

# Superior Court of California County of Orange



## Collaborative Courts 2016 Annual Report

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# Introduction

Collaborative court programs are specialized court tracks that combine judicial supervision with rigorously monitored rehabilitation services. They include integrated treatment and social services, strict oversight and accountability, a team approach to decision-making, and frequent interaction between the judicial officer and the participants. Collaborative courts increase public safety and save money by stopping the revolving door of incarceration and re-arrest for many offenders. They also provide profound human and social benefits.

The Orange County Collaborative Courts, which began in 1995 with one Drug Court at the Central Justice Center, have expanded to include a variety of programs based on the Drug Court model at five Justice Centers. As a result of these programs, thousands of County residents have been rehabilitated: addicted criminal offenders transformed into responsible taxpayers; repeat offense drunk drivers changed into dedicated advocates of sobriety; deeply troubled combat veterans helped to re-integrate into society; mentally ill offenders now leading stable, productive lives; homeless people given the tools they need to regain their self-sufficiency; at-risk youth steered from the path of delinquent behavior; reformed parents proud to have had drug-free babies.

In addition to changing the lives of criminal offenders and dramatically reducing their rate of recidivism, the adult and juvenile programs have saved more than **\$120.6 million** through the avoidance of more than **852,848** custody bed days.

This Annual Report describes each of these programs and sets forth their results and benefits during the past year. Their substantial monetary and social benefits are a tribute to the consistent support of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and to the commitment and hard work of the staff from the partnering agencies that comprise the Collaborative Courts.



**from Hon. Matthew Anderson**, regarding the first day of his new assignment in 2000:

"I grimly stood in the doorway of my courtroom, waiting to preside over my first Drug Court. I knew very little about Drug Court other than it involved a "collaborative" approach to processing drug cases and, it seemed to me, focused more on coddling than consequences.

The room became silent as I prepared to enter. Grumpily, I looked into the audience. Time to bring some order to their disorderly lives, I thought. Before stepping forward, I glanced into the crowd expecting the usual sights: nervous fidgeting, sweaty faces, bored fatigue, and phony respect. I expected impatient silence and tired resignation. I expected surly disinterest and defiant stares. Instead, I saw something unexpected: I saw eyes filled with hope.

As I looked into the expectant faces of the Drug Court participants, I felt their hope for understanding, their hope for patience, their hope for compassion and their hope for a new beginning. The reality of their hope was startling and quite disturbing. I was the wrong judge in the right place. My expectations, my point of view based on years of processing criminal cases, changed in that moment. ... I turned abruptly, returned to my chambers and closed the door. I sat in my chair and considered the feelings pouring over me. I was fully prepared to be a critic. I was ready, willing and able to mete out punishment. I was totally unprepared to dispense hope."

# CHAPTER 1

## Drug Court

Located at four justice centers, the adult Drug Court program works with seriously addicted criminal offenders who are at high risk of recidivating, and in high need of the treatment and supportive services that can help them achieve sobriety and rebuild their lives. The voluntary, phased program is a collaboration among the Court, the Probation Department, the Orange County Health Care Agency, the offices of the Public Defender and the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, and other local law enforcement agencies. The program, which is a minimum of 18 months in length, includes intensive probation supervision, individual and group counseling, regular court appearances, frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, and residential treatment or residence in a "sober living" facility, as necessary.

Defendants admitted into the Drug Court program work with their treatment care coordinator and Probation Officer to develop and follow a life plan, remain clean and sober, and have consistent attendance at all court hearings, probation meetings, and counseling appointments. In order to graduate from the program, they must also obtain suitable housing, complete their education if needed by obtaining a high school diploma or GED, and find stable employment. Team members oversee and assist their progress and, at the regular team meetings, discuss areas of concern and make recommendations to the judicial officer.

During their appearances in court, participants speak frankly with the judicial officer, and are rewarded with incentives for program compliance or given sanctions for non-compliance. Phase advancements and graduations include written self-evaluations by the participants, which they read aloud in court. At these times, the people in the audience are able to understand clearly the dramatic life changes the program participants are undergoing.

Funding for Drug Court comes from several sources. The Orange County Board of Supervisors approves annual budget allocations for the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, and the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender, all of which assign the personnel who are essential to the success of the program. Additional funding is received from the State of California. Previously distributed as annual grant funding through the Drug Court Partnership, the Comprehensive Drug Court Initiative, and the Dependency Drug Court program, the funding is now received as a direct appropriation from the State to the County, administered by the Health Care Agency.



### Drug Court Judicial Officers 1995-2016

Hon. David McEachen  
Hon. David Velasquez  
Hon. Ronald Kreber  
Hon. Erick Larsh  
Hon. Carlton Biggs  
Hon. Glenda Sanders  
Hon. Joanne Motoike  
Hon. John Zitny  
Hon. Thomas Glazier

Hon. Wendy Lindley  
Hon. Gerald Johnston  
Hon. Allen Stone  
Hon. Gail Andler  
Hon. Michael McCartin  
Hon. Mary Fingal Schulte  
Hon. Geoffrey Glass  
Hon. Ronald Klar  
Hon. Mary Kreber

Hon. David Thompson  
Hon. Peter Polos  
Hon. Jamoa Moberly  
Hon. Linda Marks  
Hon. James Odriozola  
Hon. Michael Cassidy  
Hon. Joe Perez  
Hon. Thomas Delaney  
Hon. Matthew Anderson

