


**TWO PART LUNCH & LEARN**  
Dauphin County Criminal Justice System

## Overview of Criminal Justice Treatment Programming, Part 1



Catharine Kilgore, Criminal Justice Advisory Board Administrator (CJAB)  
 Marisa K. Miller, CJAB & Initiative Support Specialist  
 Karlem Morsey, LETI & RCC  
 Heather Burd, Behavioral Health Unit Coordinator

**FEATURING**  
 Landa Porter, Esq., Assistant District Attorney (Drug Court)  
 Hon. John J. McNally, Court of Common Pleas  
 Hon. Edward Marsico Jr., Court of Common Pleas  
 Hon. William T. Tully, Court of Common Pleas

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD (CJAB)

- Purpose
  - *"The mission of the Dauphin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) is to enhance the criminal justice system and public safety through a collaborative and targeted approach which prioritizes the support of evidence-based practices and innovative strategies while maintaining fiscal responsibility and maximizing outside resources."*
- Stepping-Up Initiative

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



### System changes- By the intercept

- The Criminal Justice advisory board, as part of its front-end diversion initiatives, used the sequential Intercept model to establish a map of the criminal justice process and identifies key points along the process.
- This allows practitioners to implement various points of intervention for diversion or programming at each intercept that may alter the course of an individual within the system.

---

---

---

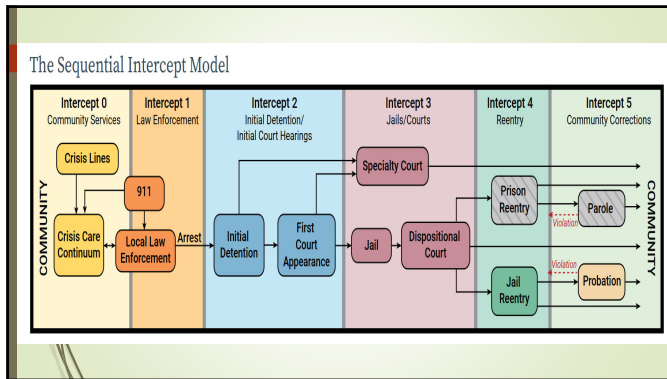
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## DUI REPEAT OFFENDER PROGRAM (DROP) OVERVIEW

Catharine Kilgore, C.JAB Administrator  
Marisa K. Miller, C.JAB & Initiative Support Specialist

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What is DROP and why is it needed?

DROP is a specific screening process designed to increase the speed of DUI case processing and resolution while promoting public safety by imposing conditions geared toward reducing and monitoring repeat DUI offenders.

### What are it's Goals?

- 1) Increase speed of DUI case processing and resolution.
- 2) Increase public safety by imposing conditions that reduce/monitor repeat DUI Offenders.

---

---

---

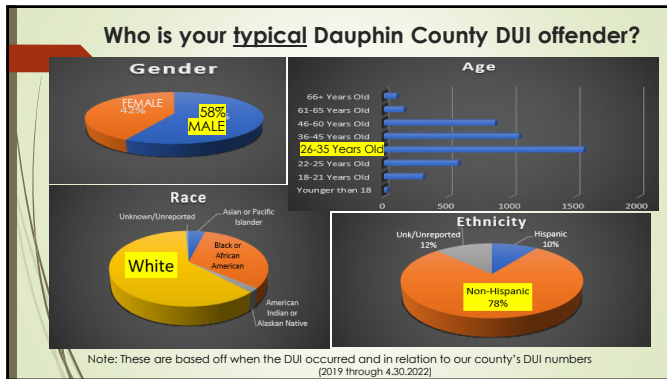
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

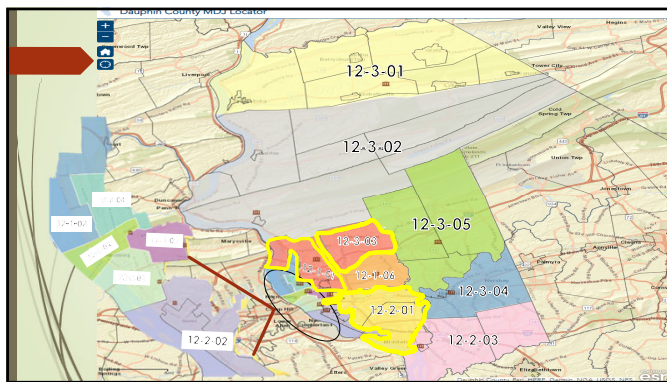
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

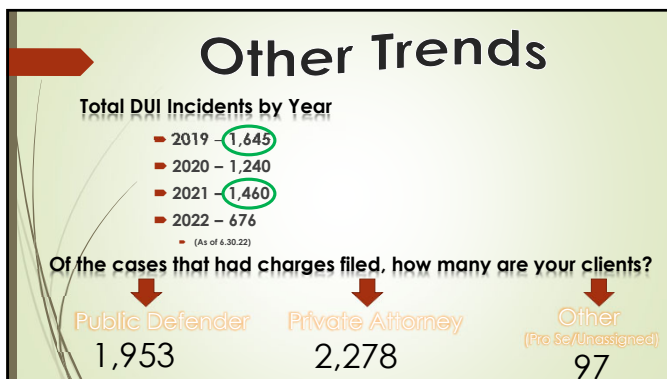
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## DROP Case Screening

- DROP Team
  - (1) DA office Clerk (Brandi Cairo)
    - Reviews DUI charges filed daily
    - Pulls criminal history
      - If any are repeat or subsequent DUI's
        - Individual referred to DROP ADA
  - (1) Assistant District Attorney (Ryan Shovlin)
    - Reviews referred DROP file
    - If applicable, schedules for DROP court hearing
    - Attends all DROP court hearings



**DROP Court Dates – occur every 2 weeks (At the Common Pleas Court)**  
**Presiding: Judge Edward Marsico Jr.**

Conditions can be imposed at the Magisterial District Justice Level at the time of the Preliminary Hearing (Case-by-case basis)

## DROP CONDITIONS

(Typically Recommended):

1. Supervision by Dauphin County Pretrial Services.
2. No possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverage.
3. For cases involving a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol, enforcement of the above prohibition with SCRAM or equivalent device.
4. For cases involving a charge of driving under the influence of a controlled substance, submission to urine testing on a bi-weekly basis subject to the discretion of the pretrial officer.
5. For cases involving a charge of driving under the influence of both alcohol and a controlled substance, submission to both of the above types of monitoring would be warranted.
6. Report to pretrial services.
7. Download the data from the SCRAM or equivalent device daily.

## Violation of DROP Conditions

- Since 2019:
  - 119 violations have occurred in DROP.\*
    - 66% (75) of these violations were among those who were categorized as RED
    - 34% (38) of these violations were among those who were categorized as YELLOW
    - 72 People are responsible for these violations.
  - The most common violations are due to:
    - SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor)
      - Tamper / Obstruction / Failure to Download
      - Suspected Use
  - What happens if your client violates DROP conditions?
    - Violation Hearing Scheduled
      - Revocation is possible. Jail is possible.
      - Referral can be made to the appropriate Problem Solving Court.
  - 32 individuals have been revoked from the DROP program.\*
    - 62.5% (20) of the individuals revoked were categorized as RED
    - 37.5% (12) of the individuals revoked were categorized as YELLOW



\*Time period represented 1/1/2018/10/2022. Analyzed from data entered by the District Attorney/DROP Coordinator or Ms. Brandi Cairo

## The Impact

- **Goal 1: Increase speed of DUI case processing and resolution.**
  - Since 2019, Local municipal police departments have drastically reduced the time it takes to file DUI charges.
    - Average is less than 7 days to file a DUI charge after an incident.
    - There is still work to be done with filing time in jurisdictions covered by the state police.
    - There is still room for improvement across all jurisdictions of history/number of DUI at charging.
    - The length of time for a case to reach disposition and sentence varied depending on the type of sentence imposed.
- **Goal 2: Increase public safety by imposing conditions that reduce/monitor repeat DUI Offenders.**
  - There were very few repeat DUI Offenders while on DROP conditions.
  - Those individuals who violate in RED are seen by a judge quickly for violation resolution.
  - Those individuals who need to connect to treatment evaluation services do so via DROP.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Other Resources

