

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

18th Judicial Circuit Court - DuPage County, Illinois

KENNETH L. POPEJOY Chief Judge

SUZANNE H. ARMSTRONG Court Administrator

July 13, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Office of the Chief Judge
505 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

$\frac{18^{TH}\ JUDICIAL\ CIRCUIT\ MENTAL\ HEALTH\ COURT\ GRADUATES\ RECORD\ SIZE}{CLASS}$

DuPage County Chief Judge Kenneth Popejoy announced that the DuPage County Mental Illness Court Alternative Program (MICAP) conducted a graduation ceremony honoring twenty participants, the largest graduating class in its history, on July 9, 2021. The audience included family, friends, defense attorneys and police officers, including the arresting officers of many of the participants. Chief Judge Popejoy commented "I commend the collaborative effort of MICAP and our team members, including the DuPage County Probation Department, Health Department, State's Attorney Office and Public Defender's Office. Working together, we can improve participant's lives and reduce recidivism."

The DuPage County Mental Illness Court Alternative Program (MICAP) is designed to enhance the quality of life for participants by engaging in mental health and other treatment and community-based support systems that uses a problem-solving court model to facilitate new skills which leads to a reduction in recidivism and the stigma associated with mental illness.

(See attached graduation photo)



The MICAP Team pictured in the rear row from left to right: Coordinator Bernadine McFarland, Deputy Clerk Deb Montoya, Probation Officer Joey Johanning, Assistant State's Attorney Jessica Sisler, Assistant Public Defender Andrea Newman, MICAP Judges Honorable Paul Marchese and Honorable James Konetski (ret.), Probation Officers Sheryl Calderon and Deena Kuranda, Probation Deputy Director Tim McGavin and Deputy Mark Brown with the July 9, 2021 graduates.

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