

**HAYWOOD COUNTY  
JUDICIALLY  
MANAGED  
ACCOUNTABILITY &  
RECOVERY COURT**



Justice Forward

# OVERALL DRUG COURTS EMPHASIZE LONG-TERM RECOVERY OVER PUNISHMENT

- In traditional criminal court cases, defendants found guilty of drug charges are punished with periods of incarceration and/or probation.
- Drug Court programs recognize that addiction is a chronic disease of the brain that affects behavior and impulse control.
- Therefore, Drug Court's primary goal is not punishment, it is treatment for the disease. To motivate treatment, the court grants rewards for progress and sanctions for failure to meet program requirements.

\* National Treatment Court Resource Center: What are Drug Courts.

# OVERALL DRUG COURTS EMPHASIZE LONG-TERM RECOVERY OVER PUNISHMENT

- Drug Courts are operating with incredible success across the country. They are effective at getting people into treatment — a key step in long-term sobriety.
- People who complete Drug Court programs are significantly less likely to be arrested again, compared to those who are sentenced with traditional punishments. The most successful Drug Courts reduce recidivism by as much as 35 to 40 percent.
- Drug Courts also are cost beneficial. The National Institute of Justice concluded from a decade-long study of a Drug Court that “reduced recidivism and other long-term program outcomes resulted in public savings of \$6,744 on average per participant.”

\* National Treatment Court Resource Center: What are Drug Courts.

# **HISTORY OF DRUG COURTS**

## **NOW KNOWN AS RECOVERY COURTS**

- The first Drug Court in the United States began in Dade County, Florida in 1989.
- As of today, there are more than 4,000 Drug Courts in the United States and similar entities in over 25 countries.
- The first Drug Treatment Court in North Carolina was created in 1995.
- Currently, there are 33 Adult Treatment Courts located in 29 counties within North Carolina.

# DRUG RELATED STATISTICS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

- Overdose deaths in North Carolina rose by 22% in 2021, to more than 4,000, according to the State Department of Health and Human Services.
- More than 77% of the overdoses deaths North Carolina reported in 2021 evidence shows were likely related to fentanyl, a highly addictive pain reliever 100 times more potent than morphine, according to the Food and Drug Administration.
- There were 3,875 drug related deaths reported in 2022.
- As of September 2023, there have been 3,181 suspected overdose deaths in North Carolina.

# DRUG RELATED STATISTICS FOR HAYWOOD COUNTY REPORTED BY HAYWOOD COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

- As of September 2023, there have been 6 confirmed deaths related to substance abuse.
- There were 18 deaths in 2021 with 12 pending at report time, 12 deaths in 2022 with 19 pending at report time.
- NC DETECT Emergency Department data (reports January 1-October 31, 2023) This includes Haywood County residents seen at other North Carolina Emergency Departments:
  - Unintentional medication or drug overdose – 104 visits.
  - Alcohol abuse and dependence – 424 visits
  - Acute alcohol toxicity/poisoning – 178 visits
  - Meth (not limited to overdose, this is a count of meth-related visits) – fewer than five visits
  - Benzodiazepine overdose – 9 visits
  - Stimulant overdose – 8 visits
  - Opioid overdose – 55 visits

\* While this database can include death data, it is not limited to cases resulting in deaths. NC DETECT is a statewide public health syndromic surveillance system, funded by the NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant and managed through collaboration between NC DPH and UNC-CH Department of Emergency Medicine's Carolina Center for Health Informatics. The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee does not take responsibility for the scientific validity or accuracy of methodology, results, statistical analyses, or conclusions presented.

# COURT STATISTICS FOR HAYWOOD COUNTY

- There are 442 individuals with 540 Drug Crime cases still pending as of 11/07/2023.
- There are 167 individuals with 202 pending Break/Enter, Burglary, Larceny/Theft cases as of 11/07/2023.
- Statistics show that there is a direct correlation between Property/Theft crimes and substance use. One of the main ways for addicts to support their addiction is through committing these types of crimes.
- Between 10/01/2022 and 9/30/2023 Haywood County sentenced 83 individuals to an active prison term for Drug charges (72), Robbery (1), Break/Enter (4), and Larceny (6).

