



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Court officials to hold meeting about McDowell County Juvenile Drug Court

For immediate release Tuesday, May 1, 2012

WELCH, W.Va. – The Director and Deputy Director of Probation Services for the Supreme Court Administrative Office will hold an informational meeting on Thursday, May 3, about the development of a juvenile drug court in McDowell County.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the McDowell County Public Library in Welch.

The preliminary meeting is not a formal training session. It will be led by Probation Services Director Mike Lacy and Deputy Director Lora Maynard, who oversees adult and juvenile drug courts. Invited local officials and the media may attend.

The McDowell County Juvenile Drug Court is among four juvenile drug courts in development in West Virginia. The others are in Harrison County, Greenbrier/Pocahontas Counties, and Berkeley/Jefferson/Morgan Counties. There are also eleven active juvenile drug courts serving a total of thirteen other counties.

The West Virginia Juvenile Drug Court Program is a cooperative effort of the juvenile justice, social service, law enforcement, and education systems. Juvenile drug courts divert non-violent juvenile offenders exhibiting alcohol or substance abuse behavior from the traditional juvenile court process to an intensive, individualized treatment process. The goal is to reduce future court involvement for these youth.

On any given day in West Virginia, approximately 7,000 youths are under some form of court-ordered diversion program or supervision by a probation officer.

Annual West Virginia juvenile probation reports demonstrate that controlled-substance violations are the third-largest category of offenses charged. This fact is the motivating reason behind the development of juvenile drug courts in West Virginia.

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