



# news

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## **6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District celebrates Behavioral Health Court's third anniversary**

DURANGO, Colo. – Members of the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan counties) and its partners in the Behavioral Health Court are celebrating the court's third anniversary, which has seen eight clients graduate from its intensive monitoring and treatment programs.

The court provides resources, supervision and support in an effort to reduce recidivism, ease financial expenses associated with incarceration and recidivism, and reintegrate offenders safely back into the community. The court, which has had 22 participants since its inception, seeks to help resolve underlying mental-health issues leading to criminal conduct by its participants.

Each participant volunteers to enter the program and is screened for eligibility by a team including professionals from Axis Health System, the La Plata County Sheriff's Office, specialized probation officers, the Office of the District Attorney, a public defender or private attorney, and the district's problem-solving court coordinator.

"While the participants in this specialized court are few, the assistance provided is greatly appreciated and well-utilized," La Plata County Judge Martha Minot said. "Our graduates are functioning successfully in the community, which may have not been possible without the Behavioral Health Court's intervention."

Colorado is home to 78 problem-solving courts operating in 20 of the state's 22 judicial districts. Such courts include adult and juvenile drug courts, family/dependency and neglect courts, DUI courts, adult and juvenile mental health courts, and veteran trauma courts.

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