**Hamilton County Drug Court Receives Honor and**

**Changes Name to Reflect Mission**

**Hamilton County, Ohio, July 20, 2022.** Hamilton County Drug Court is switching its name to the **Hamilton County Drug Recovery and Treatment Court** to better reflect its primary goal. The award-winning program was recently honored with the *Champions of Recovery Award*by Brightview Health Cincinnati in recognition for providing outstanding service to the recovery community.

Judge Nicole Sanders was presented the award on behalf of the Hamilton County Adult Probation Drug Recovery and Treatment Court Team, and the entire staff of the newly named court by Dr. Navdeep Kang, Chief Clinical Officer of Brightview Health. Dr. Kang praised Judge Sanders for “spearheading an evolution to decriminalize the disease of addiction.”

Dr. Kang went on to state that, “Judge Sanders is taking an innovative wave of energy in a space so needed within our community… On a daily basis she is providing a pathway for probationers to get to recovery by connecting treatment and the justice system.”

Tiana Johnson, Assistant Chief Probation Officer of the Hamilton County Adult Probation Department stated that “Judge Sanders’ approach to treatment is exemplary of the transformative work she and her Drug Recovery and Treatment Court Team are doing, and serves as a model of how treatment and the justice system can seamlessly work together.”

“Renaming Drug Court to Drug Recovery and Treatment Court is more reflective of the therapeutic transformative work that Judge Sanders and her team works so tirelessly to achieve,” said Johnson.

The Hamilton County Common Pleas Court congratulates Judge Sanders and her entire Team, as they embark on this innovative, more inclusive approach to the reduction of recidivism through treatment and support of offender participants.

**ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY DRUG RECOVERY AND TREATMENT COURT**

Formerly known as the Drug Court, the Hamilton County Drug Recovery and Treatment Court of the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas was the first drug court established in Ohio and is the only full-time drug court in the State of Ohio. This court provides specialized supervision and treatment for defendants whose dependency upon substance use results in criminal penalties. The court handles felony 4 and 5 level offenses.

The Hamilton County Drug Recovery and Treatment Court oversees treatment team meetings and status review hearings serving in a non-adversarial role. These hearings monitor the participants' performance and progress. The Drug Recovery and Treatment Court ensures the protection of victims' rights and public safety via the recommendation of sanctions and incentives for participants. Those who voluntarily participate in the program seek to end their addiction thus improving the quality of their lives and furthering the public's security.