**New Dauphin County Public Website Tab 'DROP Overview'**  
[https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/court\\_programs/drop\\_overview.php](https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/court_programs/drop_overview.php)

**National Impaired Driving HVE Campaign**  
*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*  
*Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over*  
*If You Feel Different, You Drive Different. Drive High, Get A DUI*

**Future Dates 2022 – 2024**

	2022	2023	2024
<b>LABOR DAY</b>			
Enrollment	August 22 – September 5, 2022	August 28 – September 5, 2023	August 26 – September 2, 2024
Final Hearing	August 17 – September 5, 2022	August 28 – September 6, 2023	August 14 – September 2, 2024
Enrollment	July 24 – September 11, 2022	July 17 – September 11, 2023	July 15 – September 9, 2024
<b>HOLIDAY</b>			
Enrollment	December 16, 2022 – January 1, 2023	December 15, 2023 – January 1, 2024	December 13, 2024 – January 1, 2025
Final Hearing	December 14, 2022 – January 1, 2023	December 13, 2023 – January 1, 2024	December 11, 2024 – January 1, 2025
Enrollment	November 22, 2022 – January 6, 2023	November 15, 2023 – January 6, 2024	November 13, 2024 – January 6, 2025

© 2022 Dauphin County, PA. All rights reserved. Campaign material available at <https://www.dauphincounty.org>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Dauphin County Recovery Connections Court (RCC)

Kariem Morssy, Criminal Justice Assistant & RCC Court Coordinator  
 Featuring: Hon. John J. McNally, presiding RCC judge

---

---

---

---

---

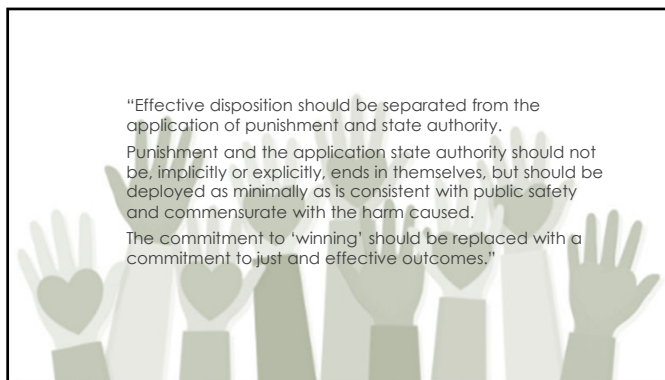
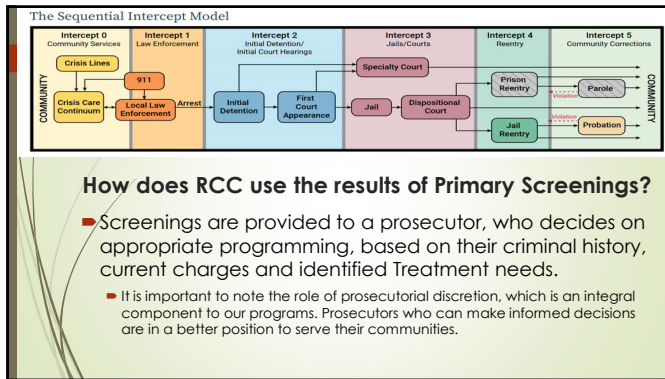
---

---

---

---

---



**What is RCC?**

- Recovery Connections Court (RCC) is a pre-sentence diversionary program designed to ensure that individuals who enter the Criminal Justice system and have a Substance use Treatment need are:
  - Connected to services quickly, and
  - Provided appropriate court-related supervision to reduce risk of overdose while pending case processing.

### RCC Team & Court

- The Recovery Connections Court (RCC) Team consists of a multi-disciplinary group of court and county criminal justice staff. Members include D&A Case Management, Certified Recovery Specialist Support, and Probation contact & supervision are required throughout the program.
- These individuals support the court in its pursuit to provide structured presentencing supervision to those pending trial for their charges and help pursue a resolution through RCC or other case planning or court programming that is behavioral health focused.
- Participants are placed into one of two tracks:
  - Track 1 – Those with a short/non-existent criminal history.
  - Track 2 – Those with a longer criminal history. This track will be directed to a full problem-solving court after RCC when possible.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Voluntary Manslaughter

Aggravated Indecent Assault

Murder

Arson (and related offenses)

Rape

Assault of Law Enforcement Officer

Sexual Abuse of Children

Assault by Life Prisoner

Sexual Assault

Assault by Prisoner

Sexual Exploitation of Children

Drug Delivery Resulting in Death

Statutory Sexual Assault

Incest

Theft by Extortion

Indecent Assault

Unlawful Contact with Minor

Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse

Kidnapping

Disqualifying Charges

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Eligibility Criteria Con't

Potential Disqualifying Charges (Case-by-Case Review):

- Aggravated Assault
- Burglary (F1)
- Illegal Possession of a Firearm
- Robbery
- Robbery of Motor Vehicle
- Promoting Prostitution
- Patronizing Prostitutes
- Living Off Prostitutes

Note: Final determination of RCC Program eligibility will be decided after review of all pertinent information provided by members of the RCC Team.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## RCC- Tracks and Phases

- **Initial Referral and Orientation Phase**
  - At this phase, time may be spent in a correctional setting or within an inpatient treatment facility.
- **Phase 1**
  - Initial stabilization period and engagement into Treatment.
- **Phase 2**
  - Developing community-based recovery supports and services (housing, employment, family, legal, etc.)
- **Phase 3**
  - Transition into the community, lower therapeutic and supervisory involvement OR preparing individuals for longer-term Treatment courts.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## RCC Program Completion

- Track 1 participants will finish all phases and continue probation contact.
- Track 2 participants will either
  - Move on to another Treatment court (Drug Court, Veterans Court, or Mental Health court), or
  - Be sentenced within the RCC program, will still receive oversight and case-planning for the remainder of their sentence.
    - This participant will be considered to have completed their RCC program.
- Case closure outcomes are case specific
  - Charge(s) can be expunged
  - Charge(s) can be reduced
  - Length of sentence(s) can be reduced
- The District Attorney's Office and Defense counsel both agree on the case resolution.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Questions/Further Information

Kariem Morssy,  
Dauphin County Criminal Justice Assistant  
Office of the District Attorney  
[Kmorssy@Dauphincounty.gov](mailto:Kmorssy@Dauphincounty.gov)  
(717)-780-6767

### Website Link

[https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/court\\_programs/recovery\\_connections\\_court.php](https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/court_programs/recovery_connections_court.php)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# OVERVIEW OF DAUPHIN COUNTY DRUG COURT

The Honorable Edward M. Marsico, Jr., Presiding Drug Court Judge

Linda Porter, Esq., Deputy District Attorney, Drug Court

Heather Burd, Behavioral Health Unit Coordinator

Elizabeth Manning, Drug Court Coordinator

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Objectives:

Provide a brief overview of problem-solving court functions in comparison to traditional court

Review eligibility criteria and benefits of participation in Drug Court

Review Drug Court program structure.

Questions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

DRUG COURTS ARE SAVING LIVES, REUNITING FAMILIES, SAVING MONEY, REDUCING CRIME.

Problem-solving courts

A QUICK COMPARISON: DRUG COURT VS. TRADITIONAL COURT	
DRUG COURT	TRADITIONAL
Drug Court Team is used to achieve goals to support your treatment plan.	The Court Team consists of a judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, etc.
The Prosecutor and Defense Counsel work as a team in order to focus on participant recovery and law-abiding behavior.	The Prosecutor and Defense Counsel are responsible for presenting evidence in support of their respective arguments.
Goal is to restore the participant as a productive, non-criminal member of society.	Goal is to process the case, apply the law.
The Judge, Probation Department, Dauphin County Drug & Alcohol Services, as well as the Treatment Team, will play a central role in monitoring the participant's progress in treatment.	Judge exercises limited role in supervision of the defendant.
Formalized, individualized, and structured treatment interventions for each participant.	Interventions for substance abuse at the discretion of the judge.
Incentives are used to reward progress, and sanctions are imposed in response to violations of program rules.	Penalties may lead to a maximum sentence.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## The Drug Court Treatment Team




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Who can make referrals to drug court?

