

State of Michigan

51st DISTRICT COURT



5100 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
WATERFORD, MICHIGAN

HON. RICHARD D. KUHN, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE

HON. TODD A. FOX
CHIEF JUDGE PRO TEMPORE

JENNIFER E. THOM
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

51st DISTRICT COURT CONTINUES TO WORK TOWARDS SOLVING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

In a 2015 report, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration stated that "overdose deaths, particularly from prescription drugs and heroin, have reached epidemic levels. Nearly half of all opioid overdose deaths in 2016 involved prescription opioids." Locally, Waterford Police and Fire Departments respond to an average of 8 overdose calls a month, the majority of which are opiate related.

For the 3rd year in a row, a portion (\$18,000) of the 51st District Court's \$123,000 Michigan Drug Court grant award has been earmarked for the continued piloting of the use of Medication Assisted Treatments for participants battling opioid addiction.

Medication-assisted treatments utilize anti-craving medications coupled with intensive therapy and support to help address underlying issues related to opioid dependence. The goal is to provide a whole-patient treatment approach to the treatment of the substance use disorder, and the necessary relapse prevention skills to gain and sustain sobriety.

The treatment has proven to be a promising practice and the 51st District Court is one of a handful of Courts in the state of Michigan working with the State Court Administrative Office to pilot the program.