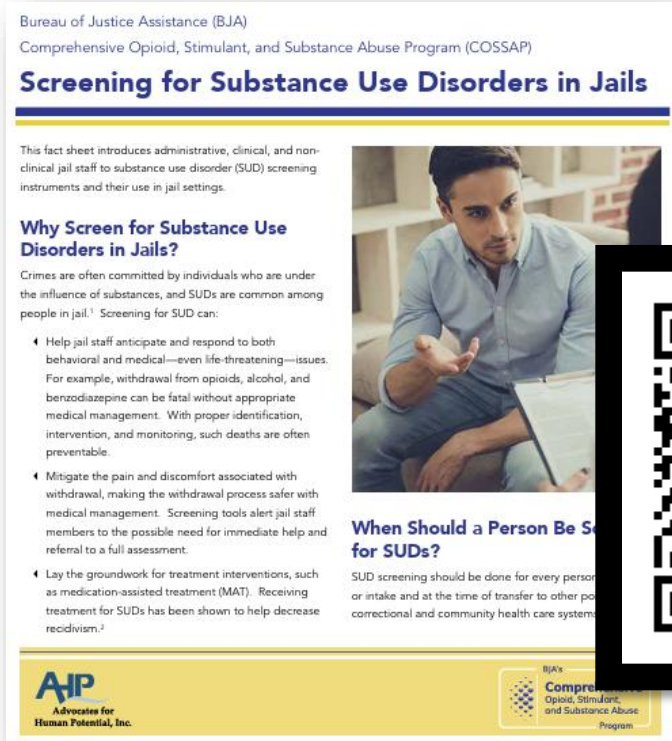
Match the tool to **your needs and capacity**.



Look for **partnership** opportunities when possible.

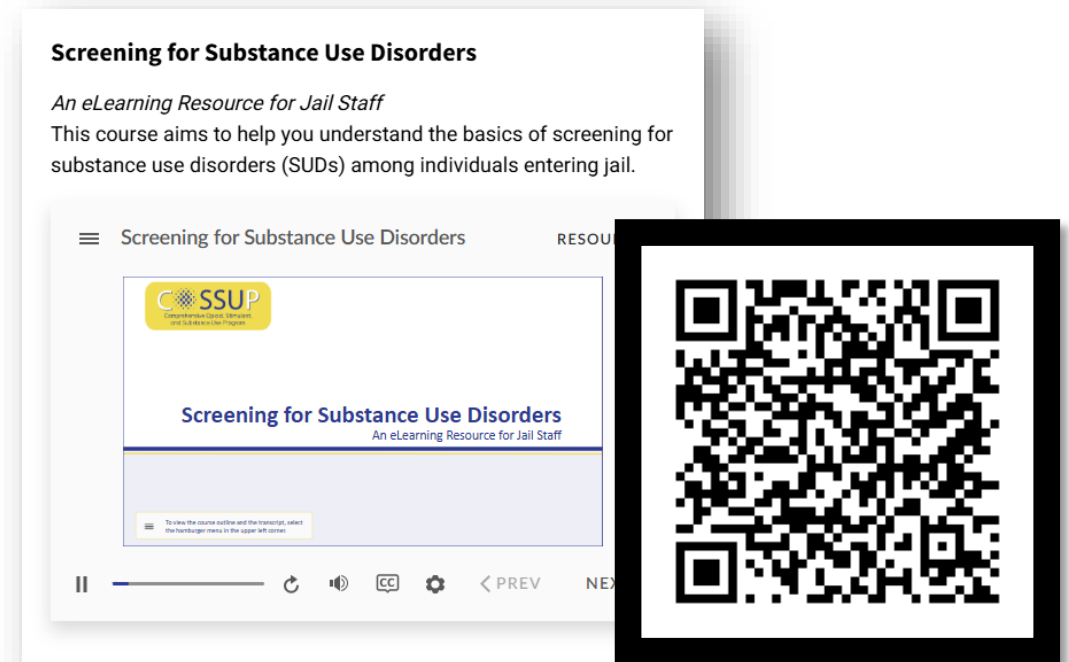
Resources – SUD Screening in Jails

Screening for Substance Use Disorders in Jails - from BJA's COSSUP



https://www.cossup.org/Content/Documents/Articles/AHP_Screening_for_Substance_Use_Disorders_in_Jails.pdf