- Self-Referrals
- Defense Counsel
- Family Members
- Magisterial District Judges
- Police Officers
- District Attorneys
- Probation Officers
- Jail Staff
- Treatment Providers
- Judges
- **Anyone!**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Qualifying characteristics

- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of Dauphin County (out-of-county residents considered on a case-by-case basis based on ties to community).
- Individual is charged with offense when it appears the offense is motivated by a desire to support an alcohol/drug habit.
- The individual states to the police or Magisterial District Judge that s/he is an alcohol/drug user at the time of arrest.
- The individual's family, friends, attorney, or probation officer, etc. indicate that s/he is an alcohol/drug user.
- The individual tests positive for alcohol/drug use at the time of arrest.
- The individual tests positive for alcohol/drug use while on pretrial release.
- Currently on probation supervision and pending revocation of supervision

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## General Disqualifying Characteristics

An offender with current charge **OR** prior conviction within the past 10 years for any of the following offenses is generally ineligible for consideration:

<b>Murder</b>	<b>Voluntary Manslaughter</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault*</b>	<b>Assault by Prisoner</b>
<b>Assault by Life Prisoner</b>	<b>Kidnapping</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>Statutory Sexual Assault</b>
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<b>Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse</b>
<b>Aggravated Indecent Assault</b>	<b>Indecent Assault</b>
<b>Arson (and related offenses)</b>	<b>Burglary (F1)*</b>
<b>Theft by Extortion</b>	<b>Incest</b>
<b>Robbery*</b>	<b>Escape (Prior Criminal History)*</b>
<b>Illegal Possession of a Firearm</b>	

\*Reviewed on a case-by-case basis

## How to submit a referral

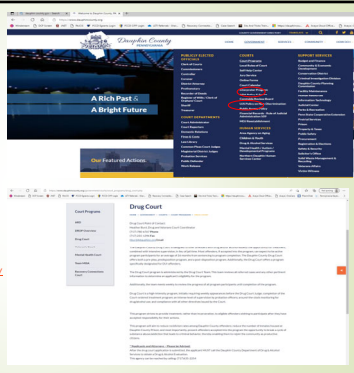
Visit Dauphin County's website, go to Government tab, under "Courts" select "Court Programs, and then "Drug Court" to access the application

**OR**

Email: Elizabeth Manning, [emanning@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:emanning@dauphincounty.gov), or

Heather Burd, [hburd@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:hburd@dauphincounty.gov) for a copy of the application

- Copies of application are also available for pick-up at the District Attorney's Office reception area



## Referral Process – Criminal Justice

### Eligibility

- Referrals/applications submitted to Drug Court Coordinator
- Deputy District Attorney File Review
  - Review for history and/or current charges for ineligible offenses
  - Victim consent
  - DUI vs. non-DUI offenders – separated for court-reporting purposes
- If eligible based on file review, will proceed with next step in referral process.
- If ineligible, decision to deny is relayed to defense counsel and/or referral source. May still proceed with treatment outside of Drug Court, but will not be privy to drug court sentencing and structure.



### Referral Process – Treatment Eligibility

- Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol Services conducts a comprehensive biopsychosocial interview and level of care assessment to determine treatment needs of each applicant.
  - Must meet clinical criteria for Substance Use Disorder (Drug and/or Alcohol)
    - Abuse vs. Dependence
- Co-occurring Disorders accepted on a case-by-case (referrals made to MH Court in appropriate cases)
- Ancillary Support Services (i.e., housing, medical, child care, AA/NA meetings, education, etc.).
- If treatment eligible, will develop initial treatment plan and decision is made to accept.
- If treatment ineligible, decision to deny is communicated to defense counsel and/or referral source.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Drug Court Sentencing Tracks

Track is determined by District Attorney's Office

### Incentive Track

#### Facts to know about this track:

For offenders who do not have significant criminal histories

Rule 600 waived pending completion or removal from the program, at which point defendant will be sentenced

EM/HA may be recommended or imposed for a period of time upon induction to program

Upon successful completion, charges *may* be amended as determined appropriate by the District Attorney's Office (determination made prior to program placement).

Sentencing occurs at completion of Phase 5 prior to entering Phase 6 (aftercare)

### Standard Track

#### Facts to know about this track:

For offenders who do have significant criminal histories

Must enter guilty pleas and be sentenced to a Restrictive Probation sentence.

Initial portion of RP sentence *may* include Work Release, EM/HA, or a combination of both.

Applicants facing only probation/parole revocations will be considered for this track




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Offers to participate in Drug Court

- Dauphin County Problem-Solving Court's are District Attorney's Office programs
  - Decisions to accept/Plea offers to participate (excluding revocation cases)
    - Defense will receive an email from Coordinator stating decision to accept with information on the following:
      - DUI or non-DUI Track
      - Incentive or Standard Track
      - Restrictive time for Drug Court
      - SCRAM (if applicable)
      - Initial treatment recommendations
      - Available dates to schedule sentencing
- Team has expectation of defense counsel to review offer, colloquy, and participant manual with defendant to fully advise of all program rules/policies prior to being sentenced into the program.
- If declining an offer to participate in Drug Court, a note is made in physical DA file to alert assigned attorney of offer rejection.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Benefits to participating in Drug Court in lieu of traditional court process

- Community-based programming (either WR, EMHA, or probation) in lieu of incarceration in county or state facilities
- (Incentive Track) Charge amendment/reduction upon completion of program
- (Standard Track) Early discharge from supervision upon successful completion
- Fines/costs waived as statutorily permissible
- Reduced costs for probation supervision fees
- Electronic Monitoring and SCRAM/Remote Breath requirements from sentencing costs covered by program
- Strict structure and individualized treatment planning
- Evidence-based programming leading to higher likelihood of reduced recidivism

**AOPC**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2021

Pennsylvania Problem Solving Courts Study Results Show Reduction in Recidivism along with Significant Intermediate Cost Savings

## Program Structure

- Six (6) Phases, minimum of 26 months to complete program
- Goals of phases:
  - Achieve Stabilization → Participation/Engagement in Treatment → Maintenance
- Phase requirements include:
  - Court attendance (weekly at first, then bi-weekly, then monthly, then quarterly)
  - Follow recommendations of treatment case manager
  - Contacts with Certified Recovery Specialist
  - Follow rules and recommendations of Probation, including EM/HA schedules, attending appointments, curfews, drug testing, community service, etc.
  - Accumulation of clean-time by phase
- Above all else, treatment becomes priority (drug and alcohol, mental health, trauma, etc.).



## What is a drug court session like?

- New admissions to program
- General check-ins with current participants
- Sanction/non-compliance hearings

Court sessions are used not only to "check-in" and hold participants who are in violation accountable, but also as teaching moments for other participants. Court sessions also offer opportunities for participants to identify with one another and offer support.



### Successful & Unsuccessful Completions

- Successful (Graduation)
  - Compliance with phase requirements, engaging in treatment/completion of treatment, accumulation of "clean-time."
- Unsuccessful Discharge
  - Continued non-compliance with program requirements
  - Failure to embrace attitude of recovery
  - Exhaustion of available treatment options
  - New charges




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Drug Court Sessions:

*The Honorable Edward M. Marsico, Jr., Presiding Judge*

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM  
Courtroom #4, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Dauphin County Courthouse  
101 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

*Virtual attendance option also available.*  
Please email Heather Burd ([hburd@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:hburd@dauphincounty.gov)), or  
Elizabeth Manning ([emanning@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:emanning@dauphincounty.gov))  
for virtual link and access information.

**Drug Court Website link**  
[https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/court\\_programs/drug\\_court.php](https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/court_programs/drug_court.php)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## OVERVIEW OF DAUPHIN COUNTY VETERANS COURT

**The Honorable William T. Tully, Presiding Veterans Court Judge**

**Jon Clymer, Esq., Deputy District Attorney, Veterans Court**

**Heather Burd, Behavioral Health Unit Coordinator/Veterans Court Coordinator**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Objectives:

Provide a brief overview of problem-solving court functions in comparison to traditional court

Review eligibility criteria and benefits of participation in Veterans Court

Review Veterans Court program structure.

