

**Lincoln County Government**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2023

Community-Centered Court of Lincoln County

(Lincolnton) Lincoln County is proud to announce the start of the long awaited Community-Centered Court. The mission of the Community-Centered Court of Lincoln County is to promote a safe and healthy community while providing quality programs that enhance public safety through education and treatment to assist participants with a smooth transition in returning to a stable and productive lifestyle. This program is unique in that it is open to community members and veterans. Community-Centered Court is possible through a team of community and court-led members including Lincoln County Superior Court Judges, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Trial Court Administrator's Office, Peer Support Specialists, Treatment Providers, the State Probation Office, county officials, city officials and local Law Enforcement Agencies.

"We are excited with the implementation of Community-Centered Treatment Court in Lincoln County. Twelve months ago, the Superior Court Judge's Office envisioned a treatment court that would address the needs of Lincoln County citizens with substance abuse and addiction issues. Simultaneously, we recognized a continuing need to service our veterans who need substance abuse-based treatment. As a result, the Community-Centered Court of Lincoln County came to fruition and I am beyond thrilled to begin the process of helping those citizens who qualify for treatment services. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the court system as well as the volunteers in our community as we attempt to work together to attack the growing epidemic of addiction in our community. My office thanks everyone who has helped implement this plan of action over the last twelve months and I certainly recognize the sacrifice and commitment made by each of you," said Senior Resident Superior Judge Todd Pomeroy.

Court participants must have a Substance Use Disorder diagnosis to be eligible. Participants are placed on probation and are required to attend court hearings twice a month where their progress in treatment is reviewed with possible incentives for compliance and sanctions for



non-compliance. County Manager Davin Madden states this program has been made possible thanks to a community-wide effort, and a strong push from our judicial leaders. "A wide range of departments have put many hours into working to get this program off the ground, and have worked to gain support from local leaders, including the Board of Commissioners. This ultimately shows how public health, treatment partners, and law enforcement can work together to improve our community and find a better path forward for our citizens facing hardships in their lives," said Madden. Lincoln County's first treatment court hearing is Friday October 6th, at 10 am in Court Room 2D at the Lincoln County Courthouse. Up to ten participants will have their first hearing and enter into the 24-month program. Upon successful completion of the program, participants will be celebrated with a graduation ceremony.

For more information and participant referral forms please visit nccourts.gov.