Screening for Substance Use Disorders: An eLearning Resource for Jail Staff - from BJA's COSSUP

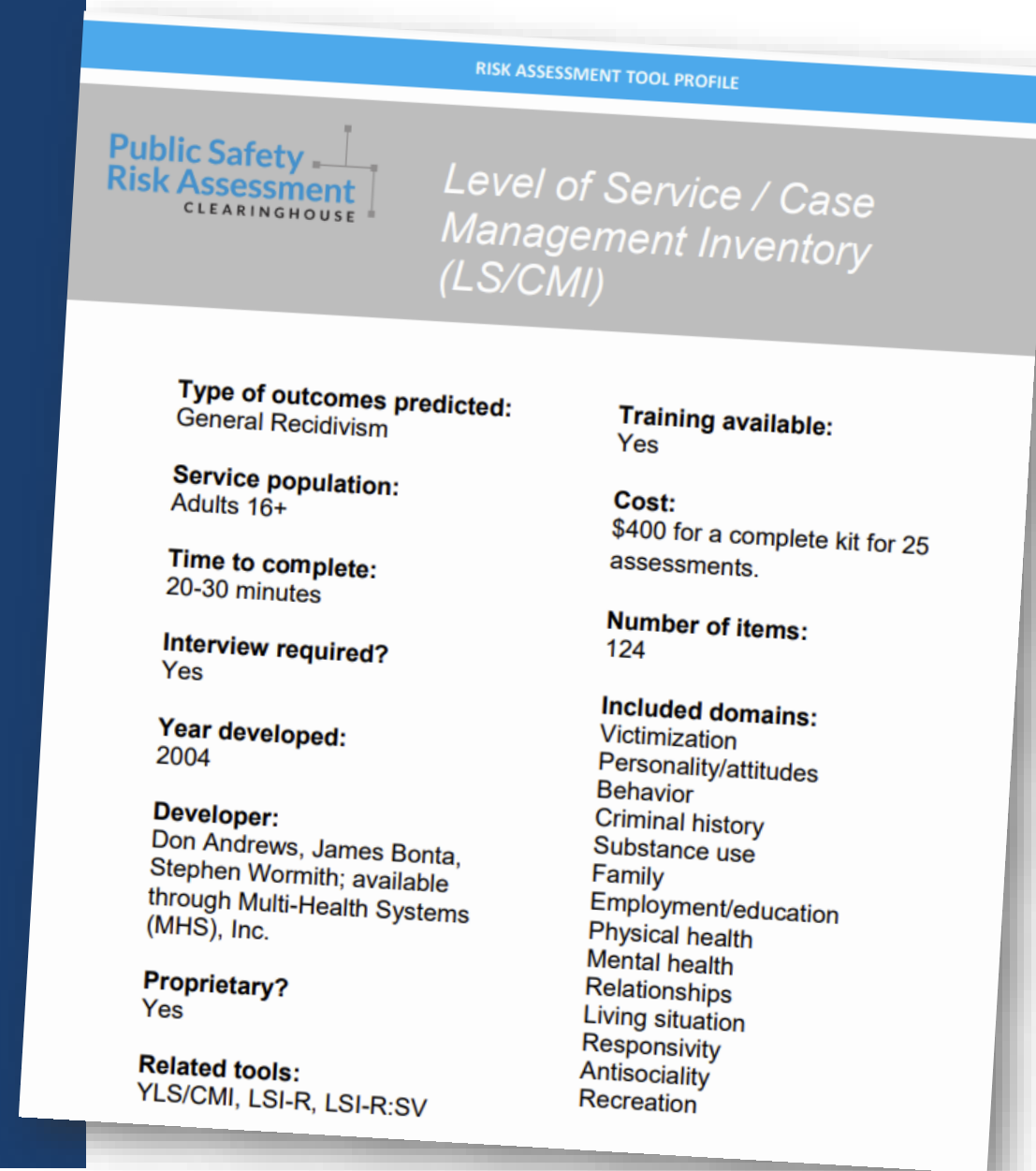


<https://www.cossup.org/Learn/SelfDirected/JailResources/ScreeningDisorders>

BJA's Public Safety Risk Assessment Clearinghouse

Tool Selector

- A repository for tools designed to predict the risk of general recidivism, sexual recidivism, violent recidivism, or pretrial misconduct.
- <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/psrac/selection/tool-selector>



Facility Best Practice Highlight

RSAT Community Best Practice Experts



Corey King

Major

Washington County Sheriff's Office



Joel Cochran

Sheriff

Washington County, GA

About the Facility

Washington County Sheriff's Office

- Serves Washington County and the counties of the Eighth Judicial District in Georgia
- Capacity: 192
- Average daily population: 151
- 1310 individuals booked in 2024
 - 1127 men
 - 183 women



Washington County Sheriff's Office

RSAT at Washington County Jail

- Accommodates 12 participants per cohort
- 3-phase model over 6+ months
- Treatment and Interventions:
 - Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)
 - Seeking Safety
 - Anger Management (SAMHSA)
 - Soft skills, communication, interview skills, workforce development
- Screening and Assessment
 - Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)
 - Biopsychosocial interview (including substance use severity and history)
 - Mental health screening
 - Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)
- Participants are referred to the program via classification, self-referral, or court mandate.

RSAT Community Best Practice Expert



Diana Harris, MA, CRAADC

Area Treatment Coordinator

State of Missouri Department of
Corrections, Northeast
Correctional

About the Facility

Northeast Correctional Center, Bowling Green, Missouri