Questions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Problem-solving courts

VETERANS COURT	TRADITIONAL COURT
VET Court Team is used to achieve goals to support treatment interventions.	The Court Team consists of a judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, etc.
Non-Adversarial	Adversarial
Goal is to restore the participant as a productive, non-criminal member of society.	Goal is to process the case; apply the law.
The Treatment team will play a central role in monitoring the participant's progress in treatment.	Judge exercises limited role in supervision of the defendant.
Formalized and structured treatment interventions for each participant.	Interventions for substance abuse at the discretion of the judge.
Incentives used to reinforce positive adjustment and Sanctions used in response to violations of the Veterans Court program.	Relapse may lead to a maximum sentence.

DRUG COURTS  
ARE  
SAVING LIVES, REUNITING FAMILIES,  
SAVING MONEY, REDUCING CRIME.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Veterans Court Treatment Team

Judge

Deputy District Attorney

Assistant Public Defender

Adult Probation Officers

Work Release Center Probation Officers

Coordinator

Lebanon VA Medical Center – Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist

Case Managers from CMU and D&A Services

Pretrial Services

Court Administration

Treatment Providers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Who can make referrals to Veterans Court?

- Self-Referrals
- Defense Counsel
- Family Members
- Magisterial District Judges
- Police Officers
- District Attorneys
- Probation Officers
- Jail Staff
- Treatment Providers
- VA Providers
- Judges
- **Anyone!**




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Qualifying Characteristics

- 18 years of age or older
- **Resident of Dauphin County (out-of-county residents considered on a case-by-case basis, and will be coordinated through intercounty supervision agreement).**
- Individual is charged with offense when it appears the offense is motivated by a desire to support an alcohol/drug habit.
- The individual states to the police or Magisterial District Judge that s/he is an alcohol/drug user at the time of arrest.
- The individual's family, friends, attorney, or probation officer, etc. indicate that s/he is an alcohol/drug user.
- The individual tests positive for alcohol/drug use at the time of arrest.
- The individual tests positive for alcohol/drug use while on pretrial release.
- Currently on probation supervision and pending revocation of supervision

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Additional Qualifying Characteristics

- Veteran of the U. S. Armed Forces (DD-214, discharge types)
- Batters' or anger management need
- Meets one of the following clinical criteria:
  - TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)
  - MST (Military Sexual Trauma)
  - Drug/Alcohol Addiction
  - Serious Mental Illness (SMI) diagnoses that include, but not limited to: PTSD, Major Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## General Disqualifying Characteristics

An offender with current charge OR prior conviction within the past 10 years for any of the following offenses is generally ineligible for consideration:

<b>Murder</b>	<b>Voluntary Manslaughter</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault*</b>	<b>Assault by Prisoner</b>
<b>Assault by Life Prisoner</b>	<b>Kidnapping</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>Statutory Sexual Assault</b>
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<b>Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse</b>
<b>Aggravated Indecent Assault</b>	<b>Indecent Assault</b>
<b>Arson (and related offenses)</b>	<b>Burglary (F1)*</b>
<b>Theft by Extortion</b>	<b>Incest</b>
<b>Robbery*</b>	<b>Escape (Prior Criminal History)*</b>
<b>Illegal Possession of a Firearm</b>	

\*Reviewed on a case-by-case basis

**FOR VETERANS COURT – TYPE OF DISCHARGE FROM MILITARY MAY ALSO DISQUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION**

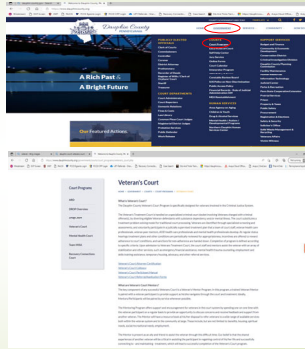
## How to submit a referral

Visit Dauphin County's website, go to Government tab, under "Courts" select "Court Programs, and then "Veterans Court" to access the application

OR

Email: [hburd@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:hburd@dauphincounty.gov) for a copy of the application

- Copies of application are also available for pick-up at the District Attorney's Office reception area



## Referral Process – Criminal Justice

### Eligibility

- Referrals/applications submitted to Veterans Court Coordinator
- Deputy District Attorney File Review
  - Review for history and/or current charges for ineligible offenses
  - Victim consent
- If eligible based on file review, will proceed with next step in referral process.
- If ineligible, decision to deny is relayed to defense counsel and/or referral source. May still proceed with treatment outside of Veterans Court, but will not be privy to Veterans Court sentencing and structure.



### Referral Process – Treatment Eligibility

- The Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO) conducts a comprehensive biopsychosocial interview and level of care assessment to determine treatment needs of each applicant.
  - Must meet clinical criteria for Substance Use Disorder (Drug and/or Alcohol), Serious Mental Illness (SMI), Batterers counseling need, and/or MST treatment need
    - **Can be one treatment need, or a combination of these needs**
- Ancillary Support Services (i.e., housing, medical, child care, AA/NA meetings, education, etc.).
- If treatment eligible, will develop initial treatment plan and decision is made to accept.
- If treatment ineligible, decision to deny is communicated to defense counsel and/or referral source.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Veterans Court Sentencing Tracks

Track is determined by District Attorney's Office

### Incentive Track

#### Facts to know about this track:

For offenders who do not have significant criminal histories

Rule 600 waived pending completion or removal from the program, at which point defendant will be sentenced

EM/HA may be recommended or imposed for a period of time upon induction to program

Upon successful completion, charges *may* be amended as determined appropriate by the District Attorney's Office (determination made prior to program placement).

Sentencing occurs upon graduation (completion of Phase 3) in order to complete aftercare phase

### Standard Track

#### Facts to know about this track:

For offenders who do have significant criminal histories

Must enter guilty pleas and be sentenced to a Restrictive Probation sentence.

Initial portion of RP sentence *may* include Work Release, EM/HA, or a combination of both.

Applicants facing only probation/parole revocations will be considered for this track.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Veterans Court Sentencing Tracks

Track is determined by District Attorney's Office

### Diversionary Track

#### Facts to know about this track:

For offenders who would otherwise be ARD eligible; very limited criminal history

Rule 600 waived pending completion or removal from the program, at which point defendant may apply to expunge his/her criminal record

DUI offenders will be required to sign a Chicken affidavit upon completion

If offender withdraws or is revoked from this track, case is returned to normal court process but ARD is no longer offered.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Offers to participate in Veterans Court

- Dauphin County Problem-Solving Court's are District Attorney's Office programs
  - Decisions to accept/ Plea offers to participate (excluding revocation cases)
    - Defense will receive an email from Coordinator stating decision to accept with information on the following:
      - Track selection (Diversionary, Incentive, or Standard)
      - Restrictive time for (Incentive or Standard Track, only)
      - SCRAM (if applicable)
      - Initial treatment recommendations
      - Available dates to schedule sentencing
- Team has expectation of defense counsel to review offer, colloquy, and participant manual with defendant to fully advise of all program rules/policies prior to being sentenced into the program.
- If declining an offer to participate in Veterans Court, a note is made in physical DA file to alert assigned attorney of offer rejection.

## Benefits to participating in Veterans Court in lieu of traditional court process

- Community-based programming (either WR, EMHA, or probation) in lieu of incarceration in county or state facilities
- (Diversionary and Incentive Track) Charge amendment/reduction/dismissal upon completion of program
- (Standard Track) Early discharge from supervision upon successful completion
- Fines/costs waived as statutorily permissible
- Reduced costs for probation supervision fees
- Electronic Monitoring and SCRAM/Remote Breath requirements from sentencing costs covered by program
- Strict structure and individualized treatment planning
- Evidence-based programming leading to higher likelihood of reduced recidivism

■ **Veteran comradery**

**AOPC**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2021

Pennsylvania Problem-Solving Courts Study Results Show Reduction in Recidivism along with Significant Statewide Cost Savings

## Program Structure


- Three (3) Phases, minimum of 12 months to graduate program
- After graduation, minimum 6 months of aftercare (excluding diversionary track)
- Goals of phases:
  - Achieve Stabilization→ Participation/Engagement in Treatment→ Maintenance
- Phase requirements include:
  - Court attendance (weekly at first, then bi-weekly, then monthly)
  - Follow recommendations of VJO
  - Follow rules and recommendations of Probation, including EM/RA schedules, attending appointments, curfews, drug testing, community service, etc.
  - Accumulation of sobriety time by phase
  - Mentor contacts
- Above all else, treatment becomes priority (drug and alcohol, mental health, trauma, etc.).



### What is a Veterans Court session like?

- New admissions to program
- General check-ins with current participants
- Sanction/non-compliance hearings

*Court sessions are used not only to "check-in" and hold participants who are in violation accountable, but also as teaching moments for other participants. Court sessions also offer opportunities for participants to identify with one another and offer support.*




---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### Successful & Unsuccessful Completions

- Successful (Graduation)
  - Compliance with phase requirements, engaging in treatment/completion of treatment, accumulation of "clean-time."
- Unsuccessful Discharge
  - Continued non-compliance with program requirements
  - Failure to embrace attitude of recovery
  - Exhaustion of available treatment options
  - New charges




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### MENTORING PROGRAM

- Mentors are veterans who volunteer his/her time to serve as a prosocial, peer support as each veteran navigates through program.
- Mentor is NOT intended to fill role of counselor.
- No veteran ever stands alone.
- May discuss ongoing problems or issues of interest.
- Relationship fosters a "can do" attitude to accomplish treatment goals and program completion
- Confidential relationship to promote trust
- Same sex assignments.
- Graduates of program often come back to be mentors
- Interested in becoming a mentor?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Veterans Court Sessions:**

*The Honorable William T. Tully, Presiding Judge*

Fridays at 11:00 AM  
 Courtroom #8, 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Dauphin County Courthouse  
 101 Market Street  
 Harrisburg, PA 17101

*Virtual attendance option also available.*  
 Please email Heather Burd ([hburd@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:hburd@dauphincounty.gov)) for virtual link and access information.

**Veterans Court Website Link**  
[https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/court\\_programs/veterans\\_court.php](https://www.dauphincounty.org/government/courts/court_programs/veterans_court.php)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Questions?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **DROP Conditions (Typically Recommended):**

- i. Supervision by Dauphin County Pretrial Services.
- ii. No possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverage.
- iii. For cases involving a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol, enforcement of the above prohibition with SCRAM or equivalent device.
- iv. For cases involving a charge of driving under the influence of a controlled substance, submission to urine testing on a bi-weekly basis subject to the discretion of the pretrial officer.
- v. For cases involving a charge of driving under the influence of both alcohol and a controlled substance, submission to both of the above types of monitoring would be warranted.
- vi. Report to pretrial services.
- vii. Download the data from the SCRAM or equivalent device daily.
- viii.

### **Attorneys and DROP Clients – Please be Advised:**

Waiving the Preliminary Hearing expedites the overall court process. The DROP conditions if imposed typically remain in effect until the case is disposed. The costs of DROP conditions are typically borne by the defendant.

### **In case of DROP Conditions Violation:**

- i. Pre-Trial will complete the alleged violation form.
- ii. The Revocation request from Pretrial Services will be sent to the DUI DROP Team.
- iii. Defense Attorney is alerted of the alleged violation(s) by the DUI DROP Coordinator or/and Pretrial Services Officer.

**At the Violation Hearing:**

- iv. If the judge grants the Revocation request, but does NOT recommend jail time for the violation:
  - a. **Judge to re-impose all the original bail conditions, and add NEW BAIL Conditions** not otherwise previously completed such that the defendant SHALL:
    - Such as; obtaining a Drug & Alcohol evaluation from a PA licensed treatment provider and/or following through with any treatment recommendations.
- v. If a referral hasn't been made to the DUI Track of Drug Court, make one.
- vi. If a NEW DUI occurs while the person is on DROP Conditions, based on judge recommendation

***VIOLATION NOTE: If the violation occurs and the docket has already been bound-over to the court of common pleas, the violation hearing SHALL take place in front of the Common Pleas Court judge, as determined by the current assignments.***

# Overview of Criminal Justice Treatment Programming

## DROP Overview Handout

<b>DROP Eligible by Category*</b>		<b>Unduplicated</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> DUI</b>			<b>29% of cases</b>
<b>ARD Eligible, NON-DROP</b>	<b>1,330 cases</b>	<b>1,326 persons</b>	<b>30% of persons</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> DUI</b>			<b>27% of cases</b>
<b>DROP Eligible</b>	<b>1,200 cases</b>	<b>1,161 persons</b>	<b>26.5% of persons</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> DUI / 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Subsequent DUI</b>			<b>15% of cases</b>
<b>DROP Conditions Always Sought</b>	<b>686 cases</b>	<b>614 persons</b>	<b>14% of persons</b>
<b>NON-ARD Eligible DUI, Non-DROP</b> (Typically a 1 <sup>st</sup> DUI, but has other CH)	<b>1,302 cases</b>	<b>1,293 persons**</b>	<b>29% of cases</b> <b>29.5% of persons</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>4,518 cases</b>	<b>4,394 persons</b>	<b>100% cases</b> <b>100% of persons</b>

\*2019-6/30/2022

Green - 4 duplicate persons in these cases  
Yellow - 39 duplicate persons in these cases  
Red - 72 duplicate persons in these cases  
Non-ARD/Non-DROP - 8 duplicate persons in these cases

\*\*The number of persons with this case type background has increased slowly, but steadily, each year since 2019. These cases represent just more than a 25% of the persons (300+) charged with DUI annually.

**1,886 possible cases of DUI that could be Yellow or Red, which are typically eligible for DROP. These represent 1,775\* unduplicated persons within the entire 2019-6/30/2022 timeframe, but 1,810 persons (+35) when breaking the data apart as below, annually.**

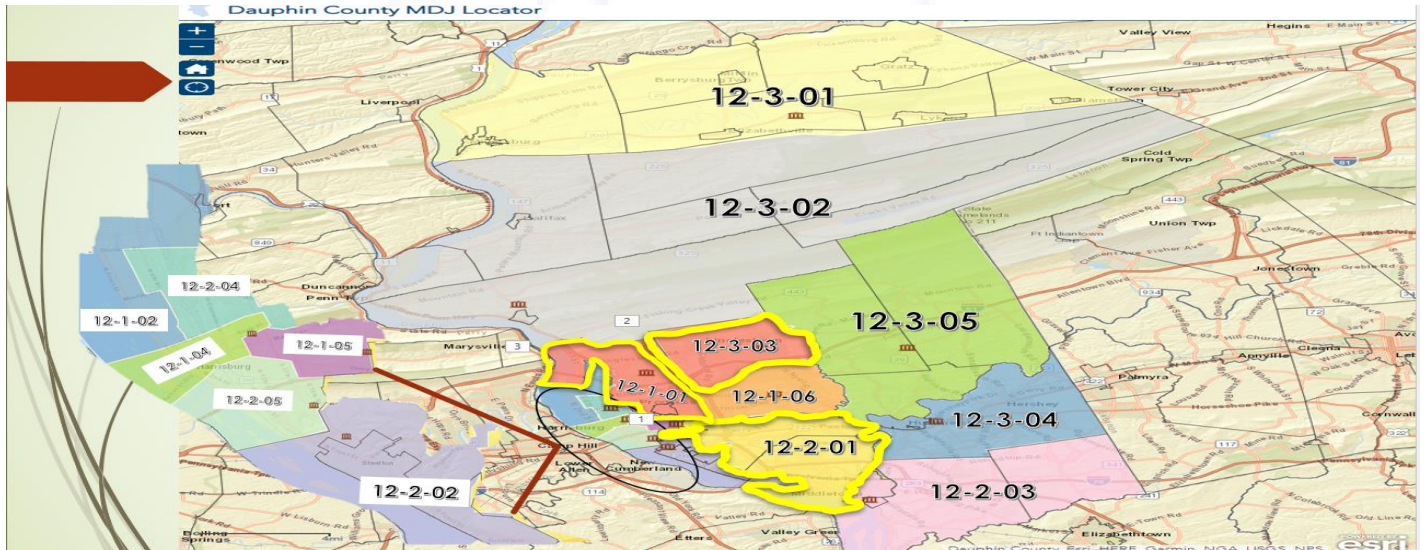
	<b><u>Yellow</u> <u>Persons</u></b>	<b><u>Red</u> <u>Persons</u></b>	<b><u>Both</u> <u>Yearly Persons</u></b>	<b><u>Yellow</u> <u>Cases</u></b>	<b><u>Red</u> <u>Cases</u></b>	<b><u>Both</u> <u>Yearly Cases</u></b>
<b>2019:</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>518</b>
<b>2020:</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>513</b>
<b>2021:</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>562</b>
<b>2022 (6/30):</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>1,886</b>

Since 2019, 733 persons, 41% of all eligible in the yellow/red categories, have been placed on DROP conditions.



