



NEWS

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Montgomery County Drug Treatment Court Celebrates National Drug Court Month With 10 Year Anniversary and 82nd Graduation

Norristown, PA (May 2, 2016) – The Montgomery County Drug Treatment Court will hold its 10 Year Anniversary Celebration and 82nd Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 5:30pm at the Norristown Area High School, 1900 Eagle Drive, Norristown, PA 19403. The event is open to the public and members of the community are welcome to attend.

The Honorable Steven T. O'Neill will be the master of ceremonies. The Honorable Steven T. O'Neill has presided over the Montgomery County Drug Treatment Court since founding the court in April 2006. The Honorable Steven T. O'Neill will speak to the audience about the program's achievements, acknowledging stakeholders and community support, as well as celebrating the alumni of the program and the six men and women who will be this month's graduates. The graduation ceremony marks the completion of an intensive program of comprehensive substance use treatment, close supervision, and full accountability.

Speakers will include Josh Shapiro, Chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, Melissa Fitzgerald, National Association of Drug Court Professionals Senior Director of Justice for Vets, Marissa Wadsworth, Representative from the NOPE Task Force, Pam Roberts, Representative from the Parent Partnership Group, and program alumni.

National Drug Court Month is coordinated by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). This year, treatment courts throughout the nation are celebrating National Drug Court Month with the theme "Criminal Justice Reform in Action." This week's 10 Year Anniversary and 82nd Graduation is evidence of the tremendous impact the Montgomery County Drug Treatment Court has had on the community and will send a powerful message that these programs reduce drug use, crime, and recidivism while saving lives, families, and valuable resources for the state.

Today, 2,966 treatment courts are in operation in all 50 states, plus U.S. territories, successfully treating close to 150,000 substance-addicted individuals each year. Since 1989, these courts have saved over 1.4 million lives and billions of tax dollars. Research continues to show that treatment courts work better than prison, better than probation, and better than treatment alone. The Montgomery County Drug Treatment Court has over 360 graduates with 70% of those individuals remaining arrest free after graduation.

The Montgomery County Drug Treatment Court is a judicially supervised court that reduces correctional costs, enhances community safety, and improves public welfare. The Court models the 10 Key Components and has adopted many of the best practice standards for Adult Drug Courts. In this program, seriously addicted individuals remain in treatment for long periods of time while under close supervision. To ensure accountability, participants are regularly and randomly tested for substance use, required to appear frequently in court for the judge to review their progress, rewarded for meeting goals, and sanctioned for not meeting clearly stated obligations. The Court participants must meet obligations to themselves, their families, and society.

For more information, please contact Megan Thomas, Drug Treatment Court Coordinator, at 610-992-7773 or via email at mthomas1@montcopa.org.