



## **MEDIA TIP /// MEDIA TIP /// MEDIA TIP /// MEDIA TIP**

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### **SUCCESS OF DRUG, MENTAL HEALTH AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS FOCUS OF TASK FORCE**

Drug, mental health and domestic violence courts are three of Oklahoma's most successful alternatives to incarceration. The programs, which emphasize treatment and saving taxpayer money, will be the focus of the next meeting of the Governor's and Attorney General's Task Force on Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence.

**The meeting will be held Friday, April 23, 1:30 p.m., in Room 419C of the state capitol.**

District Court Judge Nancy Coats will talk about the Oklahoma County Mental Health Court, while Judge Candace Blalock, representing Garvin and McClain counties, will speak about her domestic violence court. Brian Karnes with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services will talk about the success of drug courts. Additionally, drug court graduate Randy McQuay will share his experience with drug courts.

The blue-ribbon task force was formed recently to study costs associated with untreated and undertreated mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence issues in Oklahoma. The task force includes leaders from a variety of areas, including mental health, medicine, education, criminal justice and media. The task force will study the spectrum of costs associated with these three areas and present findings geared toward directing resources in a more efficient, cost-effective manner.

**For more information,** contact Pam McKeown, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services public information office, 405-522-5102.

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