



Superior Court of California County of Orange

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Orange County Collaborative Courts Annual Report for 2014

Accompanying this letter is the 2014 Annual Report of the Collaborative Courts, which sets forth the results of Orange County's Collaborative Court programs for the last calendar year.

These programs, which offer therapeutic, life-changing alternatives to the revolving door of incarceration and re-arrest, include adult and juvenile Drug Courts, DUI Court, mental health courts, Veterans Treatment Court, Homeless Outreach Court, Truancy Court, and supportive programs for youth in the dependency system.

The remarkable success of these programs, both economic and social, is reflected in many ways:

1. Graduates of the Collaborative Courts programs have significantly reduced rates of recidivism:
 - Of the **1,962** Drug Court graduates, of those who have been out of the program for three years, only **28.6%** were re-arrested for any offense in that time – far lower than the rate of **74%** for comparable offenders who did not participate in Drug Court.
 - Of the **239** mental health court graduates, all of whom had severe mental illness and a co-occurring substance addiction, only **34%** have been re-arrested.
 - Of the **1,137** graduates of DUI Court, all of whom were repeat-offense drunk drivers, of those who have been out of the program for five years, only **9.4%** have had a subsequent DUI conviction in that time -- far lower than the rates of **21%** and **25%** for second- and third-offenders statewide.
 - Of the **185** Juvenile Drug Court graduates who have been out of the program for two years, only **14%** had a subsequent referral to Probation within that time.
 - Of the **60** graduates of Veterans Treatment Court, only **6** have been re-arrested – a recidivism rate of **10%**.
2. Providing therapeutic treatment instead of incarceration results in substantial savings in the costs of locally-served jail and prison bed days. In 2014, the stayed sentences of program graduates totaled **62,613** days before the application of custody credits, which translates to a savings of more than **\$9.4 million**.

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- Drug Court saved **23,616** jail bed days for a savings of **\$3,209,887**.
 - DUI Court saved **27,396** jail bed days for a savings of **\$3,723,664**.
 - The mental health court programs, including Veterans Treatment Court, saved **8,872** jail bed days for a savings of **\$1,205,882**.
 - Juvenile Drug Court saved **2,729** custody days for a savings of **\$1,296,985**.
3. The Collaborative Court programs also produce other significant benefits for the County:
- While taking part in the programs, female participants have given birth to **184** drug-free babies, saving the health care system millions of dollars.
 - Hardcore, repeat-offense drunk drivers have been turned into advocates of sobriety – able to live longer, healthier lives, and sparing those innocent victims who will not be killed or injured in future automobile accidents.
 - Drug-addicted criminals have been changed into responsible, taxpaying members of the community – stopping the cycle of repeated costs to crime victims and the justice system.
 - Combat veterans, steeped in violence and stress, have been helped to overcome their deep psychological challenges and re-integrate into society.
 - Mentally ill offenders have been helped to lead stable, productive lives
 - Homeless offenders have been given the tools to regain their self-sufficiency
4. Processing cases through Collaborative Court tracks yields cost savings when compared with processing them through “business as usual”:
- Researchers for the California Judicial Council found that every \$1.00 invested in the Drug Court at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana resulted in a total cost savings of **\$7.30**.

The success of Orange County’s Collaborative Court programs is a result of the steadfast support of the Board of Supervisors, and the dedication of the partner agencies. On behalf of this collaboration, I am pleased to present this 2014 Annual Report, which is also available on the Court’s public website at www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts.

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Collaborative Courts Officer