



Media Advisory

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Alaska's Therapeutic Courts Recognize National Recovery Month - September 2020 -

Anchorage, Alaska, September 10, 2020 - Throughout the month of September, Alaska's therapeutic courts are participating in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Recovery Month (<https://www.recoverymonth.gov/>). During Recovery Month, SAMHSA, and Alaska's therapeutic courts, work to increase public awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders, and to celebrate recovery.

Therapeutic court participants and graduates in past years have organized and attended local events to celebrate Recovery Month. This year, due to health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, therapeutic court participants statewide have been invited to participate in a virtual 5K sponsored by the Alaska Therapeutic Court Alumni Group. Current participants and alumni may also choose to participate in locally sponsored activities.

As another way of raising awareness, Alaska's therapeutic courts invite the media and members of the public to contact local Project Coordinators to learn more about how the courts operate and to hear how this collaborative process continues to promote participants' recovery journeys.

Therapeutic courts are an alternative justice model. Eligible individuals may choose to participate in a therapeutic court in lieu of incarceration. Participants must attend treatment and recovery support groups, meet regularly with a probation officer, and appear for frequent in-court status hearings. A collaborative court team made up of a supervising judge, district attorney, defense attorney, probation officer, substance abuse and/or mental health treatment provider oversees and closely monitors participants. Therapeutic court teams meet weekly to review participants' progress and encourage participants' success during court hearings.

Attached is a summary of Alaska's therapeutic courts, including the location of the court, the type of court, the judges presiding over the court, the target population, and the Project Coordinators for the court. More information can also be found on the court system's website: <http://courts.alaska.gov/therapeutic/index.htm>.