DATE: October 20, 2017

TO: County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators
    Driving-Under-the-Influence (DUI) County Coordinators

SUBJECT: DUI Offender Court Referral and Tracking

As specified in Health and Safety Code, Section 11837.2(g), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is required to work with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and county alcohol and drug program administrators to establish procedures to ensure court referrals to licensed DUI programs, out-of-county program transfer procedures, and jurisdiction procedures. Additionally, the California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Section 9801.5(b)(8)-(9) requires counties to carry out liaison activities with the courts, county probation departments, DUI programs and interested parties at the county level and ensure the implementation of a court referral system for those convicted of DUI.

An effective referral and tracking system can provide clear direction to defendants regarding DUI program enrollment requirements necessary to comply with court orders and to restore legal driving privileges. It also can keep the court informed of a defendant's status to ensure compliance. A review of the DMV’s annual Management Information System (MIS) report of the California DUI System has demonstrated that counties identified as having gaps in their DUI referral and tracking systems have lower conviction and higher DUI recidivism rates. Upon review of the MIS report, and in accordance with the aforementioned statute and regulations, a simplistic court referral and tracking system was developed, which can be easily implemented in counties that do not currently have an effective referral system in place. The attached referral form and procedures can be easily modified or adapted to meet each county's needs.

DHCS is committed to assisting counties in improving referral procedures and ensuring all counties have a referral system in place with intent to maximize statewide DUI program enrollment and completion rates and ultimately outcomes such as, a reduction in DUI recidivism, a reduction in the number of unlicensed/uninsured drivers on the highway, and an increase in overall public safety.
If you have additional questions regarding information relating to this correspondence, please contact Anthony Scott at Anthony.Scott@DHCS.ca.gov or (916) 327-3182.

Sincerely,

MICHELE M. WONG
Assistant Division Chief
Substance Use Disorder Compliance Division

Attachment: Court Referral Form with Instruction for Completing