



Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts

Drug Courts Work – They Transform Lives

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Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts Celebrates National Drug Court Month

NORTH HAVERHILL, NH – The Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts (the “Friends”) celebrate May as National Drug Court Month in recognition of the success of drug courts in helping to combat the opioid and substance misuse epidemic here in New Hampshire and across the nation. National Drug Court Month comes as Congress is considering funding for drug courts and serves as powerful evidence that drug courts are a life-saving budget solution that must have their support.

“Here in New Hampshire, the Friends, a statewide nonprofit, works collaboratively with county treatment courts to provide funding for participant incentive programs to help ensure each participant’s success, graduation and reconnection with family, community and workplace,” stated Ed Rajsteter, Friends President. “Throughout the year, drug treatment courts hold graduation ceremonies to mark participant’s completion of an intensive 18-24 month program of comprehensive substance use treatment, close supervision, and full accountability.”

Treatment courts are this nation’s most effective strategy to reduce recidivism among substance-addicted, nonviolent offenders with criminal histories. Nationally, 75% of individuals who complete such programs are not re-arrested. These courts save up to \$13,000 for every individual they serve and return as much as \$27 for every \$1 invested.

National Drug Court Month is coordinated by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). This year, treatment courts throughout the nation are advocating to ensure continued federal and state funding for these effective, evidence-based programs. Recognition of National Drug Court Month spotlights the tremendous impact drug treatment courts have had on our communities and will send a powerful message that these programs reduce addiction, crime, and recidivism while saving lives, families, and valuable resources for our state.

Honorary Board Members

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen, U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan, Former U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte
Congresswoman Anne Kuster and Former Congressman Frank Guinta

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Email – info@friendsofnhdrugcourts.org, Website – www.friendsofnhdrugcourts.org

The Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts is a tax-exempt nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization



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Today, nearly 3,200 treatment courts are in operation in all 50 states, plus US territories, successfully treating close to 150,000 substance-addicted individuals each year. Since 1989, these courts have saved over 1.5 million lives and billions of tax dollars. In NH there are seven drug treatment courts operating in Belknap, Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough-North, Hillsborough-South, Rockingham and Strafford counties.

“Treatment courts are a proven budget solution that stops the revolving door of arrest and incarceration for people with substance use and mental health disorders,” said NADCP CEO Carson Fox. “Congress must support drug courts so they can continue to restore lives, reunite families, and make communities safer, all while saving millions of valuable taxpayer dollars.”

Drug treatment court is a judicially supervised court docket that reduces correctional costs, enhances community safety, and improves public welfare. In these programs, seriously addicted individuals remain in treatment for long periods of time while under close supervision. Drug treatment court participants must meet obligations to themselves, their families, and society. To ensure accountability, they 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.

Research continues to show that treatment courts work better than jail or prison, better than probation, and better than treatment alone.

"Entering into Drug Court was one of the most difficult decisions I've ever had to make, yet it has proven to be one of the best. Through working with the Drug Court team, I can say with honesty that I've made the best out of a bad situation. The changes I have made and the personal growth that I've experienced will continue to affect me for the rest of my life. The program has allowed me to be productive, live my life, and make positive changes. If I had chosen the alternative, I'm not sure that I would have experienced any rehabilitation. As a result, I'm the happiest I've been in a long time. Drug Court has my gratitude," Nicolas, a NH drug court graduate.

The Friends of the NH Drug Courts is the nation's first, statewide nonprofit agency formed to support all established and developing drug courts in the New Hampshire. The Friends provide an effective way for corporations and community members to help combat the state's opioid and substance misuse epidemic.

For more information, see www.friendsofnhdrugcourts.org.

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