

# Portage County HOPE DRUG COURT

SUPREME COURT SPECIALIZED DOCKET PROGRAM



Designed by a HOPE client

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## HOPE - Drug Court

- ▶ **H**elp, **O**pportunity and **P**rogress through **E**ducation Program **[HOPE]**
  - ▶ **Honorable Becky Doherty** is the Presiding Judge of HOPE Court
  - ▶ **HOPE** Court received final certification from the Supreme Court of Ohio on March 9, 2017
  - ▶ **Program Capacity** is 30 offenders
  - ▶ Program participation is **Voluntary**
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## Program Tracks/Legal Eligibility-HOPE

▶ **Track I: Intervention in Lieu of Conviction:**

The offender must be a Portage County resident that meets written legal criteria of Intervention in Lieu of Conviction as set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 2951.041.

▶ **Track II: Post-Conviction:**

The offender must be a Portage County resident charged with a Felony of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> degree not otherwise meeting the criteria for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction.

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## Disqualification Factors-HOPE

- ▶ Offenders charged with the following offenses are **ineligible** for HOPE Court: **Felony OVI, Trafficking in Drugs, Sex Offenses, Crimes involving the use of any weapon and/or crimes involving children.**
  - ▶ The offense must be probationable with no mandatory jail/prison term.
  - ▶ Violent offenders will be considered for participation in the HOPE Program, if otherwise eligible per statute.
  - ▶ Dual Diagnosed offenders are accepted, if they meet eligibility requirements.
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## Written Clinical Eligibility Criteria-HOPE

- ▶ The offender must be diagnosed as having a **moderate to severe** Substance Use Disorder according to the DSM-5.
  - ▶ The offender must have a **history of a substance use disorder** prior to the commission of the crime or recent diagnosis at or around the same time as the crime.
  - ▶ The Substance Use Disorder must be a **contributing factor** to the offender being charged.
  - ▶ The offender must be **competent** to understand and comply with program requirements.
  - ▶ The offender must **not pose an unacceptable risk** to staff, family or community.
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## Referral Process-HOPE

- ▶ A referral may be made to the HOPE Court at any time during the criminal proceedings or subsequent to a sentencing hearing, but prior to the completion of the sentence.
- ▶ The process takes approximately **20 days** from the date of referral until the offender is back in court for a decision regarding HOPE Court.
- ▶ During the 20 days, the offender meets with the Program Coordinator to conduct a **legal eligibility investigation** (obtain personal background information, criminal history check, conduct a risk assessment, etc.). The Program Rules are discussed and signed with the offender. A copy of the Participant Handbook is provided to the offender at that time.
- ▶ The offender will also meet with a counselor at either Compass Recovery Center or Townhall II for a chemical dependency assessment and **clinical eligibility evaluation**. A treatment plan is developed and agreed upon.
- ▶ An offender has to meet **BOTH legal and clinical eligibility** to be accepted into the program.

## Treatment Team-HOPE

- ▶ The **Treatment Team** consists of:
  - ▶ **Honorable Becky Doherty**: HOPE Judge
  - ▶ **Theresa Spiker**: Program Coordinator/Supervisor, Adult Probation Department
  - ▶ **Cheryl Roth**, LICDC-CS: Counselor, Compass Recovery Center
  - ▶ **Brad Price**, Ph.D., LPC, LICDC-CS: Counselor, Townhall II
  - ▶ **Deena Tanner**: Probation Officer, Adult Probation Department
  - ▶ **Carli Whitely**: Senior Probation Officer, Adult Probation Department
- ▶ The Treatment Team is responsible for the daily operations of the HOPE Program.
- ▶ The Team **meets every week** to discuss the clients' overall performance, recommends rewards/sanctions and discusses offender eligibility .

## Program Expectations-HOPE

- ▶ The HOPE Court is a **16-month program**.
- ▶ There are **4 program phases**: Each program phase is **4 months** in length.
- ▶ All participants are under the supervision of the Adult Probation Department while participating in the HOPE Program.
- ▶ All participants are required to attend and engage in substance abuse treatment as required by their treatment plan, in addition to attending **3 support meetings per week**.
- ▶ All participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> program phase have a **weekly Probation Officer meeting** and **2 weekly random drug screens** at the Probation Department.
- ▶ All participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> program phase meet with Judge Doherty **weekly for a status hearing**.
- ▶ PO meetings and status hearing **frequency decreases** as the participants progress through the phases.

## Program Expectations Continued-HOPE

- ▶ **MAT** (Medication Assisted Treatment) is not denied to participants. If accepted into a MAT program, the MAT protocol becomes part of the treatment plan.
- ▶ Once stable, participants are expected to seek and maintain employment, pay off court costs and restitution. Probation fees are waived while participating in the program.
- ▶ All programming attendance must be documented and verified by the participant.
- ▶ All prescription medication must be submitted to the PO for review. Benzodiazepines and/or Opiate medications are not permitted in HOPE Court.
- ▶ Immediate, graduated and individual **INCENTIVES and SANCTIONS** are utilized to govern the participant's compliance or non-compliance in the program.
- ▶ Participants are sanctioned to **3 days in jail** for admitting drug/alcohol use **before** a drug test. They are sanctioned to **5 days in jail** for admitting drug/alcohol use **after** a drug test.

# Therapy Dog-Dao



# Dao at work...



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## Contact Information

**HOPE Court:** Honorable Becky Doherty-Portage County Court of Common Pleas  
**(330) 297-3861**

**HOPE Program Coordinator:** Theresa Spiker- Adult Probation Dept.  
**(330) 297-4262**

**\* Program brochures are available\***

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