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For Immediate Release
August 3, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY STARTS NEW MISDEMEANOR DIVERSION PROGRAM

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today that her office has implemented Early Diversion Program, a new platform that offers eligible misdemeanor offenders an opportunity to avoid a criminal conviction by participating and completing individually-tailored classes managed by Corrective Solutions, a national administrator of alternatives to prosecution and incarceration programs.

Early Diversion Program is an alternative to the criminal justice system. Recognizing the impact that court proceedings may have on employment opportunities and long-term community productivity, Early Diversion Program connects offenders with local community resources that can provide support for living a law-abiding life. The option to participate is completely voluntary and occurs prior to the filing of any criminal charges. It is not available for all misdemeanor charges; some exclusions include driving under the influence, domestic violence or sexually-motivated misdemeanors.

Eligible participants are held accountable by being required to participate and complete cognitive behavioral change intervention classes that incorporate strategies to support lasting life-style changes to reintegrate offenders as productive members of their communities. Each participant's program is individually tailored. The program requires an initial assessment and crime-specific behavioral change classes. Additional terms may be required for completion, including drug testing, mental health services, community service, and restitution to their victim.

Early Diversion Program is available in Spanish and on-line to protect the safety and well-being of participants. In addition, an indigent assistance fund is available for participants who may not be able to afford the program. The DA's Office receives no financial benefit from implementation of the program, nor from any metric of success or failure of participants.

The Napa County District Attorney's Office is committed to maintaining public safety, health, reducing recidivism, and reallocating resources in a way that reflects the public's changing expectations of law enforcement.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.