

## FROM THE COURTROOM:

### Drug Treatment Court Graduate:

"I would like to express how much I appreciate being selected into this program and given a chance to change my criminal behavior and mainly show me alternatives to using drugs and show me positive routes that has helped me grow to this point in my life. I believe this program saved my life and could do the same for more and more if it could be made available to them. I am truly grateful."

### Deferred Prosecution Participant:

"The most beautiful and motivating part of that [program] to me was the help that was offered, rather than punishment I deserved. It felt great to know that even though I couldn't see the value or potential of my life, you and everyone else involved with the program saw otherwise. Since then my life has become something I'm truly grateful for. When I think about where I was compared to where I am now, I give credit to God, my family and friends, and to you and this program for granting me an opportunity I desperately needed."

### Victim Participant:

We believe your mediation program is awesome. It shows that the city cares about positive outcomes within our community. We appreciate the opportunity to listen to our offender, understand his reasoning, and agree to resolve the issue.

## Milwaukee County Criminal Justice System Vision Statement

By applying what the evidence tells us about what actually works in protecting the community and holding offenders accountable, Milwaukee County's criminal justice system will make the smartest possible use of its limited resources, continuously improving its performance against quantifiable goals and reinvesting the savings in programs that reduce crime in the first place.

### Ongoing Areas for focus:

- *Improve access to treatment*
- *Foster the growth of minority participants by offering equal access to programs*
- *Promote community awareness*
- *Develop and strengthen contributions of community organizations and the criminal justice system*

### Early Intervention Program Partners\*

Benedict Center  
Centro Legal  
Department of Corrections  
Fokus Family  
Justice Point  
Milwaukee County  
Milwaukee County Courts  
Milwaukee County District Attorney  
Milwaukee Police Departments  
Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Service Organizations  
Wisconsin Community Services  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
Wisconsin State Public Defender  
Wisconsin Resource Center



## Early Intervention Programs

*Restoring sight to justice  
Milwaukee County Circuit Court System*

## A SMART ON CRIME APPROACH:

*Enhancing public safety.  
Using resources wisely.  
Affording second chances.*

*For more information or specific eligibility requirements for any of these programs please visit:*

<http://county.milwaukee.gov/Courts/ChiefJudge.htm>

## Early Intervention Benefits

### Justice for Victims

**Victims are more satisfied with the outcomes of EI cases.**

- Victims are more involved in the process and therefore better informed than traditional criminal proceedings.
- Since inception of the programs, over \$500,000 in restitution has been collected from indigent participants represented by the Public Defender's Office. Directly contributing to the restoration of the victim to the financial state they were in prior to the offense allows Defendants to show remorse and understanding of the impact of their actions.

### Support for the Defendant

**Collateral damages to the Defendant are lessened.**

- Keeps families together
- Helps defendant overcome underlying issues leading to criminal behavior
- No criminal record to negatively impact their future

### Community Benefits

**Defendants collectively averaged 92.9 hours of community service each week in 2016.**

- Community non-profit organizations have the assistance of volunteers
- Defendants are gaining insight into community needs and resources.
- Defendants develop a purpose to help others.

**53,537 Jail days and 5,565 Prison days were saved in three years (2013-2016).**

- This equals a significant financial savings to MCJ and HOC and DOC.

## Program Description

Milwaukee County's early intervention programs began in 2007. They were designed to maximize opportunities and support for eligible, non-violent individuals involved in the justice system while also striving to minimize potential negative consequences to the defendant, victim and community. Milwaukee County offers four programs: Diversion, Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA), Drug Treatment Court (DTC) and Veteran's Treatment Initiative (VTI). Program participants are expected to complete specific conditions of their individualized program. Such requirements could be: mental health or drug treatment, community service, restitution, self-improvement classes and more. When the conditions are met, it is

- The jail population is reduced and eases overcrowding.
- Keeps low-level offenders from mingling with more serious offenders.

## Participants

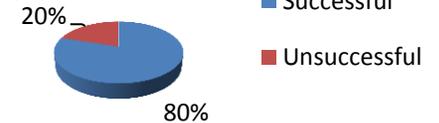
EI program participants have accepted responsibility for their crimes. Monitoring and completing conditions allows them to move forward with the benefit of a dismissed or reduced charge. The programs have provided support to 1,093 participants in 2016. Of these participants, 348 are

women and 745 are men. Overall 46.6% are White, 37.5% Black/African American, and 15.9% are of other races. The early intervention programs are working to develop and maintain a demographic breakdown that closely resembles the overall number of people entering the criminal justice system to ensure everyone has access to EI advantages.

### Diversions

Individuals at low risk of re-offending may be offered a diversion prior to being charged with a crime. Those who fail to meet the expectations will be prosecuted for the charges brought against them.

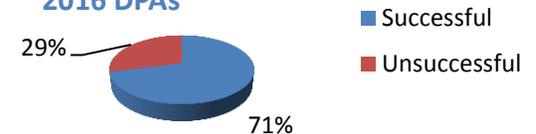
#### 2016 DIVERSIONS



### Deferred Prosecution Agreements

After being charged with a crime, some moderate to high risk individuals may still be eligible for a DPA. This program requires a guilty plea be entered in court. However, should the program participant complete the requirements of their agreement the case is dismissed or reduced at the conclusion. Participants are referred to community agencies\* for assistance and monitoring.

#### 2016 DPAs



### Drug Treatment Court

The Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court (MCDTC) endeavors to reduce recidivism by coordinating effective and accountable drug or alcohol treatment and other supportive services for high risk individuals with significant substance abuse issues. This intensive program is at least 12 months long and participants are facing a minimum of 9 months in jail or even longer prison sentences.

## Veteran's Treatment Initiative

Diversions, DPAs and DTC are all available to Milwaukee County's veterans through the VTI. In addition, this program has the support of the Veteran's Administration (VA) and other Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) to better recognize and treat possible service related trauma. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections reports\* a 14.5% recidivism rate within one year after release from prison. The Recidivism rate for VTI participants is 10.0%.

\*[www.doc.wi.gov/about/data-and-research/recidivism](http://www.doc.wi.gov/about/data-and-research/recidivism)