\*\*\* Our hope is that more individuals in active addiction start to crave recovery and want to participate in our program \*\*\* The more exposure our program gets, the more individuals that will know we are there to help them.

# HAYWOOD COUNTY RECOVERY COURT UPDATES

- In February 2023 the Court Coordinator was hired and has given presentations to other agencies and groups in effort to raise awareness about the program and serves on several task force initiatives across the state.
- The first participant was inducted into the Recovery Court program on March 8, 2023.
- There are currently 7 participants in the program, 4 females & 3 males. 3 participants are in Phase 2, while the other 4 are in Phase 1.
- There have been 19 applicants apply to the Recovery Court program.
- Those that have not entered the program have been due to extensive criminal history, un-managed mental health issues, not residing in Haywood County, deciding they were not ready to take the leap to recovery, and receiving an active sentence in another court before they could plead into the program.
- The participants attend a detailed court session with the team and Judge twice a month.
- The Recovery Court program is designed to last at least 24 months in order to assist the participants in their recovery.



# HAYWOOD COUNTY RECOVERY COURT UPDATES CONTINUED

- Haywood County Recovery Court has a great working relationship with other Haywood County agencies, which include Haywood County Health and Human Services Agency, NCWorks, and Haywood Community College.
- The Recovery Court works directly with community resources almost daily to assist participants with their needs. Participant connections made include Pathways Center, Haywood Christian Ministries, Salvation Army, along with other connections in their local towns.
- The first participant has been able to reinstate their nursing license, has started classes in construction, and is a positive supporter of others in recovery.
- One participant had a heart attack and refused any narcotics in the hospital and beyond. They were honest with medical professionals regarding being in recovery along with their use of medication assisted treatment.
- Another participant has been able to expand their cleaning business and now covers 3 counties.

