**Speakers 2018 Montana Drug Court Conference – October 22-24, 2018**

**Is it Really a Brain Disease? What Are the Implications for Drug Courts (Dr. Timothy Condon)**

Addiction – to alcohol and other substances – is a complex but treatable disease that affects brain function and behavior. Because substance use affects the brain’s structure and function, it has lasting effects on individuals long after they have stopped using. It also means that recovery requires more than simply quitting “cold turkey.” This session will review the neurobiological basis of addiction, the implications for treatment, and how this knowledge should shape expectations about relapse and recovery.

**Speaker: Dr. TIMOTHY P. CONDON, Ph.D. Research Professor**

Dr. Timothy Condon currently is a Research Professor at the Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions at the University of New Mexico. He is conducting research on a variety of prevention, early intervention topic in substance use disorder (SUD) and conducting a pharmacotherapy clinical trial with criminal justice populations who suffer from opioid use disorder (OUD). His work on prevention and early intervention is a project funded by the Hilton Foundation to implement screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) throughout the NM School-based Health System, which are supported by the NM Department of Health. His NIDA funded opioid pharmacotherapy clinical trial examines the use of extended release naltrexone (Vivitrol) in criminal justice population prior to release and follow-up after release.

Prior to joining CASAA, Dr. Condon served in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as the science policy advisor to the Director. He worked on a variety of Demand Reduction activities including healthcare reform and substance use disorders (SUD), health care reform and criminal justice populations, intersection of public health and public safety related to SUD, prescription drug abuse, and other aspects of the National Drug Control Strategy. He co-authored the 2011 **Prescription Drug Action Plan** released by the Obama Administration. Before joining ONDCP, Dr. Condon was appointed deputy director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in 2003. While serving as the NIDA deputy director, Dr. Condon provided leadership in developing, implementing, and managing NIDA’s research programs and strategic priorities. His approach, which links a lifetime of work in neuroscience with a strong translational emphasis, guided the Institute in building up its research training infrastructure, bringing science-based findings to community treatment programs, and establishing a national communications network for information sharing and research collaboration. Dr. Condon initiated enduring partnerships with multiple stakeholder groups, including other federal agencies, the criminal justice system, and the treatment and prevention practitioner communities with whom he has been particularly effective in advancing the real-world use of evidence-based interventions. Dr. Condon continues to interact with audiences around the country to communicate knowledge about the fundamental aspects of drug abuse––from emerging trends to how drugs work in the brain and body to promising treatment and prevention approaches. Through his active outreach in advancing the science of addiction, Dr. Condon continues to create needed change in how drug abuse addiction is perceived and treated in this country and internationally, erasing damaging stigma, and ushering in a new health paradigm which accurately views addiction as a treatable disease. Since 1992, Dr. Condon has held a number of prominent science policy positions, including an appointment in 1996 as NIDA’s first Associate Director for Science Policy, His various roles have allowed him to cover the landscape of the Institute’s science planning, policy, congressional, and communications activities, even leading NIDA’s research, training and science education programs. Dr. Condon received his bachelor’s degree in biology and psychology from Boston College and completed his master’s and Ph.D. in neuroscience at the Department of Physiology, College of Medicine, Ohio State University. His postdoctoral training was in neurophysiology at the Brain Research Institute, UCLA, and the Oregon Health Sciences University. Dr. Condon is the author of numerous scientific and science policy reports and articles for science journals and health publications. Dr. Condon currently chairs the Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement subcommittee of the Bernalillo County, NM Opioid Accountability Task Force and has been appointed by the mayor as a voting member of the Santa Fe Municipal Drug Task Force. Dr. Condon has also been a member of the faculty of The National Judicial College since 2009.