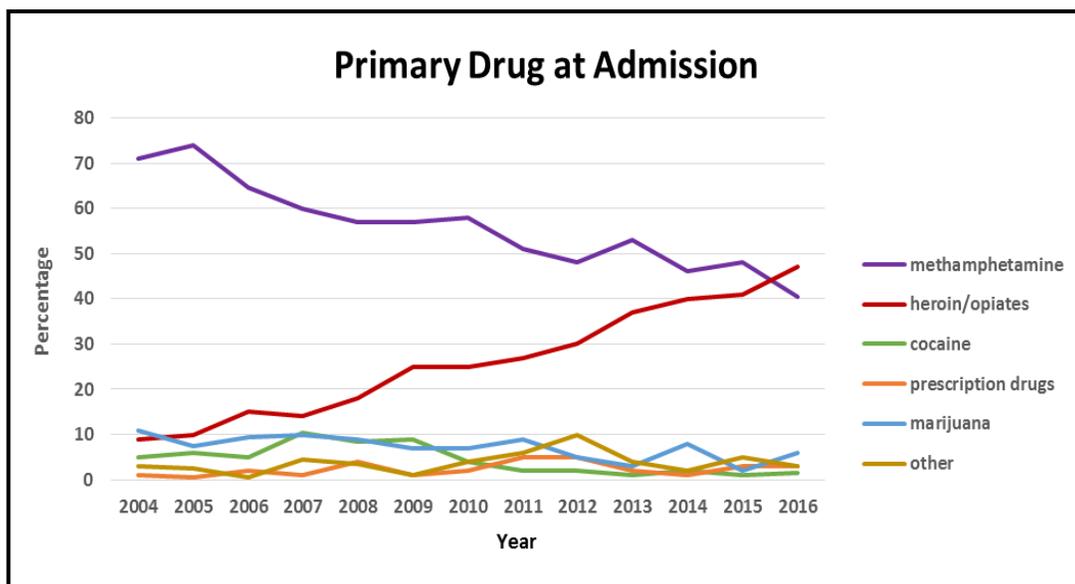
## Drug Court, continued

Funding for the Drug Court program also comes from grant awards. A fiscal-year grant of \$33,585 was received from the California Judicial Council for the drug and alcohol testing of program participants, and for training in evidence-based best practices for Drug Court judicial officers and team members.

The Collaborative Courts Foundation, a non-profit agency founded by Executive Director Kathleen Burnham, obtains grant funding and donations to provide vital support to the participants in Drug Court and the other treatment court programs — including help in accessing prescription glasses, restorative dental care, emergency medical care, transitional housing, assistance with educational and personal needs, and incentives for program participants who are achieving their program goals. Every year, the Foundation hosts seminars to provide education in areas such as financial literacy, employment skills, job searches, and self-improvement.

At the start of 2016, there were **316** participants in the Drug Court program countywide. During the year, **582** defendants were evaluated for admission, **136** of whom were admitted into the program. A total of **26** participants left the program without fault, **1** participant was transferred to another treatment Court program which better suited his needs, and **50** participants opted out or were terminated from the program, **42** of them because of program non-compliance. A total of **63** participants successfully graduated from Drug Court during the year; and at the end of the year, there were **312** participants active in program.

From the inception of Drug Court in 1995 through the end of 2016, **2,102** participants have graduated from the program. As set forth in detail on the following pages, the re-arrest rate for Drug Court graduates, three years after graduation, is **28.15%** for any crime, compared with a re-arrest rate for comparable non-participants of **74%**. In 2016, **2** drug-free babies were born to program participants, bringing the total since inception to **153** babies born free of addiction while their mothers were participating in Drug Court.



# Drug Court - Results and Benefits

## Reduced Recidivism

An important measure of the success of Drug Court is the reduction in the rate of recidivism for program graduates. As the comparison group for Drug Court, below, defined recidivism to be *re-arrest for any crime*, that definition is used here. Each year, the arrest records of the Drug Court graduates are reviewed and any arrest within three years of their program completion is noted. **Drug Court graduates have a recidivism rate of 28.15% for any crime.**

In contrast, for a 2007 study of Drug Court at the West Justice Center,\* the arrest records of a group of 1,685 defendants who were eligible for but did not participate in Drug Court programs in California were reviewed three years after the date of their program eligibility. It was found that **this comparison group had a recidivism rate of 74% for any crime.**

\* California Drug Courts: Costs and Benefits; Phase II, Piloting the DC-SET, Superior Court of Orange County, West Orange Drug Court Site-Specific Report; Shannon M. Carey, Ph.D., et al., October 2007.

Drug Court Participant Recidivism Three Years after Graduation						
Justice Center	Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
total number of graduates	757	610	440	295	2,102	
total number of graduates, three years after graduation	706	533	407	258	1,904	100%
number re-arrested	213	141	116	66	536	28.15%
% re-arrested	30.2%	26.5%	28.5%	25.6%	28.15%	



***In their own words*** — from the 2016 graduation speeches of Drug Court participants

“I share the same story as most addicts. I was broken and damaged and living a life of destruction each day.”

“I did one line of meth and didn’t stop doing it for 4½ years. In that time period, I lost everything.”

“As my addiction progressed, it began to rob me of everything I cared about in life. ... In the end, I had lost all hope that I would ever recover.”

“It didn’t matter when I would get arrested, get out and go straight back in. ... This drug had a hold of me and it wasn’t going to let go.”

## Drug Court - Results and Benefits, continued

### Significant Cost Savings

The alternative sentence of Drug Court saves the cost of housing the defendant in the County jail where, as a result of AB109 realignment, both jail time and state prison time would be served. This cost savings is calculated only for those who have graduated during the year, and any jail days served as in-program sanctions are subtracted from the total number of days that were stayed as a result of being sentenced to Drug Court. The cost of a jail bed day is set at \$146.53, which is an average of the 2016 costs at the five County jail facilities including both the daily cost of incarceration (\$115.49) and the associated health services (\$31.04).

