

# News Release



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## **Middlesex Vicinage Drug Court Marks Overdose Awareness Month**

The Middlesex Vicinage will host overdose awareness events on Tuesday, Aug. 7 and Wednesday, Aug. 8 at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. in courtroom 508 of the Middlesex County Courthouse, 56 Paterson St., New Brunswick.

The events seek to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or have been permanently injured because of a drug overdose.

Guest speakers Jenna Lynn Bonstein and Mark “Archie” Manning will share their stories of overdose-related loss and their personal recovery process with drug court participants. Michael Ziccardi and John Mincarelli of Recovery Advocates of America also will give presentations.

The Judiciary’s drug court program operates within the Superior Court to address nonviolent drug addicted offenders. The program requires completion of four phases of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and recovery. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process but also allows supervisors to react quickly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

The Middlesex drug court program has more than 350 participants. Since the inception of the vicinage’s drug court program in 2004, 301 participants have graduated and 25 children of participants have been born drug-free.

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