Overview of Criminal Justice Treatment Programming  
DROP Overview Handout

# Where are the DUI's Happening?



Top 3 by Magisterial District Court (2019 – 6/30/2022)		
1	MDJ Smith (12-2-01)	Lower Swatara Township / Swatara Township
2	MDJ Wenner (12-3-03)	Lower Paxton
3	MDJ Urrutia (12-1-01)	Penbrook / Susquehanna Township

## Recovery Connections Court Strives to Model Our Program after the Ten Key Components of Treatment Courts

- ★ RCC integrates alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
- ★ Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- ★ Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the RCC program.
- ★ RCC provides access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- ★ Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- ★ A coordinated strategy governs RCC responses to participants' compliance.
- ★ Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
- ★ Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- ★ Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective RCC planning, implementation, and operations.
- ★ Forging partnerships among treatment courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances RCC program effectiveness.

For additional information on Treatment Courts around the country visit: <http://www.nadcp.org/>

**IF YOU ARE IN  
IMMEDIATE DANGER OR CRISIS,  
PLEASE CALL OR VISIT  
CRISIS INTERVENTION  
HOTLINE (24/7): 1-888-596-4447 or  
(717)-232-7511  
Contact Helpline: 211  
ADDRESS: 100 Chestnut St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
OR  
Drug & Alcohol Services (717)-635-2254**

### How to submit a **RCC REFERRAL**:

#### Individuals on Community Supervision or in the Work Release Center

Contact your *Probation Officer*:

**Office:** (717)-780-6900

OR

Contact the *District Attorney's Office* and ask  
to speak to a member of the Behavioral Health  
Unit:

**Office:** (717) 780-6767

**Fax:** (717) 255-1396

OR

If you are represented by the Public Defender's  
office, contact for information:

**Office:** (717) 780-6370

#### Individuals in Dauphin County Prison

Contact a staff member of the Treatment Unit  
or a Reentry Coordinator, Janine Rawls &  
Mike Keefer.

#### Individuals in the Community

Contact *Drug & Alcohol Services*:

**Office:** (717) 635-2254

**Fax:** (717) 635-2266



UPDATED: 8-26-2022

# Dauphin County Recovery Connections Court (RCC) Program



## Presiding Judge: John McNally & Members of RCC Team





## THE COURT

Dauphin County Recovery Connections Court (RCC) is a presentencing diversionary program designed to ensure that individuals who enter the criminal justice system and who have a substance use treatment need are:

- 1) connected to services quickly, *and*
- 2) provided appropriate court-related supervision to reduce risk of overdose while pending case resolution.

## FOCUS: ACHIEVE SOBERITY

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Dauphin County Recovery Connections Court program is to promote public safety by keeping participants with substance use disorders safe and accountable as they complete necessary treatment and other rehabilitative services until and as long as they receive treatment benefits. This will ensure the participant begins the process of recovery and will result in an increase in safety and security for the residents of Dauphin County through lower rates of recidivism.

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY



### Presumptive Qualifying Characteristics

- ❖ Charged with a crime in Dauphin County that has not yet resolved with the court. (unsentenced / open)
- ❖ Have moderate to severe substance use disorder and/or be at immediate risk of overdose/death.



### Disqualifying Factors

- ❖ Prior or current charges listed below:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| • Aggravated Indecent Assault              | • Murder                   |
| • Arson (and related offenses)             | • Rape                     |
| • Assault of LEO                           | • Sexual Abuse of Children |
| • Assault by Life Prisoner                 | • Sexual Assault           |
| • Assault by Prisoner                      | • Incest                   |
| • Drug Delivery Resulting in Death         | • Indecent Assault         |
| • Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse   | • Statutory Sexual Assault |
| • Sexual Exploitation of Children          | • Kidnapping               |
| • Unlawful contact with a Minor            | • Theft by Extortion       |
| • Human Trafficking (and related offenses) | • Voluntary Manslaughter   |



### Potential Disqualifying Factors

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Aggravated Assault                                 | • Patronizing Prostitutes   |
| • Burglary (F1)                                      | • Living Off of Prostitutes |
| • Illegal Possession of a firearm                    |                             |
| • Robbery  |                             |
| • Robbery of Motor Vehicle                           |                             |
| • Promoting Prostitution (Including that of a Minor) |                             |

## WHO CAN BE PLACED INTO RCC?

Screening for entrance into the program will be available to defendants who are:

- ❖ 18 years of age or older
- ❖ Residents of Dauphin County (Out-of-county dockets and/or non-residents will be considered on a case-by-case basis)



## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Recovery Connections Court program is divided into Track 1 or 2 and phases. A brief description of phase expectations are separated and indicated below:

PHASES	TRACK 1 [no prior criminal history or one other previous incident] <b>Projected Completion: 90-180 days</b>	TRACK 2 [multiple charging incidents—at least 2, current or past] <b>Projected Completion: Within 180 days</b>
	<b>Referral &amp; Orientation [about 14 days]</b>	
<b>Phase 1</b> [min 21 days]	Participant is assessed for treatment needs. Attends, participates, and is working on treatment goals. <b>Reporting days: M,F</b>	Participant is assessed for treatment needs. Attends, participates, and is working on treatment goals. <b>** Reporting days: M,W, F</b>
<b>Phase 2</b> [min 30 days]	Participant produces consecutive negative drug tests and is free from sanctions for at least 2 weeks. <b>Reporting days: M</b>	Participant produces consecutive negative drug tests and free from sanctions for at least 2 weeks. <b>** Reporting days: M,W</b>
<b>Phase 3</b> [min 30 days]	Participant recovery plan is reviewed & updated. He/She produces consecutive negative drug tests and is free from sanctions entirely. <b>Reporting days: 2x/month</b>	Participant recovery plan is reviewed & updated. He/She produces consecutive negative drug tests and is free from sanctions entirely. <b>** Reporting days: M</b>

*All reporting is expected to be in person*

**\*\*Possibility to move to treatment court**

**Track 1 RCC Program Completion:** When a Track 1 participant reaches the end of Phase 3, as appropriate, a sentencing hearing will be scheduled before the RCC Judge. Prior to sentencing, a resolution will be negotiated between the District Attorney and the participant's defense counsel. Charges may be expunged.

- In many instances, no follow-up probation supervision will be required for these individuals

### **Track 2 RCC Program Completion:**

**RCC Sentenced Supervision- Phase 4 (approx. 6 Months)**

**ONLY** those individuals who are in Track 2, complete Phase 1 of RCC, and are otherwise found ineligible for another Treatment Court Program may participate in this Supervision Track of RCC.

- A person who chooses not to accept an offer into a treatment court program is not eligible for this Track of RCC.

## Ten Key Components of Drug Courts

- Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
- Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.
- Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
- Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
- Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
- Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.



