



COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

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PRESS RELEASE

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Sacramento County Agencies Celebrate National Drug Court Month with May Graduation Ceremony

Sacramento, CA- The Sacramento County Probation Department celebrated National Drug Court month at the monthly Judicial Drug Court Graduation Ceremony, held at Sacramento Superior Court's Department 8. Six clients were recognized for their successful completion of the ten-month Drug Court program.

In addition to graduating from the program, four clients achieved extra goals:

- One client will graduate in June from Northern California Construction Training with certificates in OSHA 40, Fork Lift, and Power Tool.
- One client obtained his driver's license, bought a vehicle, and is employed at A Better Plumbing Company.
- One client has overcome mental health issues and is employed at Pack-It.
- One client completed the 10 month program while testing clean throughout, joined the Narcotics Anonymous softball league, and is now employed at Taco Bell.

Drug Courts throughout the nation provide nonviolent drug offenders an opportunity to resolve their criminal cases outside of the traditional criminal justice system. Those that may benefit from participation in a drug rehabilitation program, and meet necessary requirements, are referred to Drug Court. One of the most sought-after benefits of successfully completing the program is the dismissal of the client's criminal charge(s).

The Sacramento County Probation Drug Court program is part of Probation's Adult Community Corrections division. The program incorporates each of the key components of Drug Courts established by the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The program is collaboration between Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender/defense attorney and the assigned court room judge, currently the Honorable Judge Larry Brown. The multi-phase program includes random and frequent drug tests, incentives for positive behavior, and graduated sanctions for drug use relapse or failure to meet minimum counseling session requirements.

"Drug Court provides an opportunity for diversion while connecting people with the treatment they need," says Assistant Chief Julie Wherry. Additional comments provided by three of the graduating clients include:

"Drug Court saved my life. If it wasn't for the program, I don't know where I'd be today."

"I realized that I could have a life without using meth."

"I learned how to believe in myself and the ability to put my mind to something and complete things that were unattainable before."

Seventeen clients have graduated from the program in 2018, bringing the total number of graduates in the past five years to 236.

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