# ADULT ACCOUNTABILITY & RECOVERY COURT PHASES

Orientation, Intake, Level of Care Screening	<b>PHASE 1</b> 60 Day Minimum Acute Stabilization	<b>PHASE 2</b> 90 Day Minimum Clinical Stabilization	<b>PHASE 3</b> 120 Day Minimum Prosocial Habilitation	<b>PHASE 4</b> 90 Day Minimum Adaptive Habilitation	<b>PHASE 5</b> 90 Day Minimum Continuing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sentencing</li> <li>❖ Initial meeting with Probation Officer &amp; Court Coordinator</li> <li>❖ Base line drug screen</li> <li>❖ Substance use evaluation</li> <li>❖ Risk/Needs Assessment</li> <li>❖ Obtain an Email account &amp; check it daily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Court twice monthly &amp; remain for entire session</li> <li>❖ Comply with probation</li> <li>❖ Obtain a S/A assessment w/in first 2 weeks &amp; comply with treatment sessions</li> <li>❖ Submit to random drug screens</li> <li>❖ Attend weekly meetings with Coordinator</li> <li>❖ Abide by 6:00 pm curfew and EM</li> <li>❖ Obtain approved housing</li> <li>❖ Submit application for physical assessment</li> <li>❖ Change people, places &amp; things</li> <li>❖ Maintain negative UA for a minimum of 14 consecutive days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Court twice monthly &amp; remain for entire session</li> <li>❖ Comply with probation</li> <li>❖ Comply with treatment sessions</li> <li>❖ Submit to random drug screens</li> <li>❖ Weekly office visits with Coordinator</li> <li>❖ Abide by 9:00 pm curfew and EM for first 60 days</li> <li>❖ Maintain approved housing</li> <li>❖ Continue changing people, places &amp; things</li> <li>❖ Complete 10 hours of community service</li> <li>❖ Attend a minimum of 2 community support activities weekly</li> <li>❖ Begin MRT or CBI</li> <li>❖ Maintain negative UA for a minimum of 30 consecutive days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Court twice monthly &amp; remain for entire session</li> <li>❖ Comply with probation</li> <li>❖ Comply with treatment sessions</li> <li>❖ Submit to random drug screens Bi-weekly or more office visits with Coordinator</li> <li>❖ Maintain approved housing</li> <li>❖ Continue changing people, places &amp; things</li> <li>❖ Complete 15 hours of community service</li> <li>❖ Attend a minimum of 2 community support activities weekly</li> <li>❖ Establish prosocial activities</li> <li>❖ Continue with MRT or CBI</li> <li>❖ Begin employment, schooling, or other vocational activities</li> <li>❖ Begin addressing financial issues</li> <li>❖ Maintain negative UA for a minimum of 60 consecutive days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Court monthly &amp; remain for entire session</li> <li>❖ Comply with probation</li> <li>❖ Comply with treatment sessions</li> <li>❖ Submit to random drug screens</li> <li>❖ Monthly office visits with Coordinator</li> <li>❖ Maintain approved housing</li> <li>❖ Continue changing people, places &amp; things</li> <li>❖ Complete 15 hours of community service</li> <li>❖ Attend a minimum of 2 community support activities weekly</li> <li>❖ 2 prosocial activities weekly</li> <li>❖ Continue employment, schooling, or other vocational activities</li> <li>❖ Begin constant payments on court cost</li> <li>❖ Maintain negative UA for a minimum of 90 consecutive days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Court monthly &amp; remain for entire session</li> <li>❖ Comply with probation</li> <li>❖ Comply with treatment sessions</li> <li>❖ Submit to random drug screens</li> <li>❖ Monthly office visits with Coordinator</li> <li>❖ Maintain approved housing</li> <li>❖ Continue changing people, places &amp; things</li> <li>❖ Complete 10 hours of community service</li> <li>❖ Attend a minimum of 2 community support activities weekly</li> <li>❖ 2 prosocial activities weekly</li> <li>❖ Maintain recovery network</li> <li>❖ Continue employment, schooling, or other vocational activities</li> <li>❖ Begin constant payments on court cost Maintain negative UA for a minimum of 90 consecutive days</li> </ul>

## WHAT SOME OF OUR PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING ABOUT HAYWOOD COUNTY RECOVERY COURT

- “Well, if it wasn’t for Recovery Court, I would probably be in prison or even worse, dead. This program helped me when no one else would. I feel like Amanda and Dedi are my family and they make sure I am alright and not strung out or dead. This is what Recovery Court means to me.”
- “To me, Recovery Court means accountability and positive reinforcement. It’s nice to have a group within our justice system that is all about our success, no one else’s. If I wasn’t in the program, I think that I would probably be struggling a bit, just with life in general. But having that added accountability, knowing that everyone in that court room is rooting for you, I would hate to let all of them down! I feel like the Recovery Court Team should get a TON of funding and support, simply because of what they are doing and the intentions behind it. Some of the best people I’ve known have been drug addicts, they just didn’t have anyone in their corner. Luckily, we do now!”
- “What Recovery Court means to me. I think it’s a life changing opportunity for the ones like me dealing with addiction. With all the support we get from the ones involved really does help change our way of thinking. I haven’t been in the program long, but I can see the changes it has on the ones in the program and literally everyone of them are completely clean and that alone give me hope that I soon will be just like them. So, for that, I think Recovery Court is a very important thing because it helps the ones dealing with addiction 100%.”

