



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

240 Church Street • Salinas, California • 93901 • (831) 775-5400
www.monterey.courts.ca.gov

Contact: NONA MEDINA
Public Information Officer
(831) 775-5400 x3020
mediainfo@monterey.courts.ca.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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DUI TREATMENT COURT AWARDED 3RD YEAR GRANT

The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has awarded a third year-long grant in the amount of \$600,000 in support of Monterey County's Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Treatment Court, originally established in October 2015. The program is designed for high-risk offenders who have been arrested for their second or third alcohol DUI and are ready to admit and resolve their crime and addiction.

This continued funding permits the Court to allocate resources to probation supervision, behavioral health coordination, electronic monitoring equipment and drug and alcohol testing supplies to ensure participants' compliance with treatment and supervision standards of the program. The DUI Treatment Court is supported by a partnership with Monterey County Offices of Probation, Behavioral Health, District Attorney, Public Defender and the Sheriff. It provides intervention and strict supervision to DUI offenders as an alternative to incarceration alone. This Court is only the 9th in the State of California and is modeled after the successful Drug Court program, which requires offenders to undergo substance abuse treatment in combination with education, regular judicial review, strict formal supervision, frequent and random alcohol and drug testing, and to adhere to other accountability measures.

Lead Collaborative Court Judge Sam Lavorato, Jr. said, "Monterey's DUI Treatment Court is an essential strategy to address the needs of high-risk DUI offenders, prevent injuries, and save lives that could be lost due to impaired driving crashes. We're extremely appreciative of the continued funding support provided by OTS/NHTSA. This program provides long-term solutions aimed at addressing substance abuse issues in DUI offenders. Program participants are provided an opportunity to affect constructive changes in their lives, which ultimately impacts our community's safety in a positive way."

"The Monterey County Probation Department is pleased to continue its participation in this very successful DUI Treatment Court, said Chief Marcia Parsons, "We are committed to ensuring the safety of our community and to assisting in the rehabilitation of our high-risk offenders."

"DUI Treatment Courts like this get the positive results needed for these repeat and serious offenders," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "The Monterey County Courts, with assistance from the Office of Traffic Safety, will be working to help keep the streets and highways across the County safe for everyone."

Additional information on these evidence based practices can be found on the National Center for DWI Courts' website at: <http://www.dwicourts.org/learn/about-dwi-court> and on the National Association of Drug Court Professionals website at: <http://www.nadcp.org/learn/what-are-drug-courts>

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