

40 N. Main Street
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
Phone: (586) 469-5150
www.macombgov.org

James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
Macomb County Probate Court,
42nd District Courts

News



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: [Lisa Ellis](mailto:Lisa.Ellis@macombgov.org) (586) 469-6986

Date: December 23, 2019

The Circuit Court Mental Health Court Holds 3rd Annual Holiday Celebration



On December 16, 2019, Judge Marlinga's Mental Health Court had its 3rd annual holiday celebration in his courtroom. Graduates of the program joined with current participants, team members and other court staff at a potluck lunch in place of the normal docket on Monday. The gathering even included Christmas carols played on the violin by Judge Marlinga. While addressing the group, Judge Marlinga commended graduates and participants on their accomplishments in the program

and reminded them that "their successes help change the world" as they prove the Mental Health Court program works and will help to grow the program through positive outcomes. By their efforts and progress, they will help insure the program is available to people in the future, and help proves that treatment court programs are a viable solution to justice involved individuals who suffer from mental health concerns and/or substance use disorders.



The Mental Health Court began in late 2013 and is an approximately two year program designed to be in lieu of incarceration or regular probation. It is an intensive program, where participants start out meeting weekly in the courtroom for reviews with Judge Marlinga and the Mental Health Court team, which is a multifaceted group bringing services and expertise. The team is led by Judge Marlinga and is also comprised of the following: a Coordinator from Circuit Court, a Probation Agent

from Michigan Department of Corrections, a defense attorney from the Macomb County Bar Association, and a Case Manager and a clinician from Macomb County Community Mental Health. To date, the program has had 19 successful graduates.

The Circuit Court currently has three Treatment Court dockets; the Adult Drug Court with dockets before Judge Jennifer Faunce and Judge Joseph Toia, the Mental Health Court with a docket before Judge Carl Marlinga and a Veterans' Treatment Court with Judge Michael Servitto presiding. All three courts are operated with the same team-style organization to bring the best services possible to participants.

These programs are funded largely by State of Michigan grant programs. These grant dollars pay for treatment, alcohol and drug testing, sober living housing, transportation assistance and other necessary things that are sometimes a roadblock to success for those on regular probation that have to cover these costs are their own. For the current fiscal year, these programs were awarded a total of \$157,000 in grant funding.

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