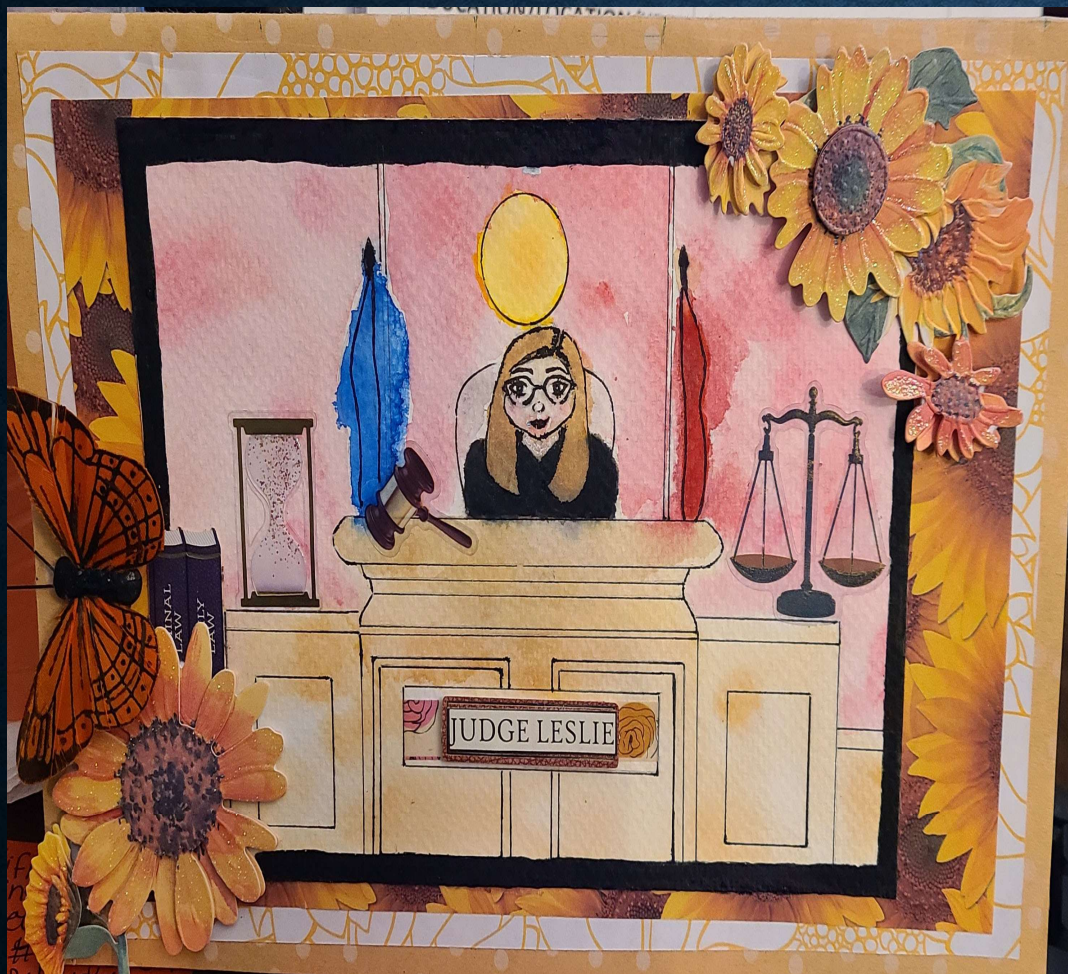
## WHAT SOME OF OUR PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING ABOUT HAYWOOD COUNTY RECOVERY COURT CONTINUED

- “What Recovery Court means to me. It is giving me the opportunity to redirect my life on a different path, a positive more meaningful path, a path that works. I am learning self worth, how to set healthy boundaries in my relationships, detaching with love in unhealthy relationships, along with many other things. If it weren't for this program, I'd probably be in prison only to get out and repeat the same negative behaviors. But thank GOD I was given the opportunity to take a different path. It hasn't been easy by no means, and there has been a couple of times where I just wanted to throw my hands up and give up. But I just know in my heart that something so much better awaits me if I just keep pushing through. And positive self talks are what help me to keep going. Did you know that the relationship that we have with ourselves is the most important relationship we need to maintain? This is because the quality of that relationship will determine the quality of our other relationships. Today I will focus on having a good relationship with myself.”

