

RASHAD SHABAKA-BURNS  
Trial Court Administrator

JANIE RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.  
Ombudsman

phone: 973 656-3969 • fax: 973 656-3949

**Morris/Sussex Vicinage  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 20, 2014**

For additional information contact: Lori Reich, Family Drug Court Coordinator 973-579-0766.

**Morris/Sussex Family Drug Court Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Morris/Sussex Vicinage will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its successful Family Drug Court program on Wednesday, May 21, at 10 a.m. in the Freeholder Meeting Room on the fifth floor of the Morris County Administration and Records Building, 10 Court St., Morristown.

Speakers will include Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck, Family Division Presiding Judge Catherine I. Enright, and Family Division Manager Kerri Lynn Walsh. Diane Womer, liaison to the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), and certified alcohol and drug counselor Diane Nelson also will address the audience, along with two former graduates of the program.

The anniversary is a particularly important milestone, as the Morris/Sussex program is the only active family drug court program in the state. Nationwide, there are 350 operational family drug courts. The Morris/Sussex program follows the national model, offering an innovative fusion of substance abuse treatment with legal case processing. The vicinage program has served 75 parents and 85 children.

The success of the program stems from the collaboration of the dedicated drug court team. Judges and court staff work closely with representatives from the DCP&P, the Office of the Public Defender Parental Representation Unit, the Office of Public Defender Law Guardian Program, the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Law, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Morris County, Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance, Morristown Medical Center, Morris County Aftercare Program, Morris County Mental Health Association, Jersey Battered Women's Services, Homeless Solutions, Capital Care, Eva's Village, Integrity House, Mrs. Wilson's Halfway House, Mt. Olive Counseling Group, Newark Renaissance House, St. Clare's Health System, Straight & Narrow, Inc., Sunrise House, and Turning Point.

Although the event is closed to the public, reporters and photographers are invited to cover this event. Contact Lori Reich, family drug court coordinator, at 973-579-0766 for more information.

###