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Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Contact: Pam McKeown, Public Information Office
405-522-5102

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NFL STAR ROY WILLIAMS TO EMCEE DRUG COURT, MENTAL HEALTH COURT DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Roy Williams, best known for his impact on the football field as a star safety with the OU Sooners, and in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys and the Cincinnati Bengals, will talk about the impact drug courts and mental health courts are having on Oklahoma Tuesday, **April 19**, at the state capitol.

More than 4,600 non-violent offenders, who otherwise would be in prison, are enrolled in the state's drug court and mental health court programs. Both programs represent successful alternatives to incarceration, with estimated cost savings to taxpayers in the millions of dollars annually.

"Drug Court and Mental Health Court Day" is designed to educate legislators, policymakers, the general public and others about the success of drug court and mental health court programs.

Drug and mental health court coordinators, as well as district attorneys, judges, probation/parole officers, treatment providers and participants will be on hand to share information regarding the effectiveness of these nationally recognized programs.

Coordinated through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the two programs couple the power of the court system with the benefits of treatment. The primary objective of both courts is to redirect certain non-violent drug offenders into a highly structured, judicially monitored treatment program rather than sending them to prison.

Violent offenders are not eligible for either program.

Presently, more than 70 counties in Oklahoma have drug courts, with approximately 4,200 participants, and 16 counties have established mental health courts, with 380 participants.

DATE: **Tuesday, April 19**

TIME: **10:30 a.m. to noon – Scheduled speakers – ODMHSAS Commissioner Terri White; Oklahoma County Assistant District Attorney 'Cat' Burton; Rogers County Judge Sheila Condren; Kay County Judge Phil Ross; Drug Court and Mental Health Court graduates; and Legislators.**

PLACE: **State Capitol, Fourth Floor Rotunda**