In 2016, the Drug Court program avoided **28,637 jail and prison bed days** prior to the application of custody credits, which were stayed pending graduation — which translates to **a cost savings of \$4,196,179**. Since inception, the Drug Court program has saved more than **\$52,411,790** in jail and prison bed costs.

The time which would have otherwise been served, and hence the cost savings, cannot be determined with complete certainty because, if Drug Court had not been ordered, a split sentence could have been imposed which would include both jail time and mandatory supervision, and the time in custody would be subject to reduction for good time/work time credits.

### Drug-Free Babies

Drug-addicted babies are a healthcare nightmare. The costs of their initial hospitalization and other specialized care can amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars, and there are likely to be significant, ongoing medical and socialization challenges as they grow up. Special perinatal training and program management are offered to Drug Court participants to ensure that pregnant mothers deliver drug-free babies — another important measure of the program's success, both in human and in economic terms.

During 2016, **2 drug-free babies** were born to women while they were participating in Drug Court, bringing the cumulative total to **153** drug-free babies born since the inception of the program.

### Other Program Benefits

Community service hours are an essential component of the Drug Court program. Community service is utilized as both a sanction when participants are not in compliance with the program and as a productive use of time for those participants who are not working or going to school. Participants performed **1,275 hours of community service** in 2016.

During the year, **63** participants graduated from the Drug Court program, free of addiction and employed or pursuing educational goals. Substantial social and economic benefits result when drug-addicted offenders, who are often jobless and homeless, are transformed into responsible, tax-paying members of society — though these benefits may be hard to quantify. Similarly clear but difficult to value with precision are the future costs to crime victims which are avoided, and the enhancements to the quality of life of the community that are gained by helping drug-addicted offenders to transform their lives.

<b>DRUG COURT</b>					
<b>2016 Program Totals</b>					
Justice Center	Central	Harbor	North	West	total
active as of 12/31/2015	91	97	86	42	316
defendants evaluated for admission into program	143	205	129	105	582
admitted during 2016	49	44	27	16	136
transferred from another Drug Court program	0	2	0	0	2
terminated — Prop.47 opt out	1	0	1	0	2
terminated — participant request	2	0	4	0	6
terminated — program non-compliance	15	13	9	5	42
no fault termination — opt-out period	6	5	7	5	23
no-fault termination— extenuating circumstances	1	0	2	0	3
transferred to another Drug Court program location	0	1	1	0	2
transferred to another treatment court program	0	0	0	1	1
graduated	18	24	9	12	63
active as of 12/31/2016	98	79	35	100	312
drug-free babies born during the program	1	1	0	0	2
jail bed days saved	3,670	1,084	1,601	3,093	9,448
prison bed days saved	1,571	12,608	2,455	2,555	19,189



***In their own words*** — from the 2016 graduation speeches of Drug Court participants

“I don’t know how to express the gratitude I have for the opportunity Drug Court has given me.”

“I’m now clean, healthy, eating good food, loved and reconnecting myself to a world that I had lost due to a vicious cycle of heavy drugs, bad people and poor decisions.”

“Because of Drug Court, I am proud of who I am today and so is my family. The joy I feel is amazing. I don’t ever want to go back.”

## DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

### 2016 Admissions

Justice Center		percent	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
<b>admissions</b>		100%	49	27	16	44	136
<b>gender</b>	female	29%	9	9	5	16	39
	male	71%	40	18	11	28	97
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	14%	4	7	3	6	20
	22 - 30 years	46%	17	10	8	27	62
	31 - 40 years	26%	20	6	3	6	35
	41 - 50 years	12%	6	4	2	5	17
	51 - 60 years	1%	1	0	0	0	1
	61 and older	1%	1	0	0	0	1
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	3%	3	0	1	0	4
	Asian	1%	0	0	1	0	1
	Caucasian	63%	24	14	11	37	86
	Hispanic	28%	20	12	3	3	38
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	other	5%	2	1	0	4	7
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	19%	12	7	5	2	26
	has HS / GED	55%	32	20	6	17	75
	some college	23%	4	0	5	22	31
	college degree	3%	1	0	0	3	4
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	married	9%	7	4	0	1	12
	separated	1%	1	0	0	0	1
	divorced	9%	5	2	0	5	12
	single	81%	36	21	16	38	111
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	24%	12	13	0	7	32
<b>employment</b>	employed	26%	14	10	3	8	35
	unemployed	74%	35	17	13	36	101
<b>primary drug</b>	alcohol	2%	0	0	0	3	3
	cocaine	1%	0	2	0	0	2
	heroin	41%	18	7	7	23	55
	marijuana	6%	2	3	1	2	8
	methamphetamine	40%	28	10	6	11	55
	opiates	7%	1	5	1	2	9
	prescription drugs	3%	0	0	1	3	4

## DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

### 2016 Terminations

Justice Center		percent	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
<b>terminations</b>		100%	18	14	5	13	50
<b>gender</b>	female	40%	4	6	4	6	20
	male	60%	14	8	1	7	30
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	16%	6	0	0	2	8
	22 - 30 years	50%	6	7	3	9	25
	31 - 40 years	16%	3	3	1	1	8
	41 - 50 years	12%	3	3	0	0	6
	51 - 60 years	6%	0	1	1	1	3
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian	2%	0	0	1	0	1
	Caucasian	78%	10	12	4	13	39
	Hispanic	18%	7	2	0	0	9
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	other	2%	1	0	0	0	1
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	22%	4	3	0	4	11
	has HS / GED	60%	10	9	3	8	30
	some college	10%	3	1	0	1	5
	college degree	8%	1	1	2	0	4
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	married	6%	0	2	0	1	3
	separated	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	divorced	10%	2	1	0	2	5
	single	82%	16	10	5	10	41
	widowed	2%	0	1	0	0	1
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	22%	1	5	1	4	11
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	12%	0	2	1	3	6
	unemployed	88%	18	12	4	10	44
	unknown	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>primary drug at admission</b>	alcohol	6%	0	0	1	2	3
	cocaine	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	heroin	42%	10	4	1	6	21
	marijuana	6%	0	3	0	0	3
	methamphetamine	42%	7	6	3	5	21
	opiates	2%	1	0	0	0	1
	prescription drugs	2%	0	1	0	0	1

## DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

### 2016 Graduations

Justice Center		percent	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
<b>graduations</b>		100%	18	9	12	24	63
<b>gender</b>	female	37%	9	0	6	8	23
	male	63%	9	9	6	16	40
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	8%	2	0	0	3	5
	22 - 30 years	63%	8	7	6	19	40
	31 - 40 years	13%	4	1	2	1	8
	41 - 50 years	13%	4	1	3	0	8
	51 - 60 years	3%	0	0	1	1	2
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	2%	1	0	0	0	1
	Asian	5%	0	0	1	2	3
	Caucasian	71%	12	5	7	21	45
	Hispanic	20%	5	4	3	1	13
	other	2%	0	0	1	0	1
<b>education at admission</b>	needs HS / GED	16%	2	2	5	1	10
	has HS / GED	55%	11	7	7	10	35
	some college	27%	5	0	0	12	17
	college degree	2%	0	0	0	1	1
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	married	3%	1	0	1	0	2
	separated	3%	2	0	0	0	2
	divorced	5%	0	1	2	0	3
	single	89%	15	8	9	24	56
	widowed	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	24%	8	4	1	2	15
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	19%	3	1	2	6	12
	unemployed	81%	15	8	10	18	51
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>primary drug at admission</b>	alcohol	3%	1	0	0	1	2
	cocaine	5%	1	0	0	2	3
	heroin	19%	1	1	1	9	12
	marijuana	5%	2	0	0	1	3
	methamphetamine	55%	12	6	11	6	35
	opiates	6%	0	2	0	2	4
	prescription drugs	3%	0	0	0	2	2
	other	3%	1	0	0	1	2

## CHAPTER 2 DUI Court

DUI Court admits repeat-offense DUI offenders, with the goal of helping them to achieve sobriety while reducing the grave dangers that driving under the influence presents to the community. Based on the Drug Court model, the program was designed in 2004 by a group of stakeholders under the leadership of Hon. Carlton Biggs, and is presently offered at four justice centers. In addition to sobriety, the program emphasizes rebuilding family ties, maintaining employment and a stable living environment, and pursuing educational goals.

The program for second- and third-time misdemeanor DUI offenders is a minimum of twelve months in length. In 2014, the DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach, under the direction of Hon. Matthew Anderson, started a pilot expansion of the program to serve felony DUI offenders charged with receiving their fourth DUI within ten years. The success of the pilot enabled the DUI Courts at all four justice centers to begin accepting these felony offenders into a program which is at least 18 months in length.

DUI Court includes regular court appearances, substance abuse treatment, intensive probation supervision, individual and group counseling, frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, and residential treatment as necessary. Participants are connected with services such as educational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, employment skills training, job searches, medical and dental treatment, housing, and family reunification. The participants are assisted through a collaboration that includes the Superior Court, the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, the offices of the Public Defender and the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and local law enforcement agencies.

In 2016, the DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center continued as one of four programs in the country designated by the National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC) as an Academy Court, to serve as a teaching site and model for the establishment of similar programs in other jurisdictions. In May, the Court hosted a visit by a judge and team members from Oregon; and in December, the Court welcomed teams from Vermont, Delaware, Arkansas, Idaho and Sacramento, CA, for a half-day training — the highlight of three days of classes and workshops on DUI Court development offered by NCDC.

In June, at the annual conference of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in Anaheim, CA, Judge Anderson and representatives from the nation's three other DUI Academy Courts discussed evidence-based best practices for implementing this proven treatment alternative for repeat-offense impaired drivers.

In 2016, **196** defendants were admitted to DUI Court, and at the end of the year there were **268** active participants. During the year, **118** participants graduated from the program, bringing the total number of graduates to **1,354** since the inception of DUI Court.



### DUI Court Judicial Officers 2004-2016

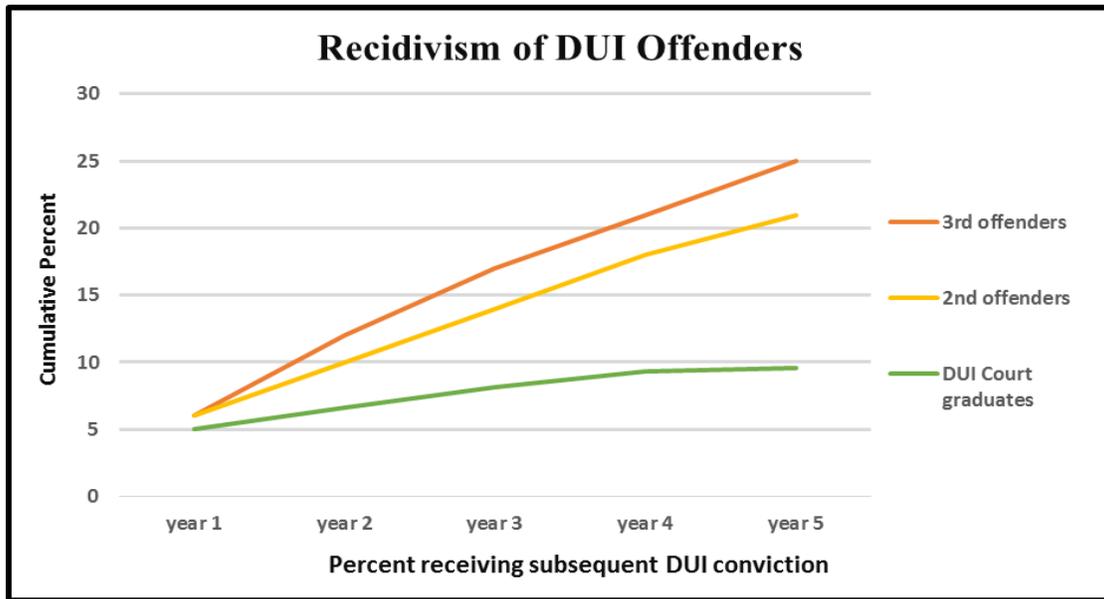
Hon. Carlton Biggs  
Hon. Michael Cassidy  
Hon. Terri Flynn-Peister  
Hon. Joe Perez  
Hon. Robert Knox  
Hon. Mary Kreber

