**ST. MARY’S COUNTY ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY COURT FACT SHEET**

The St. Mary’s County Adult Substance Abuse Recovery Court began operating in 2009. It was developed by Circuit Court Administrative Judge Karen H. Abrams and the program coordinator, Pete Cucinotta . Itwas modeled after “Drug Courts” operating nationwide (2000+) including in Maryland (44) including the Juvenile Drug Court in St.Mary’s. Judge Abrams recognized the need for the criminal justice system to take a different approach to dealing with offenders whose behavior was driven by drug and alcohol abuse.

**What do “Recovery Courts do’?**

They create a “team” of professionals (treatment/case management/prosecution/defense/law enforcement) to work together in addressing the changes needed by criminal offenders with substance abuse problems to adopt and maintain an “abstinence” based lifestyle.

**What is the difference between “business as usual” and Recovery Court?**

Recovery Court is designed to keep qualifying addicted offenders in the community, treat their addiction, and develop a successfully abstinent lifestyle instead of incarceration and recidivism.

**Who are the participants?**

Persons who have a significant criminal history which is driven by drug and alcohol abuse, or repeat DUI’s, who would otherwise be incarcerated for a current conviction or a violation of probation. Persons who have had sexual offenses or convictions for violent crimes are not eligible.

**Cost comparison, per person:**

Incarceration - $99-105 per day $36,135-38,325 per year

Recovery Court - $19 per day $7,105 per year

**Recidivism**:

After Incarceration (without drug court) - 67% rearrested within 3 years (national average)

After Recovery/Drug Court graduation- up to 40% rearrested (nationwide)

St. Mary’s Recovery Court graduation - 20% rearrested within 3 years

**Reduction of drug/alcohol abuse:**

In a recent 12 month period, the St. Mary’s County Recovery Court tested participants more than 6,800 times for drugs and alcohol. The tests covered over 39,000 drugs, including alcohol. The confirmed positives were less than 1%. This is a significant overall reduction in the use of drugs and alcohol. And, for most, it represents a 100% reduction in the use of illicit drugs and alcohol.

**What does the program consist of:**

A minimum of a year of participation, including regular and frequent testing, treatment, frequent court attendance, Recovery Support meeting attendance, obtaining employment and appropriate housing, and continued abstinence, leading to graduation from the program.