- The RSAT Program within the Northeast Correctional Center supports individuals with **substance use disorder** (SUD) and other special needs, characterized by a **mental health** assessment score of 3 to 4 (i.e., high), reduced **cognitive abilities**, a history of **trauma**, or a diagnosed **medical condition** that requires placement in a disability unit that includes a bottom bunk and “lower walk” institution.



Northeast Correctional Center

RSAT Program at Northeast Correctional Center

- Program Capacity: 62
- Northeast Correctional is the only institution in the state that is a flat camp with accommodations for disabilities including high medical and mental health needs
- Major Challenges:
 - Dedicated unit separate from General Population
 - Buy in from Division of Adult Institutions
 - “Everybody wants space”
 - Successfully screen residents that are appropriate for the program, prior to transferring them for services.
- Screening and Assessment
 - Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)
 - Texas Christian University - Drug Screen (TCU-DS)
 - Texas Christian University - Criminal Justice - Client Evaluation of Self and Treatment (TCU CJ CEST)
 - Addiction Severity Index (ASI)
 - Mental health
 - Suicidal ideation
 - History of trauma
 - Education

Missouri DOC – TCU Assessment Schedule

ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULE FOR MISSOURI						
Gateway Foundation Corrections Division Internal Evaluation Protocol						
ASSESSMENTS INCLUDED	FORMS	ADMIN 1 (Intake)	ADMIN 2 (30 days)	ADMIN 3 (mid point) (IPASS Report)	ADMIN 4 (Discharge)	ADMIN 5 (Continued Care only at Release/Discharge)
TCU DRUG SCREEN V	TCUDSV	X	-	-	-	-
TCU CRIMINAL HISTORY FORM	CRHSFORM	X	-	-	-	-
TCU CJ-CLIENT EVALUATION OF SELF AND TREATMENT FORMS (CEST)	MOTFORM	X	X	X	X	X
	PSYFORM	X	X	X	X	X
	SOCFORM	X	X	X	X	X
	ENGFORM	-	X	X	X	X
TCU CRIMINAL THINKING SCALE	CTSFORM	X	X	X	X	X
TCU HEALTH FORM	HLTHFORM	X	-	-	-	-
TCU TRAUMA FORM	TRMAFORM	X	-	-	X	-

