



**LEHIGH COUNTY**  
*Public Information Office*  
Government Center | 17 South Seventh Street  
Allentown, PA 18101-2401  
Phone: 610-782-3002 | Fax: 610-871-2755

---

***Press Release***

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
March 21, 2022

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Laura Grammes  
610-782-3002

**Lehigh County Drug Treatment Court Commemorates First Graduate**

**March 21, 2022** – Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong, State Representative Mike Schlossberg, and Ellen Kern, Chief of Staff for State Senator Pat Browne will attend a ceremony on March 25, 2022 to recognize and celebrate the first graduate of the Lehigh County Drug Treatment Court.

The graduate, a 53-year-old male who resides in Allentown, was the first enrollee in the County's Drug Treatment Court in October, 2020. The program was initiated by County Executive Armstrong at the request of then-President Judge Edward D. Reibman, and enabled Lehigh County to join with approximately 55 other counties in Pennsylvania which have established treatment courts for individuals suffering from substance use disorder.

Treatment Courts offer an option of intensive supervision by Adult Probation and frequent interaction with a judge in court sessions as an alternative to incarceration. Participants are evaluated based on the current offense as well as any past criminal history. Those who are accepted for the program must be a Lehigh County resident who have committed drug-related offenses, and who have been deemed to have a high risk for repeat offending. Treatment Court participants meet on a bi-weekly basis at the beginning of a 12 – 18-month program, with the

potential for those who complete the program to have their criminal charges dismissed or reduced in grading, or to have early termination of court supervision.

Before County Executive Armstrong and Judge Reibman's support, Lehigh County was one of just a dozen counties in Pennsylvania which did not have a recognized treatment court. Lehigh County has maintained a diversion program for defendants in the criminal justice system who suffer from mental health issues which may have brought them into the criminal justice system for over 10 years, and a veterans' mentoring program for the same length of time. However, the County's Drug Treatment Court is the first program in Lehigh County recognized by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts as meeting the criteria for state and national certification.

Lehigh County's Drug Treatment Court is supervised by Judge Douglas G. Reichley, Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division for the Court of Common Pleas and Cori Doughty, Treatment Court Coordinator of the Lehigh County Adult Probation Department. The program has benefited from the continued support of current President Judge J. Brian Johnson, District Attorney James B. Martin, Chief Public Defender Kimberly Makoul, and Chief Adult Probation Officer Mark Surovy. The commitment of all these individuals demonstrates Lehigh County's determination to aggressively deal with substance use disorder which affects countless persons from all communities throughout the County.

###