



COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

TREATMENT COURT

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Judge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY'S TREATMENT COURT RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

Cumberland County, PA – The Cumberland County Court of Common Pleas will receive a Certificate of Accreditation for its Treatment Court program to be presented by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania at a ceremony on Friday, June 10, 2016 at 11:00 am in Courtroom No. 1 of the Cumberland County Courthouse. The accreditation certifies Cumberland County's Treatment Court uses nationally recognized standards in evidence based practices for its program operations. These standards are based on many years of research into the drug court model for Adult Drug and DUI Courts. The accreditation is valid for a three-year period.

Launched in 2006, Cumberland County's Treatment Court has provided a cost-effective alternative to incarceration for non-violent substance dependent offenders. Treatment Court is designed to integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with the criminal justice system to identify those who are in need of treatment and recovery services to provide counseling, learn coping skills and knowledge to return to the community as sober and productive individuals. The goal of the program is to change lives, thereby successfully breaking the cycle of addiction, substance abuse and criminal behavior. The program returns clean and sober individuals to the community after equipping them with competencies to maintain their sobriety and improve the quality of their lives.

Close adherence to evidence based practices has a direct effect on the program outcomes. The purpose of the accreditation process is to assess a problem solving court's compliance to the "Ten Key Components of Drug Courts" and utilization of best practices recognized in this area of criminal justice. Unique to Cumberland County's Treatment Court, the program is sustained by an annual budget item from the County's Criminal Justice Planning and Intermediate Punishment Program Office and a \$5.00 weekly participation fee. The Supreme Court accreditation is beneficial to the Courts when applying for competitive grants to aid in sustaining court programs.

Treatment Court results validate the commitment by participants to making long-term changes that enable them to return to their communities as productive members of society. Statistics show the program reduces and prevents recidivism providing a cost saving alternative to incarceration and minimizes the impact to the judicial system. To learn more about Cumberland County's Treatment Court visit www.ccpa.net/treatmentcourt.

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