## WHAT SOME OF OUR PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING ABOUT HAYWOOD COUNTY RECOVERY COURT CONTINUED

“Drug Recovery Court came to me, as an option, at a time in my life that was very broken. Many aspects of my life had become unmanageable. I chose Recovery Court rather than a 90-96, because I knew I needed all the accountability I could get to get my life back. It was the first time I felt SUPPORTED and really encouraged. They could see in me what I had lost sight of, and even my family thought was gone. Forcing my reckless ways, back to some idea of structure, became the first task at hand. Being on time, sleep, hygiene, self care, analyzing behaviors, patterns, and beliefs/attitudes that kept me stuck, small, ineffective, and powerless in my own life. I think my family and friends had accepted my new normal as much as they hated it, and I hated it. It becomes comfortable suffering on both sides, feeling helpless and hopeless, to change it. Many times, the motivation to do what I know is right and necessary, comes only from struggle and desiring different results deep within your being. So, what Recovery Court does, that is so helpful, is expedites the process of taking on a heavy load so to speak, of responsibility. What we carry, what we CHOSE to be responsible for, is where we derive meaning. Life without responsibilities, values, order, and direction, which is almost always the case with advanced addiction, is a very meaningless one. That meaning begins to come back, by taking on the responsibility of yourself first and foremost. But also, Recovery Court provides gradual increasing of responsibility. Then when you make enough changes, to your belief system and attitude, you start to CARE, about not letting other people down as well as yourself. The Judges, Amanda, Dedi, Jason, Jimmy, they begin becoming your allies rather than authority and this is beneficial in two ways. You care what they think, and you don't want to let them down, but also, a system of unconditional support is cultivated which often times is missing from the family unit at home. In my opinion, this program is for individuals that truly want inner healing and freedom from the prison of their addiction but are kind of clueless about how to go about it and follow through with it. The problem, being the addiction, is a problem worth solving. And Recovery Court gives people the tools, support, and drive, to solve their own problem of addiction. It hasn't been seamless or without bumps in the road. As I was the program's first participant, so it was slow going in the beginning for everyone. But as more participants joined, it became more evenly focused and there will always be kinks to work out when starting something new. Breaking the norm, takes courage, and I applaud everyone that took a risk, took a chance, to get this program up and running in Haywood County. Where would I be without this program? I believe it is safe to say, I would still be stuck, in the turmoil and living hell, of my addiction. Without the direction, tools, and accountability of Recovery Court, it is seemingly impossible to fix the problem on your own. Each “addict's” BEST THINKING GOT THEM where they are... which is in the justice system, facing prison time, hell on earth, looking behind their shoulder, full of shame, pity and self-hatred. It takes something like Recovery Court to help break down the cycles that perpetuate addiction.”

# A CARD MADE BY THE PARTICIPANTS FOR JUDGE MONICA LESLIE



Thank you for being a part of our journeys  
Thank you for seeing in us,  
What we had lost sight of within ourselves.  
Thank you for guiding us, leading us,  
and believing in us.

You shine like a bright light,  
helping us navigate the struggles of recovery,  
emerge from the darkness  
we have known all too well  
and find our own light  
that was dimmed by addiction.

May you be proud of your contribution,  
for bravely putting yourself out there,  
and taking part in this new program.

We are glad you took the risk  
to be a difference maker.

Like a ripple effect,  
the positive impact of your work  
is not limited to the lives of us  
Recovery Court participants.  
But to our loved ones, friends, coworkers,  
And every individual that we  
cross paths with, will in some way  
reap the benefits of your influence  
through us.

That is a beautiful thing.

We wanted to express our  
deep gratitude & admiration of you.  
The world needs more  
caring, compassionate & inspiring  
people like you, in it.

It is "our honor" to have you for a Judge,  
Judge Leslie,  
Thank you for  
caring. I am forever  
grateful to you.  
I hope I will make you  
proud.

