



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Fourth Judicial District HEALS Court set to graduate nine participants *Second class to graduate from problem solving adult drug court*

COLORADO SPRINGS – Nine participants are scheduled to graduate from the Fourth Judicial District’s Healthy Engaged and Living Sober (HEALS) Court. This marks the second group of graduates to move through the problem solving court. A graduation celebration will be held June 15, 2012, at 11:30 a.m. in Division R.

“I continue to be pleased and impressed with the progress made by the HEALS Court participants, as well as the judicial agencies and treatment providers involved,” said presiding Magistrate Evelyn H. Sullivan. “There is nothing more gratifying than seeing our participants integrate back into the community, utilizing the skills they learned, to become productive members of the community.”

The HEALS Court was started to enhance public safety by applying intensive court supervision and a regime of treatment and innovative support systems to substance abuse offenders with the goal of returning sober, law-abiding citizens to the community and thereby closing the revolving door to the criminal justice system. There are currently 36 participants in the HEALS Court.

Organizations and individuals involved with the HEALS Court include: the Fourth Judicial District Probation Department, El Paso County District Attorney, Office of the Colorado

State Public Defender, Alternative Defense Counsel, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Aspen Pointe, Set Clinic, Ecumenical Services, Catholic Charities, Care to Share, Women's Resource Center, Phoenix Multi-Sport, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Gregory M. Ortega (treatment provider), and a courthouse volunteer.

Colorado is home to more than 70 problem-solving courts operating in 19 of Colorado's 22 judicial districts. Colorado's problem-solving courts include adult and juvenile drug courts, family/dependency and neglect drug courts, DUI courts, adult and juvenile mental health courts, and a veteran trauma court.

For more information, please contact Fourth Judicial District Problem Solving Court Coordinator Nicolle Rugh at 719-448-7570 or nicolle.rugh@judicial.state.co.us