Kane County Circuit Judge James T. Doyle is beating the drum to secure federal funding for what he sees as a possible regional drug rehabilitation program, perhaps at the state's shuttered Valley View corrections facility, near South Elgin.

Citing what he called "an epidemic of heroin," Doyle received assurance Thursday from the County Board's Corrections Committee that it would recommend that the full board adopt a resolution calling for federal assistance to support drug rehabilitation courts such as the 16th Judicial Circuit has.

Kane County and others must "demand it from the feds," said Doyle, a former cop, prosecutor and public defender. Doyle heads the Kane-based circuit's drug court, the largest in Illinois and recognized as a national model.

There may be no more insidious terrorist attack on the United States than what is being perpetrated by heroin dealers, Doyle said. "Talk about homeland security. Talk about germ warfare. It's here," he said.

"It is coming from Third World countries. They've targeted our children, and they are succeeding," said Doyle.

The goal of the vaunted drug program, which is a voluntary, two-year alternative to incarceration, is to move addicts out of jail and into intensive treatment. There are 60 drug-program applicants in the Kane County Jail "waiting for a bed in a treatment facility," said Doyle. Within the next few months, Doyle projects there will be nearly 500 participants.

There simply aren't enough drug rehabilitation facilities available to address the growing demand for treatment, which Doyle said is the only route to breaking an addiction.

"We really have a disaster going in our community," Doyle said.