Hon. Douglas Hatchimonji  
Hon. Wendy Lindley  
Hon. Donald Gaffney  
Hon. Debra Carrillo  
Hon. Matthew Anderson  
Hon. Katherine Lewis

# DUI Court - Results and Benefits

## Reduced Recidivism

As shown by the chart below, only **9.6%** of DUI Court graduates who have been out of the program for five years were re-convicted of DUI within that time. In contrast, a study by the California DMV\* shows that **21%** of second offense drunk drivers and **25%** of third offense drunk drivers in the state were convicted of a subsequent DUI offense within five years. The study shows that those numbers continue to rise over time to **35%** and **43%** respectively, while the line for DUI Court graduates, below, appears to level off below **10%**.



\* 2015 Annual Report of the California DUI Management Information System, at p. 44

DUI Court Participant Recidivism Five Years after Graduation						
Justice Center	Harbor	North	Central	West	total	percent
total number of graduates since inception	682	300	184	188	1354	
total number of graduates, five years after graduation	472	179	86	37	774	100%
re-convicted within 1 year	30	7	2	0	39	5.0%
re-convicted within 2 years	36	11	3	1	51	6.6%
re-convicted within 3 years	42	15	4	2	63	8.1%
re-convicted within 4 years	46	18	6	2	72	9.3%
re-convicted within 5 years	46	19	6	3	74	9.6%

## DUI Court - Results and Benefits, continued

### Significant Cost Savings

A significant benefit of the DUI Court program is the savings to the County of the cost of incarcerating the DUI offenders, who serve all or some of their mandated sentences through electronic home confinement. The average cost to house an inmate at one of the five county jail facilities is \$146.53 per day. In 2016, the DUI Court program saved **35,002 jail bed days**, resulting in a **cost savings of \$5,128,843**. Since its inception, the DUI Court program has saved **287,561** jail bed days, resulting in a total savings of **\$31,734,401**.

### Healthy Babies

Graduates of DUI Court can look forward to a new life of sobriety and promise; and if they become parents, it is appropriate that they be able to share that new life with a healthy baby, rather than an infant who suffers from the harmful effects of the mother's substance abuse. During 2016, **3 babies** were born free of drugs or fetal alcohol syndrome to women while they were participating in the program, bringing the DUI Court total to **14 babies** since 2008.

### Other Program Benefits

Community service hours are an essential component of DUI Court — both as a graduation requirement and as a sanction when participants are not in compliance with the program. During 2016, participants performed **1,539 hours of community service**.

In addition to its direct financial benefit, DUI Court also produces a tremendous savings in human lives by reforming repeat-offense drunk drivers — who are likely, eventually, to cause death or serious injury to themselves or to innocent victims. The value of these avoided costs is not easily calculated, but is clear nonetheless.



***In their own words*** — from the 2016 phase advancement and graduation speeches of DUI Court participants

“At age 14, I took my first drink of liquor, and that was the beginning of a 30 year battle with drugs and alcohol. Little did I know at the time that I had a disease ... most importantly, a disease that tells me I don't have it.”

“I came to United State about 8 years ago. I went to school in UCI, I made new friends who are heavy drinkers and started parties with them ... the next thing I know is that I have become alcoholic. I got 2 DUI in 1 year. Alcohol gave me so many troubles and completely changed my life to a very bad direction.”

“I had everything that anyone would want and yet I was drinking myself to death. My outward success made it very difficult for me to see that I had a problem with alcohol, however the people around me didn't have the same difficulty.”

“In a short period of time, I destroyed everything. My career, my relationships with friends, my family.”

<b>DUI COURT</b>					
<b>2016 Program Totals</b>					
Justice Center	Central	Harbor	North	West	total
active as of 12/31/2015	34	92	41	48	215
defendants evaluated for admission into program	108	315	88	109	620
admitted during 2016	36	82	34	44	196
transferred from another DUI Court program	0	0	1	0	1
no-fault termination — opt-out period	3	2	3	2	10
no-fault termination — extenuating circumstances	0	0	0	0	0
transferred to another DUI Court program	0	0	0	1	1
transferred to another treatment court program	0	0	0	0	0
terminated — program non-compliance	2	7	3	3	15
graduated	15	50	14	39	118
active as of 12/31/2016	50	115	55	48	268
drug-free babies born during program	0	0	1	2	3
jail bed days saved	4,624	15,220	4,426	8,694	32,964
prison bed days saved	0	2,038	0	0	2,038



***In their own words*** — from 2016 DUI Court phase advancement and graduation speeches

“I have realized that regardless of how we have lived before arriving here in this program, we are all fighting the same disease.”

“I feel good that I have built up my willpower and made myself emotionally and mentally stronger against the evil grip of alcohol.”

