The background features a light blue gradient with several concentric circles centered in the middle. On the left and right sides, there are stylized circuit board traces in a light blue color, consisting of vertical lines with small circles at the ends, resembling nodes or components.

# OVERVIEW OF MONMOUTH COUNTY DRUG COURT

MELISSA GARRETT, DRUG COURT COORDINATOR

MIGUEL OQUENDO, LPC, LCADC, SUBSTANCE ABUSE EVALUATOR

# HISTORY OF DRUG COURTS:

- The first Drug Court was established in Miami-Dade County, Florida in 1989. Tired of the same faces and the same cases repeatedly appearing before the court, “a visionary group of justice professionals decided that the system as it existed was broken and there had to be a better way.” (National Association of Drug Court Professionals)
- Drug court is a specialized probationary program for non-violent offenders who suffer from a substance use disorder. The goal of Drug Court is to assist these individuals in establishing and maintaining recovery and to live healthy and crime-free lives.

# MONMOUTH COUNTY DRUG COURT:

- New Jersey Drug Courts began in 2002, Monmouth County being one of the first Drug Courts in the State.
- Up until July of 2015 application into Monmouth County Drug Court was voluntary since then a mandatory screening process has been put into place to ensure that more criminogenic persons afflicted by the disease of addiction are provided the opportunity to change their lives.

# MONMOUTH COUNTY DRUG COURT TEAM & THEIR ROLES:

## COURT STAFF

Judge

Public Defender

Prosecutor

Team Leader

Drug Court Coordinator

Substance Abuse Evaluator

Pre-Sentence Report Probation  
Officers

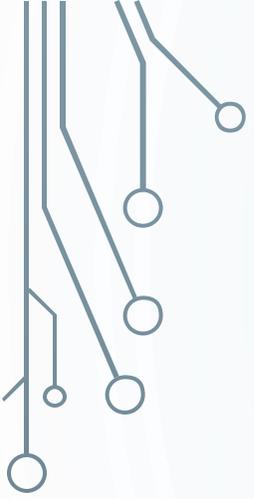
4 Clerical Support Staff

## PROBATION STAFF

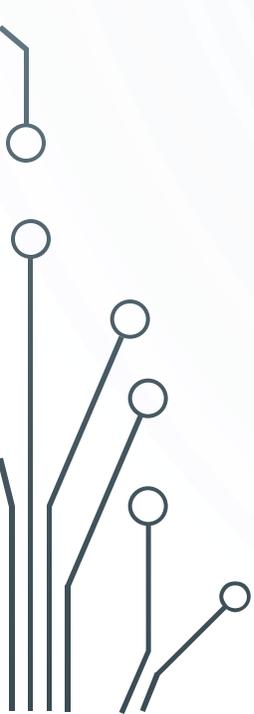
Probation Supervisor

9 Probation Officers

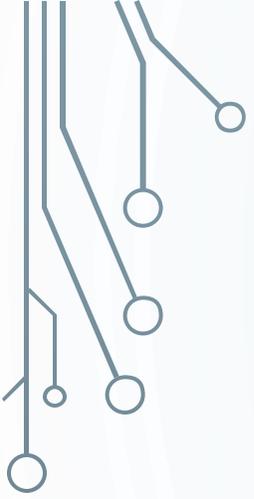
Team Secretary



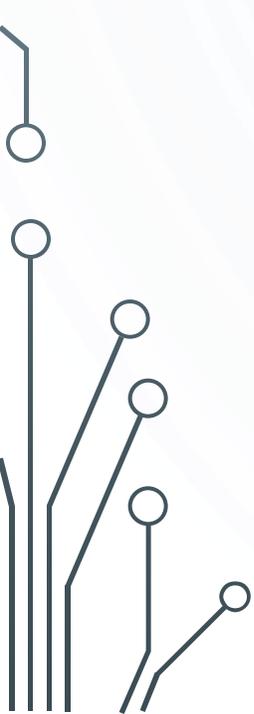
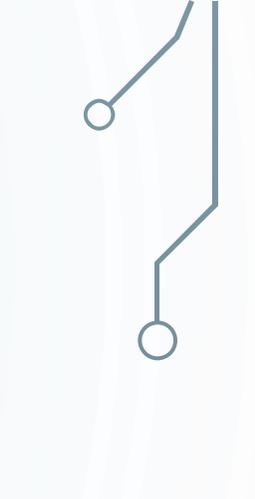
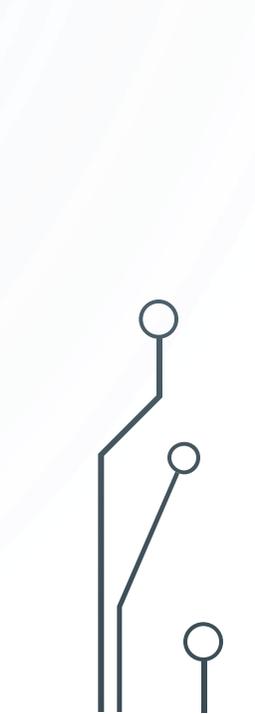
## THE PROCESS:

- Once a person is screened appropriate for Drug Court, via the *Mandatory Drug Court Screening Tool*, (unless a voluntary applicant) the Prosecutor will do a legal approval and then the defendant will have a *Substance Abuse Evaluation* completed.
  - If he/she has a clinical diagnosis at minimum of a *Moderate Substance Use Disorder* then the case will be discussed among the team to determine if he/she is accepted.
- 