Breakout Session

Breakout Session

Different group areas (Prisons and Jails, for example)

- Two breakout rooms – Jails and Prisons
- ~15 minutes of discussion
- Report back to the group after
- **Discussion Questions**
 - **Prisons:** How do you get **access to screening/assessment information** and **how do you use it** during the program intake process? What additional information do you need?
 - **Jails:** What is your process for **identifying who is appropriate for your program?** Who is involved in the decision?

Breakout Session – Report Back

Open Q&A

What questions do you have for:

- RSAT-TTA staff
- Facility practice highlight presenter
 - Larger RSAT community



Resources & References

- [US Department of Veteran Affairs – National Center for PTSD](#)
- [National Center for State Courts – Screening and Assessment](#)
- [Texas Christian University – Institute for Behavioral Research](#)
- [American Society of Addiction Medicine – ASAM Criteria](#)
- Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series, No. 24. Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Rockville (MD): [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(US\)](#); 1997.

Contact Information

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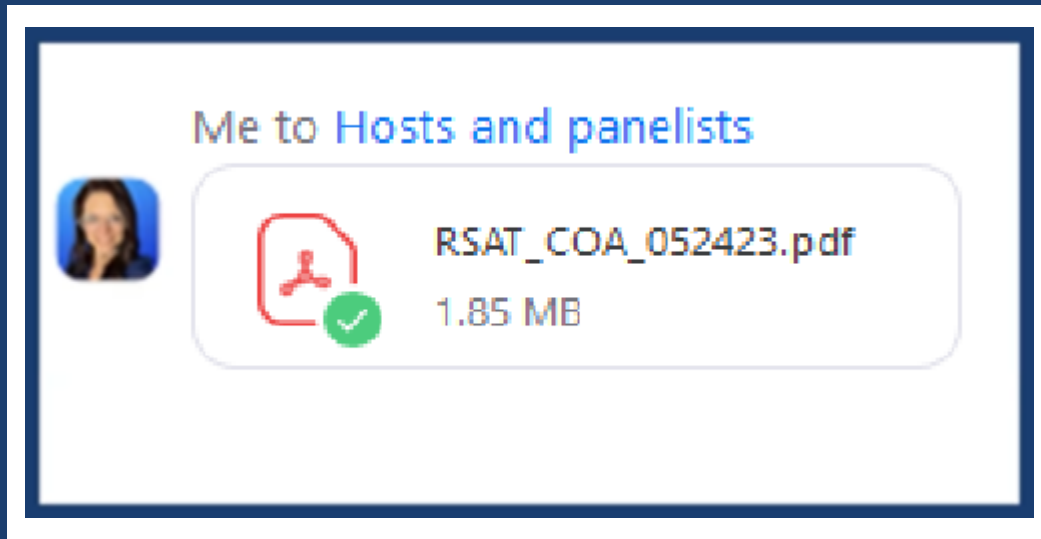
Major Corey King

Jail Division Commander

Washington County Sheriff's Office, GA

cnking@washingtoncountyga.gov

You can download the certificate of attendance from the chat.





CERTIFICATE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



1 Continuing Education Hour (CEH) approved by NAADAC, the Association of Addiction Professionals



Pass 10-question quiz with 7 correct answers



Download certificate upon completion of the quiz

April 9, 2025 RSAT Webinar CEH quiz link:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8268133/April-9-2025-RSAT-Webinar-CEH>

Upcoming in this Series

- Program Design Wednesday, April 23
- Treatment Principles Wednesday, May 14
- Treatment Interventions Wednesday, May 28
- Continuing Care and Reintegration Wednesday, June 11
- Program Administration Wednesday, June 25
- Facility-Level Interventions Wednesday, July 9

CONTACT



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