

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRANKLIN COUNTY GOOD WOLF TREATMENT COURT

An alternative to incarceration in Franklin County known as GOOD WOLF TREATMENT COURT (GWTC) has more than twenty participants after just five months of operation. In an effort to further provide meaningful treatment to defendants whose crimes are linked to substance abuse, the Court and its partners began the process of planning for a Treatment Court in April of 2016 and one year later welcomed its first participant. The goal of GWTC is to assist substance abusers in the criminal justice system in becoming sober and stable members of our community while remaining crime-free.

GOOD WOLF TRATMENT COURT represents a collaborative effort involving the criminal justice system and treatment providers. Those made eligible for the program are recommended for acceptance by the district attorney after a drug and alcohol assessment by the GWTC's clinical provider. If identified as a substance abuser and not disqualified due to involvement with a crime of violence or currently being under probation supervision, the defendant will be offered for consideration after consultation with the victim. The participant must accept responsibility for criminal conduct and consent to a sentence that may include incarceration as well as treatment.

GWTC is scheduled every two weeks and is supervised by President Judge Carol Van Horn. The Treatment Team consists of the judge, district attorney, public defender, probation officer, clinical provider, county drug and alcohol administrator, court administrator and GWTC coordinator. Participants advance through phases of the program with regular court appearances where their progress in treatment and development of pro-social skills are monitored.

The program takes its name from a Native American legend that recognizes that there is good and bad in each individual. GWTC requires participants to "feed the good wolf" by not only maintaining sobriety and acting lawfully but also becoming responsible members of society. Community service is required and participants must develop positive supports as conditions of their participation.

The planned capacity for GWTC is thirty participants and with the overwhelming identified need already confirmed, it is likely that resources will be requested to expand the program to meet the demands of the community.

The next session of GWTC is Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 1 of the Franklin County Courthouse. Member of the press are invited to observe the GWTC

session and meet afterwards with Treatment Team members and those participants who voluntarily choose to participate in a discussion.

For more information, please contact Sue Davis, GWTC Coordinator, at sedavis@franklincountypa.gov or 717-261-3848, ext. 27216.