

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 23-09

Honoring Mental Health Court & Addiction Intervention Court Participants

WHEREAS, Yolo County's Mental Health Court (MHC) and Addiction Intervention Court (MHC) were established in 2013 and 2017 respectively; and

WHEREAS, both MHC and AIC were established by a partnership of the Public Defender, the District Attorney, the Court, the Probation Department, and the Health & Human Services Agency to decriminalize those committing crimes driven by their serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, participants in MHC and AIC must embark on an 18-24 month journey in this collaborative-court based treatment program designed to effectively address the increasing numbers of seriously mentally ill individuals and those with substance use disorders who are cycling through both court and jail in Yolo County; and

WHEREAS, both MHC and AIC focus on 4 goals for the 60 participants which include: improving treatment engagement, reducing recidivism, reducing jail bed days, and decreasing local and state hospital bed stays; and

WHEREAS, participants must focus and work diligently to complete the 4 phases of the program which include: orientation and treatment plan development, early recovery, active recovery, and sustained recovery; and

WHEREAS, progression through the program includes increasing days of sobriety, writing reflective essays at the completion of each phase, and consistently participating in treatment; and

WHEREAS, the last phase of the program is a restorative justice component where participants spend 4-6 weeks recounting their crime and the circumstances that led to the crime and also the participants acknowledge who was harmed by the crime and how they were harmed, and what needs to be done to right the wrongs; and

WHEREAS, finally, graduates of AIC and MHC participate for 1 year in the alumni program where they are mentors to individuals who have not yet graduated; and

WHEREAS, MHC and AIC gives individuals a second chance but this second chance must be earned by the hard work and dedication of participants; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, participants, their friends and family members, judges, and MHC and AIC team members celebrate the amazing achievement of those who persevere and graduate from the program and during these celebrations it is not uncommon for those in attendance to be brought to tears; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors does hereby honor 8 participants of MHC and AIC who chose a challenging path to recovery and accountability by embarking the MHC or AIC journey and these individuals represent all of participants currently in MHC and AIC and all those before them who have graduated from AIC and MHC.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of January, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Frerichs, Sandy, Provenza, Barajas, Villegas.

Oscar Villegas, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors