



PRESS RELEASE

PETER J. LUCIDO

MACOMB COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Contact: Dawn Fraylick
Office: +1 (586) 469-5737
Email: Dawn.Fraylick@macombgov.org

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Macomb County Prosecutor's Office REDIRECT Diversion Program Saves Lives

Mount Clemens, MI - REDIRECT is a new initiative and collaborative effort between Families Against Narcotics (FAN), the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, local police departments and community service providers.

The overall goal of REDIRECT, which is grant funded, is to reduce both drug-related crime and overdose mortalities among people in Macomb County who may have committed a minor, non-violent, drug-related offense by offering them a referral to treatment, in lieu of arrest and prosecution of criminal charges.

REDIRECT launched in August of 2022, and has thus far received 121 referrals. These referrals were submitted by REDIRECT's law enforcement and community partners. Currently, there are 45 participants actively engaged in the REDIRECT program.

REDIRECT Case Managers have cultivated a presence in virtually all Macomb County courts, as well as some non-Macomb County courts including Westland and Detroit. The REDIRECT team has worked closely with the Sterling Heights Police Department and multiple other police agencies are interested in participating.

"This innovative way to treat individuals with addiction helps reduce crime in Macomb County by preventing recidivism. If we treat these people instead of sending them to jail, the taxpayers save money on housing and feeding them for an extended period of time," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido

REDIRECT creates a safer community by reducing criminality and recidivism, improving the relationship between the law enforcement and judicial community and the general public, and reducing the stigma associated with substance use through education and outreach. REDIRECT

is about connections, not convictions, and ultimately, reducing the harm substance users cause to themselves, to others, and to their communities.

"I found myself in the lowest spot in my life. I was living in someone else's apartment. The landlord shut off the electricity and heat because we were squatting in the home. I was on heroin. I got pulled over in Sterling Heights with drugs and they asked me if I wanted help. I said yes. They put me in the REDIRECT program which consists of 18 months. I went to Home of New Vision for 28 days. Since then, I have been clean for almost 4 months. I go to meetings and have a therapist. I also see a psychiatrist. I also have a Peer Recovery Coach. The Case Manager from REDIRECT has helped me with so many other things like housing, schooling, and help with getting my car fixed. I now have a job and driver's license and my Case Manager also helped me resolve my previously existing warrants. This is one of the best programs out there. If it wasn't for this program, I don't know where I would have been. I am much happier now." Amber P, a REDIRECT Participant.

Individuals who participate in REDIRECT have to meet the program criteria for qualification and are accepted into the program by the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. The prosecutor's office and FAN work together with the individual. FAN provides care for 12 months after enrollment into this voluntary program to provide a range of supportive services. This program helps people with pathways to recovery, employment, housing, education, childcare and parenting skills, harm reduction planning, relapse prevention planning, life skills, and improved quality of life. FAN's Peer Recovery Coaches work closely with REDIRECT participants as well as their family members to ensure there are no violations for one year. Once the person has been in compliance with program protocols for one year, the criminal case is dismissed.