**RESTORES  
DIGNITY**

To submit a **PROGRAM REFERRAL**, please contact the Drug Court Coordinator:

**Ms. Heather Burd**

**Office:** (717) 780-6767

**Fax:** (717) 255-1396

**E-Mail:**

[hburd@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:hburd@dauphincounty.gov)



**SMALL STEPS  
ADDING UP TO BIG  
ACHIEVEMENTS**

Court application forms and information are also available on-line at:

<http://www.dauphincounty.org/government/Court-Departments/Court-Programs/Pages/Drug-Court.aspx>

For additional information on Drug Courts around the country:

<http://www.nadcp.org/>



## Dauphin County Drug Court Program

**Presiding Judge  
Edward M. Marsico,  
Jr.**





## THE COURT

The Dauphin County Drug Court is designed to offer non-violent offenders with drug and/or alcohol use disorders the opportunity for treatment, combined with intensive supervision, in lieu of jail time. Most offenders, if accepted into the program, can expect to be active program participants for a minimum of 26 months from sentencing to program completion. The Dauphin County Drug Court offers both a pre-plea, predisposition program and a post-disposition program. Additionally, the Drug Court offers a program specifically designated for DUI offenders.

Drug Court is a high-intensity program, initially requiring weekly appearances before the Drug Court Judge; completion of the Court-ordered treatment program; an intense level of supervision by probation officers; around-the-clock monitoring for drug/alcohol use; and compliance with all other directives issued by the Court.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Dauphin County Drug Court program is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable, through required treatment, other rehabilitative activities, and court-related responsibilities long enough to receive treatment benefits. This will assist the offender in breaking the cycle of addiction, and result in an increase in safety and security for the residents of Dauphin County through lower rates of recidivism.

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

### Presumptive Qualifying Characteristics

- An individual is charged with any criminal offense when it appears the offense is motivated by a desire to support an alcohol/ drug habit
- The individual states to the police or Magisterial District Judge that s/he is an alcohol/drug user at the time of arrest.
- The individual's family, friends, attorney, or probation officer, etc. indicated that s/he is an alcohol/drug user.
- The individual tests positive for alcohol/drug use at the time of arrest.
- The individual tests positive for alcohol/drug use while on pre-trial release.

### WHO CAN BE PLACED INTO DRUG COURT?

Screening for entrance into the program will be available to defendants who are:

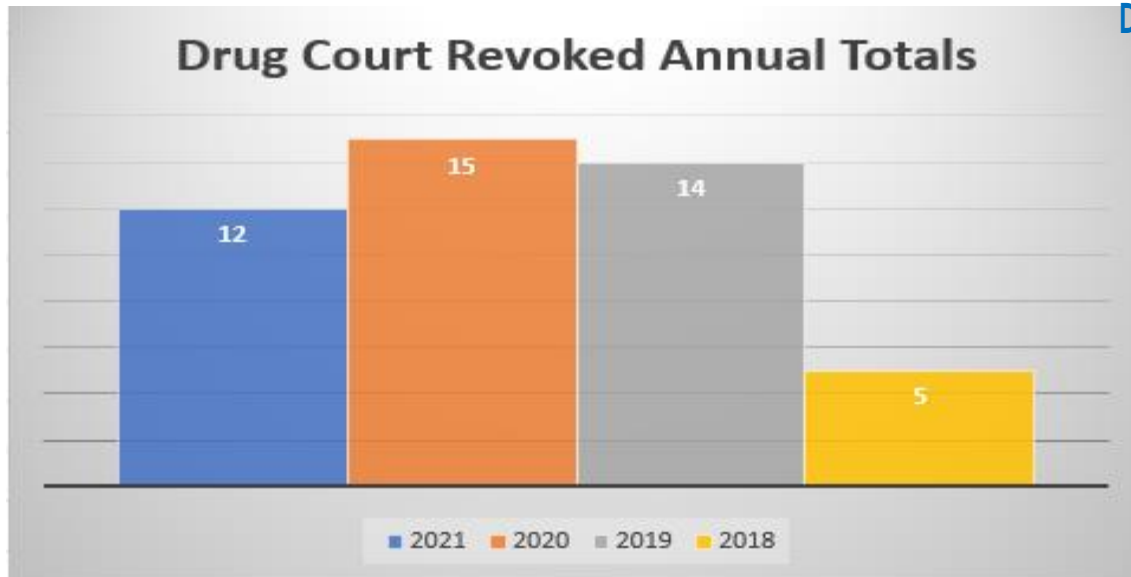
- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of Dauphin County (out-of-county dockets and/or residents will be considered on a case-by-case basis)
- Detained in the Dauphin County Prison
- Currently on Probation supervision and pending revocation of supervision, or/and
- Awaiting preliminary hearing before a Magisterial District Justice for an eligible criminal offense

## PHASES

The Drug Court program is divided into five (5) intensive phases. The general goals of each are indicated below:

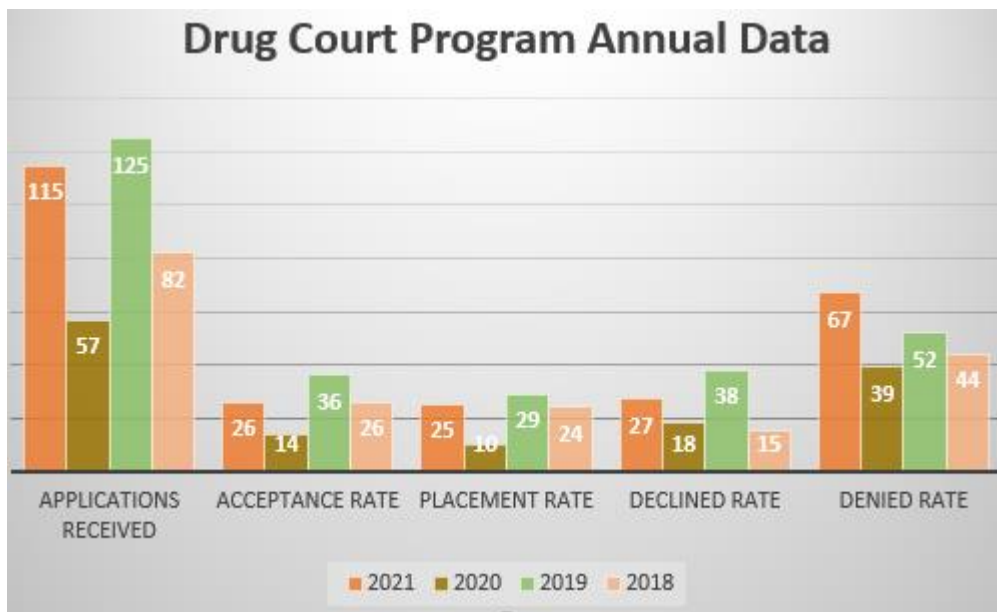
Phase	Goals
1	<b>Accountability: Attendance--</b> Treatment attendance, drug testing attendance, court attendance, probation attendance, community support/other meeting attendance, compliance with medication
2	<b>Accountability: Honesty &amp; General Outlook--</b> Phase 1 Goals <u>PLUS</u> Honesty with Court & Positive Attitude
3	<b>Accountability: No Drug Use, Establishing Support System, &amp; Improving Social Relationships--</b> Phase 1 & 2 Goals <u>PLUS</u> Abstinence/Negative Drug Tests, Establishing Pro-social Activity/Hobby, Maintaining Sober Support Network
4	<b>Accountability: No Drug Use &amp; Personal Responsibilities--</b> Phase 1, 2, & 3 Goals <u>PLUS</u> GED/School and/or Job Readiness/Employment, Child Support Payments, Court Fees/Fines
5	<b>All Behaviors from Phases 1-4, Maintaining Sobriety and Prepare for Life After Drug Court</b>

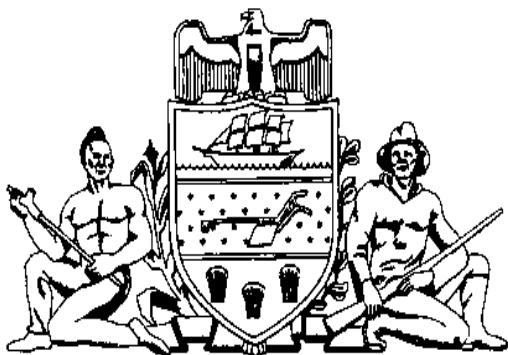
After the completion of the intensive 5 phases, participants advance to Phase 6, wherein the structure of the drug court program gradually decreases. This phase is intended to allow for the stabilization/maintenance of all the tools and techniques gained during the first 5 phases of drug court. The structure and requirements of drug court gradually decrease, which allows each participant to demonstrate his/her ability to maintain recovery after contact with the drug court program ceases.



