

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: April 21, 2009

Action Agenda

Item No. 4-h

SUBJECT: Drug Court Month

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

ATTACHMENT(S):

Proclamation

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Blackmon, 245-2300

PURPOSE: To approve a proclamation declaring May 2009 as "Drug Court Month".

BACKGROUND: Representatives of the local Judicial District 15B have requested the Board of Commissioners consider approval of a proclamation declaring May 2009 as "Drug Court Month". Drug Courts have been working for the past twenty years to restore lives, reunite families and make communities across this nation safer. The Drug Court concept has grown from the 12 original Drug Courts in 1994 to 2,301 operational Drug Courts and 3,410 problem-solving courts as of December 2008.

As part of Drug Court Month activities Judicial District 15B will host the *Judicial District 15B Commencement Ceremony for Adult and Family Drug Treatment Courts* on Wednesday, May 4, 2009. This event will celebrate the promise of recovery and restored hope to 7 graduates and their families. In addition the District will mark the *Fourth Annual Unity Day* on Friday, May 29, 2009 to celebrate the promise of recovery, promote community collaboration, and educate the community on addiction.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact associated with approval of the proclamation.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends the Board approve the proclamation declaring May 2009 as "Drug Court Month" and authorize the Chair to sign the proclamation.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

In Support of Establishing “Drug Court Month”

WHEREAS, for the past twenty years Drug Courts have been restoring lives, reuniting families and making communities across this nation safer; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts provide focus and leadership for community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, 60 to 80 percent of drug offenders sentenced to prison and over 40 percent sentenced to probation recidivate, while fewer than 17 percent of Drug Court graduates recidivate; and

WHEREAS, results of more than 100 program evaluations and at least four meta-analytic studies have yielded definitive evidence that Drug Courts are demonstratively effective and significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other justice strategy; and

WHEREAS, over 25,000 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, substance abuse and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement and community supervision personnel, researchers and educators, national and community leaders, and others dedicated to Drug Courts and similar types of treatment programs are healing families and communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Court movement has grown from the 12 original Drug Courts in 1994 to 2,301 operational Drug Courts and 3,410 problem solving courts as of December 2008; and

WHEREAS, Wednesday, May 4, 2009 marks a *Judicial District 15B Commencement Ceremony for Adult and Family Drug Treatment Courts*, which will celebrate the promise of recovery and restored hope to 7 graduates and their families; and

WHEREAS, Friday, May 29, 2009 marks the *Fourth Annual Unity Day*, which will celebrate the promise of recovery, promote community collaboration, and educate the community on addiction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Commissioners hereby declares that “Drug Court Month” be established for the month of May 2009, recognizing the practitioners and participants who make drug courts work and the significant contributions that Drug Courts have made and continue to make in reducing drug usage and crime.

This the 21st day of April 2009.

Valerie Foushee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners