



## **News for Immediate Release**

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### **Cambria County Mental Health Treatment Court Celebrates 10-year Anniversary**

**HARRISBURG** —Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Debra Todd today joined Cambria County President Judge Linda Fleming to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Cambria’s Mental Health Treatment Court program.

The event at the Cambria County Courthouse highlighted the importance of mental health courts during Mental Health Awareness Month and National Treatment Court Month.

“Undoubtedly, some of our Court’s most successful initiatives have been our treatment courts,” Chief Justice Todd said.

“Over the past decade, I have seen treatment courts in Pennsylvania grow from 37 programs in 19 counties to 137 programs in 60 of our 67 counties. Counties across Pennsylvania are actively engaged in offering programs and support to individuals and families in need of services that can only be provided through specialized treatment court programs. These Courts often lead to lower recidivism rates, and I have witnessed inspiring stories of rehabilitation and recovery. They provide help, hope and a solid foundation for eligible Pennsylvanians involved with the criminal justice system at a time when they need it the most.”

Since the start of Cambria County’s Mental Health Treatment Court, 145 individuals have participated in the program.

“We are extremely proud of our Mental Health Treatment Court program, and the dedication of our team whose support and guidance have been instrumental in every step of our participants’ journey,” President Judge Fleming said.

“We have witnessed countless lives changing for the better through this treatment court and we celebrate those wins today, and every day.

“Today’s event gives us an opportunity to publicly thank all of the individuals, public officials, private businesses, and government agencies that collaborated with Cambria County to implement Mental Health Treatment Court and that continue to assist it every day. I am so grateful for the community’s strong support of this important program.”

Mental health courts link key justice system officials with leaders in the mental health system to divert offenders with severe mental illness into a judicially supervised program. These courts provide a team of court staff and mental health professionals that work together to screen and assess defendants, develop treatment plans and supervise offenders.

Additionally, mental health courts offer defendants the opportunity to avoid incarceration through the completion of a rigorous program that requires compliance with community supervision and mandated treatment.

There are currently more than 137 treatment court programs in Pennsylvania – including Veterans Courts, Mental Health Courts, Adult Drug Courts, Family Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Re-Entry Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Courts and Adult Drug/DUI Hybrid Courts. The purpose of these treatment courts is to reduce recidivism and help individuals return to their jobs and families and become productive citizens.

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