

**Daniel P. Vrakas**  
County Executive



### **For Immediate Release**

**Date:** Monday, May 19, 2008

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### **Public Substance Abuse Treatment Fair**

Waukesha, WIS. – The State of Wisconsin’s Public Defender Trial Office in Waukesha will host an Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Treatment Fair in partnership with the Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC), the Waukesha County Bar Association, the Waukesha County District Attorney’s Office, and Wisconsin Community Services on Thursday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the County Courthouse Commons Area.

County Executive Dan Vrakas will be there to kick-off the event with opening remarks in the Jury Assembly Room (CG-6), which is west of the Commons Area.

“It is an honor to be a member of the CJCC and to participate in the AODA treatment fair,” says Vrakas. “Working together to provide education and information to our community regarding substance abuse treatments brings us one step closer to reducing recidivism, which is costly for the offender and the public and private sector agencies that help them change behaviors. Our residents should be proud of our commitment to innovative strategies that address these societal concerns.”

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**“Public Substance Abuse Treatment Fair,” continued . . .**

District Attorney Brad Schimel states, “The recent tragedy in Oconomowoc has exposed the need for our system to take a more aggressive role in getting offenders into effective treatment early and to supervise and monitor those offenders in the community. While incarceration offers short-term safety for the community, it too often does not resolve the underlying problems that led to the offending conduct. Waukesha County has led the way with programs like our Intoxicated Driver Intervention Program, Victim Impact Panel, Alcohol Treatment Court, among other initiatives. Waukesha County must continue its forward thinking efforts to deal with alcohol and drug abuse in our community. While our alcohol treatment court is definitely a step in the right direction, we need to be tougher on offenders while implementing effective, long term solutions that include treatment in addition to punishment.”

Immediately following opening remarks, there will be an Alcohol Treatment Court update and a workshop on local prescription drug abuse problems that will be led by Jim Pearson of the Addiction Resource Council. Area treatment providers will also have displays to share information about the important programs and services they provide for substance abusers.

The fair, which has been designed to target members of the treatment community, attorneys, and court officials, is open to the public. Attendees do not need reservations.

For more information, please contact Kari Larson in the Public Defender’s Office at (262) 521-5173 or Kristy Gusse with Wisconsin Community Services at (262) 544-4600.

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