Drug Court	2021	2020	2019	2018
Acceptance Rate	22.61%	24.56%	28.80%	31.71%
Placement Rate	96.15%	71.43%	80.56%	92.31%
Declined Rate	23.48%	31.58%	30.40%	18.29%
Denied Rate	58.26%	68.42%	41.60%	53.66%
Revoked Annual Total*	12	15	14	5

\*Administrative Closures (Needs Related) occurred in 2018,2019, and 2021, one (1) each year. Participant given alternative sentence & treatment plan





## THE COURT

Started in Dauphin County on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Dauphin County Veterans Court Program is specifically designed for veterans involved in the Criminal Justice System. The intention is to place the veteran, as related to his/her individually developed treatment plan, into an intensive drug, alcohol, and/or mental health treatment program coupled with court intervention as an alternative to incarceration to help return the veteran a productive and healthy lifestyle.

Without the collaboration of the VA Medical Center, multiple Dauphin County Departments, the Veterans Treatment Court, Volunteer Veteran Mentors and community health care providers, many Veterans' would continue to have their illnesses untreated and would suffer the consequences of the traditional criminal justice system of jail or prison.

If you are interested in becoming a **MENTOR**, please contact the Dauphin County Veterans Court Mentor Coordinator:

**Mr. Charles (Chuck) Leach**

**Cell: (717) 579-9651**

**E-Mail: leach3613@comcast.net**

The positions of Mentor and Mentor Coordinator are both strictly volunteer and are unpaid. Expenses related to the Veterans Court may be paid as authorized by the President Judge of Dauphin County.

To submit a **PROGRAM REFERRAL**, please contact the Veterans Court Coordinator:

**Ms. Heather Burd**

**Office: (717) 780-6767**

**E-mail: hburd@dauphincounty.gov**

**Court application forms and information are also available on-line at:**

**<http://www.dauphincounty.org/publicly-elected-officials/district-attorney/veterans-court/>**

**To donate to the Veterans Court Program:**

**<http://www.vva542.org/>**

Dauphin County Veterans Court Support Fund  
Michael J. Novosel MOH Capital Chapter 542  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
8000 Derry Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17111-5233

**For additional information on Veterans Courts around the country:**

**<http://www.nadcp.org/JusticeForVets>**



**Dauphin County  
Veterans Court Program**

**Presiding Judge  
William T. Tully**

<b>VETERANS COURT</b>	<b>TRADITIONAL COURT</b>
VET Court Team is used to achieve goals to support treatment interventions.	The Court Team consists of a judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, etc.
Non-Adversarial	Adversarial
Goal is to restore the participant as a productive, non-criminal member of society.	Goal is to process the case; apply the law.
The Treatment Team will play a central role in monitoring the participant's progress in treatment.	Judge exercises limited role in supervision of the defendant.
Formalized and structured treatment interventions for each participant.	Interventions for substance abuse at the discretion of the judge.
Incentives used to reinforce positive adjustment and Sanctions used in response to violations of the Veterans Court program.	Relapse may lead to a maximum sentence.

## **VETERANS COURT MENTORS**

A key component of any successful Veterans Court is a Veteran Mentor Program. In this program, a trained Veteran Mentor is paired with a veteran participant to provide support as he/she navigates through the court and treatment. Ideally, Mentors/Participants will be paired by service whenever possible.

The Mentor is present as an ally and friend to assist the veteran through this difficult time. Our belief is that the shared experiences of another veteran will be critical in assisting the participant in regaining control of his/her life and successfully connecting to – and maintaining – treatment, which will lead to successful completion of the Veterans Court program.

## **PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

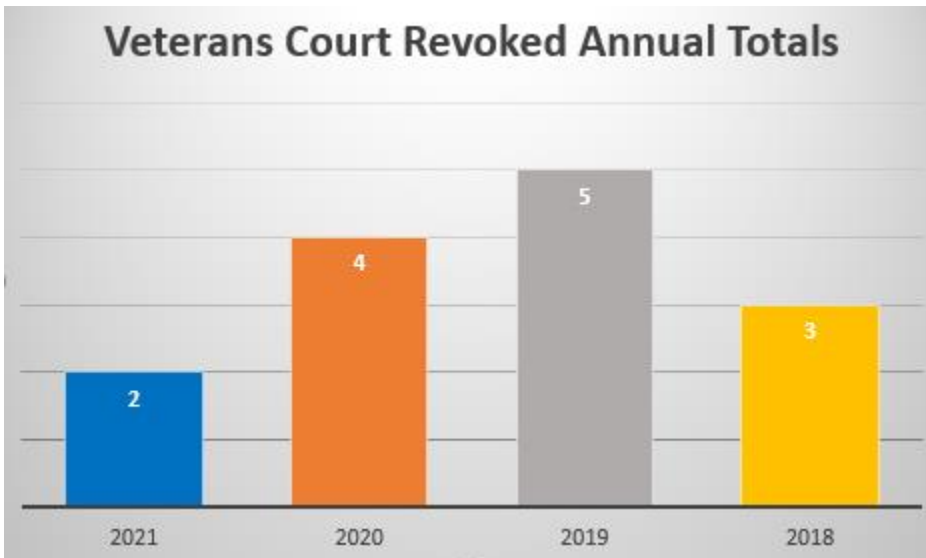
An individual meeting the following criteria may apply for admission into the Veterans Court program:

1. Veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
2. Resident of Dauphin County.
3. Charged with or facing revocation of either certain felonies or any misdemeanor offenses.
4. Has a severe mental illness, Axis I diagnosis, and/or substance use disorder or problem(s) requiring treatment/support.
5. The Offender voluntarily agrees to participate in, and be subject to rules, all guidelines of supervision, regulations, and sanctions of the Veterans Court program.

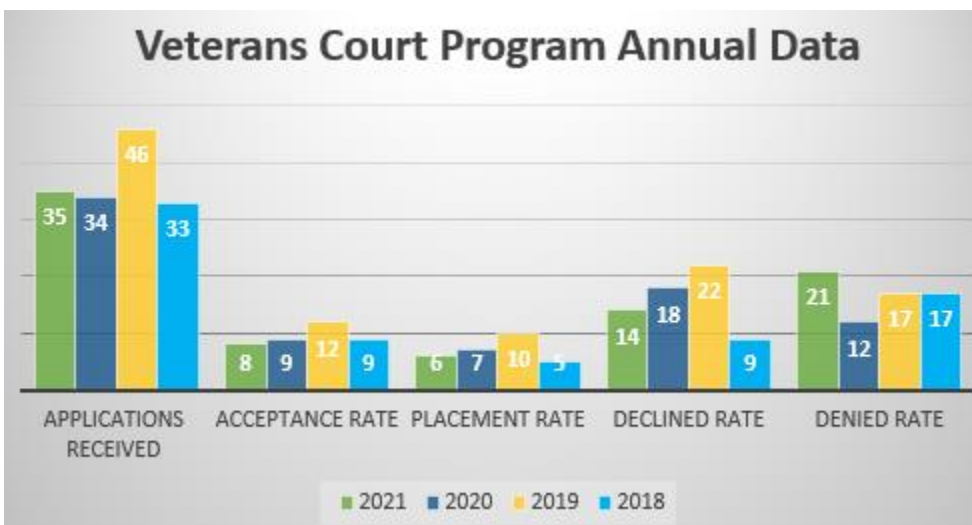
**Disqualifying** factors may include but are not limited to:

1. The type of discharge from Armed Forces.
2. The sentencing requirements based on the prior record score and seriousness of the offense.
3. Whether the individual is in need of treatment.
4. Charges include a violent felony, a Megan's Law offense, and/or a firearm charge.





Veterans Court	2021	2020	2019	2018
Acceptance Rate	22.86%	26.47%	26.09%	27.27%
Placement Rate	75%	77.78%	83.33%	55.56%
Declined Rate	40%	52.94%	47.83%	27.27%
Denied Rate	60%	35.29%	36.96%	51.52%
Revoked Annual Total	2	4	5	3



Individuals in the “declined” column could be included in the following category “accepted.”