<b>DUI COURT - Demographic Information</b>							
<b>2016 Admissions</b>							
<b>Justice Center</b>		<b>percent</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>Harbor</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>admissions</b>		100%	36	34	44	82	196
<b>gender</b>	female	25%	5	8	9	27	49
	male	75%	31	26	35	55	147
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	1%	1	0	0	0	1
	22 - 30 years	30%	10	12	16	20	58
	31 - 40 years	31%	11	12	16	22	61
	41 - 50 years	19%	7	2	9	20	38
	51 - 60 years	16%	7	6	2	17	32
	over 60 years	3%	0	2	1	3	6
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	4%	1	3	1	2	7
	Asian	5%	4	1	2	5	10
	Caucasian	48%	7	15	18	54	94
	Hispanic	37%	21	12	20	20	73
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	Pacific Islander	2%	1	1	0	1	3
	other	4%	2	1	2	2	7
	(data unavailable)	1%	0	1	1	0	2
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	17%	10	9	11	3	33
	has HS / GED	25%	13	14	4	17	48
	some college	37%	6	8	21	38	73
	college degree	21%	7	3	8	24	42
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	single	53%	20	20	25	39	104
	married	23%	10	9	9	17	45
	separated	5%	0	1	2	7	10
	divorced	17%	5	3	7	19	34
	widowed	2%	1	1	1	0	3
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	23%	10	16	0	20	46
<b>employment</b>	employed	74%	27	19	34	65	145
	unemployed	26%	9	15	10	17	51
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0

<b>DUI COURT - Demographic Information</b>							
<b>2016 Terminations</b>							
<b>Justice Center</b>		<b>percent</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>Harbor</b>	<b>total</b>
<b>terminations</b>		100%	3	3	3	6	15
<b>gender</b>	female	27%	1	0	0	3	4
	male	73%	2	3	3	3	11
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	13%	1	0	0	1	2
	22 - 30 years	40%	0	1	2	3	6
	31 - 40 years	20%	1	2	0	0	3
	41 - 50 years	7%	0	0	0	1	1
	51 - 60 years	20%	1	0	1	1	3
	over 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	7%	0	1	0	0	1
	Asian	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	Caucasian	53%	1	1	2	4	8
	Hispanic	33%	2	1	1	1	5
	other	7%	0	0	0	1	1
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	7%	0	0	0	1	1
	has HS / GED	27%	2	1	1	0	4
	some college	33%	0	1	2	2	5
	college degree	33%	1	1	0	3	5
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	divorced	7%	0	0	0	1	1
	married	13%	0	0	1	1	2
	separated	7%	0	0	0	1	1
	single	73%	3	3	2	3	11
	widowed	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	33%	0	2	1	2	5
<b>employment</b>	employed	73%	2	2	3	4	11
	unemployed	27%	1	1	0	2	4
	unknown	0%	0	0	0	0	0

## DUI COURT - Demographic Information

### 2016 Graduations

Justice Center		percent	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
<b>graduations</b>		100%	15	14	40	49	118
<b>gender</b>	female	31%	5	1	14	17	37
	male	69%	10	13	26	32	81
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	3%	0	0	2	1	3
	22 - 30 years	30%	5	6	10	15	36
	31 - 40 years	29%	3	5	14	12	34
	41 - 50 years	20%	3	2	8	11	24
	51 - 60 years	14%	2	1	5	8	16
	over 60 years	4%	2	0	1	2	5
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	3%	0	1	2	0	3
	Asian	5%	1	0	4	1	6
	Caucasian	47%	4	1	18	33	56
	Hispanic	38%	9	9	14	13	45
	Native American	1%	0	1	0	0	1
	other	6%	1	2	2	2	7
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	16%	3	1	10	5	19
<b>at admission</b>	has HS / GED	23%	2	7	5	13	27
	some college	48%	7	6	19	25	57
	college degree	13%	3	0	6	6	15
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	married	22%	4	5	9	8	26
	separated	4%	1	0	2	1	4
	divorced	15%	1	2	5	10	18
	single	58%	9	7	24	29	69
	widowed	1%	0	0	0	1	1
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	19%	0	7	2	13	22
<b>employment</b>	employed	79%	13	8	32	40	93
<b>at admission</b>	unemployed	21%	2	6	8	9	25
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0

## CHAPTER 3

# Veterans Treatment Court

Veterans Treatment Court was established in 2008 by Hon. Wendy Lindley to serve military service veterans with mental health issues who become involved with the criminal justice system. The program, which was the first Veterans Court to be established in California, embodies an approach that has been encouraged by an amendment to Penal Code section 1170.9, which says that if a person convicted of a criminal offense is a military veteran and can show that he or she is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, sexual trauma or other psychological problems, the court may order that person into a treatment program instead of jail or prison.

Veterans eligible to receive services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are guided through a phased program, at least eighteen months in length, by a case manager who is funded by the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, and a Deputy Probation Officer who is funded by the County. The program includes mental health counseling, self-help meetings, weekly meetings with a care coordinator and the Probation Officer, the development of a life plan, frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, and regular court-review hearings. Veterans who are not eligible for VA services receive treatment from the county Health Care Agency.

The VA Long Beach Healthcare System also provides residential and outpatient treatment for seriously addicted substance abusers, and handles other health-related issues. Participants are assisted in their recovery and re-entry into society by volunteer mentors who are also military service veterans; and partnerships have been formed with other service providers to offer additional support to the veterans in the program.

Veterans Treatment Court, which is convened at the Community Court, has attracted national attention as an innovative and effective way to help veterans overcome the issues that impede their full re-integration into society, while protecting public safety and reducing the costs associated with recidivism. The program, guided initially in 2016 by Hon. Joe Perez and thereafter by Hon. Mary Kreber, served during the year as a Mentor Court, as designated by Justice for Vets and the National Drug Court Institute.

