



New England Association of Drug Court Professionals (NEADCP)

Drug Courts: Tackling the Tough Issues

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New England Association of Drug Court Professionals Hosts Drug Court Conference

BOSTON, MA-- The New England Association of Drug Court Professionals (NEADCP) is hosting a conference at the University of Massachusetts in Boston on September 27 to bring together judicial leaders and professionals in the fields of criminal defense, prosecution, law enforcement, probation, substance abuse treatment, recovery support, and state and community leaders who are national experts in the field from throughout New England to share information about how drug courts are working in their states.

Chief Justices from the Judicial Branches of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont and Maine will be in attendance, and more than 300 people are expected to participate. Deputy Director Benjamin B. Tucker of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Tucker has 40 years of experience in the fields of law enforcement and criminal justice, and is a recognized expert in community policing.

The use of drug courts has proven to be a successful way to reduce recidivism among offenders who are charged with non-violent drug offenses and who are drug or alcohol dependent. States that have implemented drug courts have seen significant cost savings due to reduced crime and fewer arrests. Overseen by a judge, each drug court team typically comprises a prosecutor, public defender, case manager(s), drug and alcohol abuse counselors, law enforcement, jail personnel, mental health counselors (in the case of a mental health or co-occurring court) and probation or parole officers, who all work collaboratively with each offender on drug treatment, testing and supervision.

The conference will include a full day of presentations from New England's leading experts on addiction, judges and attorneys with experience working in drug courts, and

corrections professionals. This year, West Huddleston, the CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, and Hon. Robert Ziemian, a Massachusetts Trial Court judge, will present a special award honoring U.S. Congressman Stephen Lynch (D-MA) for sponsoring an amendment last year to increase the Department of Justice's Drug Court Program funding by \$4 million. The amendment was approved by the House of Representatives and included in H.R. 5326, the FY2013 funding bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

In April, President Obama's Administration released a science-based drug policy that addresses the national drug challenge as a public health issue, not just a criminal justice issue. The National Drug Control Strategy strongly supports drug courts and directs Federal agencies to expand community-based efforts to prevent drug use before it begins, empower healthcare workers to intervene early at the first signs of a substance use disorder, expand access to treatment for those who need it, and support the millions of Americans in recovery.

For more information about the conference, please go to the NEADCP website at www.neadcp.org, or call Roberta Garson Leis, President of NEADCP at (508) 631-0448 or Alex Casale, New Hampshire Statewide Drug Court Coordinator at (603) 516-7193.