



For Immediate Release

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KANE COUNTY DRUG REHABILITATION COURT CONDUCTS FIRST OUTSIDE GRADUATION

For the first time in its 21-year history, the Kane County Drug Court conducted an outdoor graduation ceremony on May 20, 2021. Six participants in this specialty court program participated in a graduation on the front steps of the Kane County Judicial Center. Judge Marmarie J. Kostelny presided over this first gathering in more than a year.

Chief Judge Clint Hull was present to congratulate the graduates. The entire drug court team participated in the graduation including attorneys, the Drug Court Coordinator, probation officers and treatment professionals from the Kane County Diagnostic Center, Gateway Foundation, Ecker Center and Renz Center. In addition to those present, family, friends, lawyers and others were able to watch the graduation being live-streamed on YouTube. One graduate was a featured speaker and told her story of transformation. She explained that drug court was “absolutely essential to my success. I can say without a doubt that this program saved my life.”

Drug Rehabilitation Court is a Kane County Specialty Court program established in 2000 to serve defendants who have serious substance abuse disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders. The drug court team works with participants to obtain appropriate treatment and therapeutic care and to reduce new arrests.

The graduation marked the completion of an intensive program requiring substantial accountability and sustained treatment. Participants in drug court are required to appear frequently in court, complete treatment, maintain compliance with any prescribed medications and treatment, meet regularly with probation and maintain sobriety.

According to Drug Court Coordinator Alicia Klimpke, “This was the first time in over fourteen months that we were able to gather together in person to celebrate and support our participants in recovery. The pandemic has been a very difficult time for people in recovery. This celebration marks one of our first steps in returning to more normal operations.”

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