



# Eighth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services

*Serving the 14 Counties of Southeast Iowa*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 2, 2015

The Eighth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services will continue to support the Ottumwa and Ft. Madison drug court programs previously marked for closure in the face of budget cuts, District Director Daniel T. Fell announced Thursday.

Following the June 23 press release announcing the budget cuts, stakeholders from the judicial branch, local treatment providers, and former drug court participants immediately voiced their concerns about losing the programs and began searching for other funding options.

Because of those efforts, the programs will remain operational. Although the department of correctional services is unable to provide direct financial support at this juncture, it will continue to provide personnel support with some modifications.

Moving forward, the two probation and parole officers currently assigned to the drug courts will remain with those programs, but their hours will be reduced so that they can assist other district programs affected by cuts. In addition, drug court caseloads will be capped at 15 clients, rather than the previous count of 30.

“This is a very complicated matter,” Fell said. “But in the end, I am happy that our stakeholders took the initiative to fight for their programs and that we were able to come to a good-faith resolution that meets the needs of all parties under these trying circumstances. Community safety remains our top priority and treatment programs are critical to that mission.”

Fell thanked the following stakeholders for their efforts: District Court Judge Michael J. Schilling, District Associate Judge Kirk A. Daily, the Lee County Attorney’s Office, the Wapello County Attorney’s Office, the Office of the State Public Defender, SIEDA, ADDS, Counseling Associates Inc., the Drug Court Alumni Groups, and citizens from communities served by the drug courts.

## **PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE**

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