



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



January 11, 2010

Court Administrator

James D. Wallis

PRESS RELEASE

**Assistant
Court Administrator**

Marisela Foley

The 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is pleased to announce that on Friday, January 7, 2010, the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County was notified by the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) that the 22nd Judicial Circuit had been awarded a FY 2010 Adult Drug Court Planning Initiative (DCPI) grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

Secretarial Staff

Joyce L. Brady
Nancy Hoffman

This grant will allow the 22nd Judicial Circuit and other collaborative agencies to participate in a week long planning session to aid in the development of a drug court program for McHenry County. The eight member team will include a judge and staff members from the 22nd Judicial Circuit, McHenry County Public Defender's Office, McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement representative, McHenry County Court Services and a representative from a drug/alcohol treatment provider in McHenry County. The grant will cover the majority of the costs associated with the planning session, including travel and lodging costs.

Court Interpreters

Francisco Vinas
Monica Minnis

Research Attorney

Thomas J. Cynor

The week long planning session is scheduled for March in Nashville, Tennessee. During the planning process the team will focus on issues related to defining the mission and goals of the McHenry County Drug Court, drug court structure, identifying the target population, defining treatment and the continuum of care, community supervision, drug testing, developing incentives/sanctions and developing an action plan and planning for sustainability.

Law Librarian

Louise E. Joseph

**Jury Commission
Coordinator**

Judy Roach

In 2009, the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation that was signed into law which requires all Circuit Courts in Illinois to operate a drug court program. Drug courts are an immediate and highly structured judicial intervention process for substance abuse treatment of eligible defendants which brings together substance abuse professionals, local social programs and intensive judicial monitoring. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) has identified the following 10 key components of a successful drug court program. They are as follows:

**Jury Commission
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Shirley J. Chinn
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Mental Health Court

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1. Drug courts integrate alcohol or other drug treatment services with justice system case processing
2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants due process rights

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3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in a drug court program
4. Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol and drug and other related treatment and rehabilitation services
5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing
6. A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participant's compliance
7. Ongoing judicial interaction each drug court participant is essential
8. Monitoring and evaluation measures the achievement of program goals and gage effectiveness
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug or planning, implementation and operation
10. Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court effectiveness

Research bears that drug courts are successful in reducing recidivism of drug offenders. Currently, 1 in every 100 people in the United States is incarcerated. Further, 1 in 35 people in the United States are either incarcerated or on some form of community control (probation) for a total of more than 7 million people, more than the population of all but 9 states. Additionally, drug abusers are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime and have the highest reoffend rates between 62%-67.5%.

It is anticipated that the McHenry County Drug Court program will be operational in late 2011.