



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Kane County Treatment Alternative Court Recertified by the Illinois Supreme Court**

*October 11, 2024 – Kane County, Illinois* – The Illinois Supreme Court has again recertified the Kane County Treatment Alternative Court (TAC), the 16th Judicial Circuit's Mental Health Court. This three year certification comes after members of the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts reviewed the program's policies and procedures, interviewed all team members, attended staffing and court sessions, and found the court complies with the Illinois Supreme Court Problem-Solving Courts Standards.

The Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Marcia M. Meis, congratulates the Kane County Mental Health Court on achieving recertification status in the written statement, "On behalf of the Court, I commend Kane County Mental Health Court for implementing evidence-based practices proven to provide participants with necessary treatment and community interventions to reduce the risk of recidivism while enhancing public safety."

Kane County Treatment Alternative Court Judge Christine A. Downs says of the court's recertification, "I am very proud to be a part of such a dedicated team. Each and every member works tirelessly to help participants address their mental illness to separate them from the criminal justice system. We are thrilled to have received such positive feedback during the recertification process."

TAC was founded in Kane County in 2006. The mission of mental health and other treatment courts is to guarantee justice for criminal defendants with mental illness, co-occurring disorders, or developmental disabilities, enhance public safety, and promote the continuity of mental health care in the community. It is an intensive probation program that partners with community-based agencies to address defendants' needs and provide comprehensive case management to reduce future criminal activity.

The defendants work closely with court personnel and the treatment team to facilitate positive behavioral change and reduce criminal recidivism. An additional program objective is to strengthen cooperative efforts between the community, mental health agencies, and the criminal justice system.

*For further information, contact:*

*Alana Policastro, Administrative Assistant*

*Office of the Chief Judge and Court Administrator*

*Phone: 630-232-3440*

*Email: [PolicastroAlana@16thCircuit.IllinoisCourts.gov](mailto:PolicastroAlana@16thCircuit.IllinoisCourts.gov)*