## THE PROCESS CONTINUED:

- If not at liberty, the pending participant is brought to a Drug Court session each Tuesday to observe, while awaiting their sentence date.
  - Once a pending participant is sentenced they will be given an admission date at the assigned treatment agency based on their treatment needs.
  - The Drug Court participant, at liberty will start to report to Probation once a week.
  - Every contact with a participant is an opportunity to take a drug screen.
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# NOW YOU ARE IN DRUG COURT:

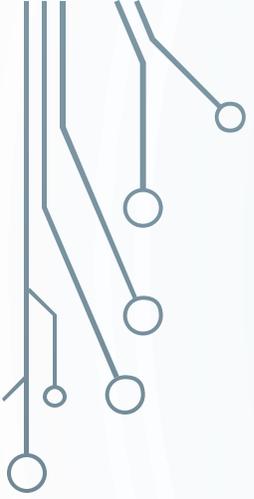
- Drug Court consists of four Phases:
  - Phase I-Stabilization
    - Minimum time in this phase is 3 months
    - Actively attending treatment as determined by the clinician
    - Active in self-help
  - Phase II-Positive Change
    - Minimum time in this phase is 6 months
    - Permanent home group and sponsor
    - Working full time or part time while attending school

## PHASES CONTINUED:

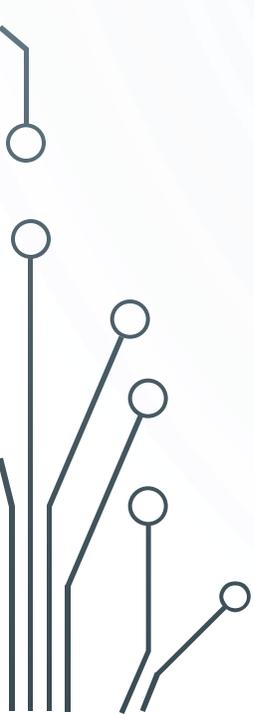
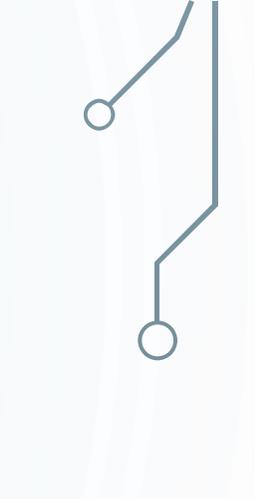
- Phase III-Relapse Prevention
  - Minimum time in this phase is 3 months
  - Continued active role in the rooms of self help
  - Maintain contact with probation officer
- Phase IV-Commencement
  - Quarterly court reporting
  - Follow through on paying fines and restitution
  - Mentor new Drug Court members

## GRADUATION:

- 1 year continuous clean time
- Successful completion of all treatment recommended
- Employed full time, unless enrolled in school full time
- Met all financial obligations
- Able to demonstrate a recovery lifestyle
- As of April of this year, a Drug Court graduate can have their records expunged on the date of graduation!



## THE PROCESS CONTINUED:

- Once accepted and at liberty the pending participant will begin attending court once a week, based on their town of residence. This allows the pending participant to become familiar with Drug Court sessions as well as the team members.
  - The pending participant will also attend Pending Participant Group each Friday. This one hour group is facilitated by one of our clinical team members. They review the handbook with the pending participants to ensure they are aware of the expectations for a Drug Court participant.
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# INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS:

- Freedom
- Reduction in probation term
- Opportunity to travel
- Longer curfew times
- Tangible items
- Record expunged
- Essays
- Community Service
- Extra self help meetings
- Extended curfew times
- Jail times
- Termination for Drug Court

# STATISTICAL DATA:

- Current number of participants: 400
- Total participants since 2002: 1514
- Total graduates: 395 (35%)
- 26% of former clients of Drug Court are successful, but not graduates
- 27 Drug free babies born while in Drug Court
- 19 parents have regained custody of their children

# MORE STATISTICAL DATA:

## BREAKOUT:

<b>African-American</b>	<b>21.22 %</b>
<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>74.80%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>0.54 %</b>
<b>Females:</b>	<b>24.40 %</b>
<b>Males:</b>	<b>75.60 %</b>

## AGE GROUPS:

<b>18 to 21</b>	<b>2.12 %</b>
<b>22 to 30</b>	<b>40.70 %</b>
<b>31 to 40</b>	<b>30.42%</b>
<b>41 to 50</b>	<b>15.97 %</b>
<b>51 to 60</b>	<b>10.84%</b>

## RETENTION RATES:

<b>Retention Rate since 2002:</b>	
<b>52.5%</b>	
<b>African-American:</b>	<b>50.40 %</b>
<b>Caucasian:</b>	<b>58.04%</b>
<b>Hispanic:</b>	<b>33.34 %</b>
<b>Females:</b>	<b>91.60%</b>
<b>Males:</b>	<b>55.06%</b>

The image features a light blue background with a subtle pattern of concentric circles. In the four corners, there are decorative elements consisting of thin grey lines that branch out like circuit traces, ending in small white circles.

**DRUG COURTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED A 14%  
TO 26% REDUCTION IN RECIDIVISM**

**DRUG COURTS WORK**

The image features a central title 'QUESTIONS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a light blue gradient with several faint, concentric circles centered behind the text. In the four corners, there are decorative elements consisting of thin black lines and small white circles, resembling a circuit board or a network diagram.

# QUESTIONS

# CONTACT INFORMATION:

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