



STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS



Court Administrator

James D. Wallis

January 5, 2010

** Press Release**

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Mental Health Court

Scott Block

The 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County Mental Health Court will host its 2nd Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the McHenry County Government Center. This will be a time of celebration and reflection for the program graduates who have worked so hard to improve their lives and we commend them for their efforts.

The McHenry County Mental Health Court (MHC) officially convened in April of 2007. The MHC is a voluntary program designed to serve defendants who are suffering from a mental illness and are currently involved in the criminal justice system of McHenry County. In lieu of traditional handling by a criminal court, the MHC diverts defendants with diagnosed mental illness away from the criminal justice system by offering alternative court and treatment. The goals of the MHC are to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, improve participants' mental health and promote self-sufficiency by offering alternatives to incarceration and hospitalization by connecting the defendants with community treatment services.

The MHC is a collaborative effort and a model for how our County Government can work closely with our community's treatment providers to create a healthier and safer community. The MHC would not be possible without the McHenry County Board, McHenry County Court Administration, McHenry County Mental Health Board, McHenry County Department of Health, McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, McHenry County Public Defender's Office, McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Family Service and Community Mental Health Center and various other mental health service providers.

For questions pertaining to the Mental Health Court, please contact Scott Block at 815-334-4913.