



2021 Year-End Review

The Alumni Association of the Morris County Drug Court Board (AAMCDC) continues to take their responsibility to the Drug Court Program and its participants seriously and have been working hard to provide support during this difficult year. We continue to have our monthly meetings on the Zoom platform. As part of our mentoring efforts, we reach out to the community for subject matter experts to present on topics that are relative at our monthly meetings. As an incentive, we also offered a monthly drawing of a \$25.00 gift card for those in attendance. Costco donated the gift cards.

Below is the list of presenters and topics:

January: Center for Addiction Recovery & Success(CARES)

Presenters: Emily Monks, MSW, CPRS, Manager of Recovery Services and Tim Gulick, Project Coordinator

February: Drug Court Expungement Update

Presenters- Honorable Michael Hubner, Drug Court Judge and Elizabeth Cervenak, Esq., Drug Court Public Defender

March: "Trauma and Stigma and their correlation to addiction."

Presenter: Chris McAllister, Recovery Guide at the Essex Health and Wellness Recovery Center

April: Drug Court Film

Through the power of individual Morris County Drug Court Alumni and participant testimonies, the video demonstrates Drug Court's positive impact on participants, their families and society.

May: Successful Drug Court graduate shares his story

Presenter: Matthew Feit, President and CEO, High Power Capital Group . He established a High Power Capital Group while still enrolled in Drug Court and is a successful graduate of the Ocean County Drug Court.

June: Coping With Lost Connections

Presenter: Kristin Borys, LPC, LCADC, ACS, Program Director for the Reach for Recovery Program at Richard Hall Community Health & Wellness Center in Somerset County.

July: Mindfulness

Presenter: Darby Davidson, 2012 Morris County Drug Court Graduate currently pursuing a master's degree in Social Work at Rutgers University.

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August: “My Personal Commitment to Recovery.”

Presenters: Current Phase 4 Participants. Phase 4 participants shared their Drug Court experience and personal commitment to recovery.

September: Designated Phase 4 Participants shared essays on their Drug Court experience and personal commitment to recovery.

October: Workforce Support Program

Presenters: Kia Abdus-Sabur, Project Director and JH(Morris County Drug Court graduate 2021) Workforce Support Peer Recovery Specialist from Workforce Support at Prevention Links, Roselle, New Jersey.

November: Substance Use Disorder and Recovery During the Holidays Presenter:

Don Hebert, Director of Business Development/Community Liaison Coleman Addiction Medicine.

December: “Sharing with others keeps us from feeling isolated and alone”

Presenter: Assistant Prosecutor Melissa O’Mara, Esq. is a person in long-term recovery. She is currently a Burlington County Assistant Prosecutor who shared her struggles with Substance Use Disorder, her road to long-term recovery and how she made positive changes in her life.

We continue to express our sincere gratitude to the Creative Positive Expression Program (CPEP) which produces “In Our Shoes” and the County College of Morris for continuing to print the magazine for free. Under the exemplary leadership of Eulena Horne, Coordinator, and her team we consistently receive a high-quality magazine. The COVID-19 crisis has not deterred them from their calling. The magazine continued to be published twice a year. Their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for supporting people recovering from substance use disorder is greatly appreciated.

We were fortunate enough to receive a generous \$1000.00 grant from Investors Foundation which funds were used to support the Operation Nourish (ON) program. The program provided essential needs for drug court participants and graduates who were unemployed or furloughed resulting from the closure of many businesses due to the COVID-19 crisis. Our support covered food, medical assistance, transportation, and utilities.

Due to the generosity of Vans and their representative Margot Maenza we were able to have free clothing distributions in July and November. Free clothes, shoes, and accessories were distributed to current Drug Court participants and graduates.

A total of twenty-six Drug Court Participants were referred the Accountability Panel for noncompliance. The participants issues were addressed on the Zoom platform.

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Board Member Darby Davidson continued to provide free assistance to complete financial aid applications for college and career school to participants and graduates.

With the volunteer assistance of Catchafire we launched an Alumni Association of the Morris Couty Drug Court website (www.https://aamcdc.org) and a Facebook page.

We welcomed Kerrie Sullivan as our new Associate Director. In this position Kerrie will support the administrative and operational responsibilities required of the Alumni Association. Kerrie is responsible for the beautiful Holiday cards with the meaningful messages sent to participants and graduates. She is a Morris County Drug Court graduate currently enrolled in CCM to for her CADC with only two domains remaining. She plans to earn her hours within the Center of Prevention and hopes to work directly with MDCDC someday. Kerrie is also involved with the National Council of Mental Wellbeing, NJ-CARES. She speaks to DCP&P and CASA sharing her story of hope with parents and their children so they can be reunited. We are fortunate to have her and looking forward to collaborating with her.