During the year, judges and partner agency staff from Michigan, Virginia, Texas, Idaho, and two counties in Washington, as well as from the County of Los Angeles, made separate visits to the Community Court to observe the Veterans Treatment Court team meeting and the court session, and to speak with the judge and the team to learn best practices for establishing or improving Veterans Court in their jurisdictions. In June, Judge Perez and team members from Veterans Mentor Court participated in the presentation of panel discussions and workshops at the annual conference of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the associated VetCon conference in Anaheim, CA.

During the year, **11** participants graduated from Veterans Treatment Court, bringing to **87** the total number of graduates since the inception of the program. At the end of 2016, there were **31** participants active in the program.



# Veterans Treatment Court — Results and Benefits

## Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of Veterans Treatment Court is the rate of recidivism for graduates of the program. In determining the rate of recidivism, the criminal history records of all program graduates are reviewed each year after their graduation, and any conviction since graduation is noted. Of the **87** participants who have graduated since the inception of the program, **only 9** have been re-convicted of any offense — a recidivism rate of **10.4%**.

## Significant Cost Savings

Veterans Treatment Court provides significant savings to the County because of the avoided costs of incarcerating the defendants. Because, following AB 109 realignment, both jail and prison time would be served in the County jail, the cost of both jail and prison bed days is calculated at \$146.53 per day, which is an average of the 2016 costs at the five County jail facilities.

The calculation of the jail and prison bed cost savings is made only for program graduates, and any incarceration days that result from in-program sanctions are subtracted from the total number of jail or prison days that were stayed as a result of the alternative sentence. During 2016, the Veterans Treatment Court program **saved 2,406 jail and prison bed days** prior to the application of custody credits, which resulted in a **cost savings of \$352,550**. Since inception, the program has saved a total of **21,775** jail and prison bed days, for a cost savings of **\$2,837,785**.

## Benefits to Society

After the war in Vietnam, U.S. combat veterans returned home to an indifferent, if not hostile, reception. During the years which followed, our society as a whole seemed to turn its back on the returning veterans, and to ignore the terrible psychological damage that a large number had suffered as a result of their combat experience.

In those years, many addicted veterans found themselves on the wrong side of the “war against drugs”. Mentally ill veterans often ended up in jail, and then were released untreated to a life on the streets. Homeless veterans found themselves reviled as an unpleasant nuisance. Incarceration, homelessness, and exile from society were the coin with which these deeply troubled soldiers were repaid for their service.

When combat veterans — steeped in violence and stress — become involved in the criminal justice system and are sent to jail or to prison, it is nearly certain that, upon their release, their withdrawal, their repressed anger, and their alienation will have gotten worse, not better.

Through the Veterans Treatment Court, we can help these veterans to reclaim their lives, and to repair the collateral damage to their families caused by their PTSD. Through compassion, we can make our communities safer; and our society can be proud, rather than ashamed, of the way it treats those who have sacrificed so much for us.

## VETERANS TREATMENT COURT - Demographic Information

### 2016 Program Totals

		admissions	%	terminations	%	graduations	%
<b>total</b>		18	100%	6	100%	11	100%
<b>gender</b>	female	0	0%	1	17%	1	9%
	male	18	100%	5	83%	10	91%
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	22 - 30 years	6	33%	2	33%	7	64%
	31 - 40 years	6	33%	2	33%	1	9%
	41 - 50 years	5	28%	0	0%	1	9%
	51 - 60 years	0	0%	1	16%	2	18%
	over 60 years	1	6%	1	16%	0	0%
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	2	11%	0	0%	0	0%
	Asian	0	0%	1	16%	0	0%
	Caucasian	11	61%	4	67%	7	64%
	Hispanic	3	17%	1	16%	4	36%
	Native American	1	6%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	1	6%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	has HS / GED	11	61%	4	67%	7	64%
	some college	6	33%	2	33%	2	18%
	college degree	1	6%	0	0%	2	18%
<b>marital status</b>	married	5	28%	1	16%	2	18%
	separated	2	11%	0	0%	3	27%
	divorced	7	39%	3	50%	2	18%
	single	4	22%	2	33%	4	36%
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	9	50%	0	0%	3	27%
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	5	28%	3	50%	4	36%
	unemployed	13	72%	3	50%	7	64%
<b>primary drug</b>	alcohol	10	55%	3	50%	8	73%
	cocaine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	heroin	2	11%	0	0%	0	0%
	marijuana	3	17%	2	33%	1	9%
	methamphetamine	3	17%	1	16%	2	18%
	opiates	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	prescription drugs	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

## Documentary Film, Videos Feature Veterans Court

Orange County's Veterans Court is featured in *Other Than Honorable*, part of the documentary series *In Their Boots*, about the impact of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on the lives of U.S. service personnel. The 46-minute film depicts the challenges faced by returning combat veterans who become involved in the criminal justice system, and the therapeutic alternative to incarceration that is offered by the Veterans Treatment Court. The film can be viewed at <http://www.lightrainfilms.com/#/other-than-honorable-index>

Orange County's Veterans Court is also featured in videos by CNN and the California Judicial Council, available on the Internet at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) by searching with "Justice for Vets: Volunteer Mentors in Veterans Treatment Courts" and "Kleps Award: Orange County's Combat Veterans Court", respectively.



***In their own words*** — from the 2016 phase advancement and graduation speeches of Veterans Treatment Court participants

"After I got out of the military I was different. I don't talk about the time I spent in combat very often outside of a therapeutic environment. But the things that happened to me, the things that I did and what I saw, had a profound effect on me."

"I witnessed a decapitation at a range of two meters, for which I blamed myself. ... I returned home to find my wife pregnant. Four days after I confronted the guy she had the affair with, he committed suicide. That guy was my younger brother. Was I depressed and buried in guilt -- hell yes. A second divorce later, I met my current wife. She knew nothing of my traumas, and over the next seven years she was on the front lines of my anger, my verbal abuse, and my nightmares. She knew something was wrong, but had no idea about the monster I was hiding. She begged me to get help ... I had no idea how badly I was broken, no idea how much help I needed, and no idea that change, real change was possible."

"The person I am today is a lot different from the person I was the day I was released from jail and started this program."

"My entire perspective on life has changed. Today I have a life where I'm a husband and a father. I help other people."

"I look forward to what is ahead of me and I am excited about where my life is heading."



## CHAPTER 4

# Mental Health Courts

Orange County's Mental Health Court programs, established by Hon. Wendy Lindley, are all based on the Drug Court model and are all convened at the Community Court. In 2016, they were guided initially by Hon. Joe Perez, and thereafter by Hon. Mary Kreber.

### Opportunity Court and Recovery Court

Opportunity Court and Recovery Court, which began during 2002 and 2006 respectively, have evolved to include the same criteria for admission. They are voluntary programs, at least eighteen months in length, for non-violent criminal offenders who have been diagnosed with chronic and persistent mental illness, virtually all of whom also have co-occurring substance abuse issues. The collaborative teams consist of the judicial officer and representatives from the Health Care Agency's Mental Health Services division, the Probation Department, and the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender.

Participants are served through the Health Care Agency's Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) if they meet the eligibility criteria of that program regarding recent hospitalizations and/or incarcerations; and if ineligible for PACT, participants are served through other sources of treatment. A variety of services are offered through the programs, including mental health and psychiatric care, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, family counseling, and residential treatment if appropriate. In addition to these services, program participants are also provided with referrals to medical care, employment counseling, job skills training, and assistance in accessing government disability benefits and housing.

During 2016, a total of **10** participants graduated from Opportunity Court and Recovery Court, and at the end of the year, **36** participants were active in the programs.

### WIT ("Whatever It Takes") Court

The WIT ("Whatever It Takes") Court is a voluntary program, at least eighteen months in length, for non-violent criminal offenders who have been diagnosed with chronic and persistent mental illness, and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. WIT Court was started in 2006, and is funded through Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act.

The program involves regular court appearances, frequent drug and alcohol testing, meetings with the WIT Court team, and direct access to specialized services. The team consists of the judicial officer, as well as representatives from the Health Care Agency's Mental Health Services division, the Telecare Corporation, the Probation Department, and the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender.

Health Care Agency has contracted with Telecare to provide a variety of services to participants, including mental health and psychiatric services, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, residential treatment, family counseling, and peer mentoring. In addition to these services, program participants are also provided with access to medical services, educational assessment and support, employment counseling, job training and placement, and assistance with obtaining government disability benefits and housing.

During 2016, a total of **12** participants graduated from WIT Court, and at the end of the year, **130** participants were active in the program.

## Mental Health Courts, continued

### Assisted Intervention Court

Assisted Intervention Court is a program for certain criminal offenders who have mental health problems which are diagnosed as severe and persistent, but who have a lower criminogenic risk factor than the populations of the other mental health court programs. Although these defendants are at lower risk of criminal re-offense, without the intervention of this program, many may languish in custody for weeks or months without receiving any treatment for their mental illness. Instead, through the Assisted Intervention Court, potential participants are identified for evaluation by partnering agency personnel and, if accepted into the program, are afforded immediate mental health treatment through Health Care Agency and a subcontracted mental health services provider.

The program has a format that is similar to the other treatment court programs offered at the Community Court. The program lasts for a minimum of eighteen months, during which time the participant may be provided residential treatment, if appropriate. Assisted Intervention Court is funded through Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act. At the end of 2016, **24** participants were active in the program.

<b>Mental Health Courts</b>						
<b>2016 Admissions by Mental Health Disorder</b>						
	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	Assisted Intervention Court	total	percent
admissions	10	11	92	12	125	100%
Bi-Polar Disorder	6	4	22	3	35	28%
Schizophrenia	0	1	3	3	7	5.6%
Major Depressive Disorder	0	1	3	0	4	3.2%
Schizoaffective Disorder	1	2	19	2	24	19.2%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Mood Disorder NOS	3	0	26	1	30	24%
Psychotic Disorder NOS	0	3	19	3	25	20%

***In their own words*** — from the phase advancement speeches of  
2016 mental health court participants

“The past 12 years have been remarkably difficult for me. Almost overnight I went from a guy who was bright, insightful, loving, and confident to an individual who was anxious, paranoid, angry, and insecure.”

“Before Recovery Court, my mental health was very bad. I was seeing things and hearing voices and seeing things in my back yard. I was scared to look out the window. Before, I would sit quietly for 10 hours too paranoid to look outside.”

# Mental Health Courts — Results and Benefits

## Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of the mental health court programs is the low rate of recidivism for graduates of the programs. In determining the rate of recidivism, the criminal history records of all program graduates are reviewed each year after their graduation, and any conviction since graduation is noted. As shown in the chart below, the overall rate of re-conviction for any offense for mental health program graduates is **31.4%**.

Mental Health Courts					
Recidivism Data for Program Graduates					
	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total	percent
total graduates as of 12/31/2016	113	58	106	277	100%
re-convicted, any charge	38	13	36	87	31.4%
% re-convicted, any charge	33.6%	22.4%	33%	31.4%	

## Significant Cost Savings

Mental health court programs provide significant savings to the County because they reduce 911 calls, other law enforcement contacts, arrests, hospitalizations, involuntary commitments, trials, and incarcerations. To determine the savings from *just one* of these — avoided jail and prison bed days — the total number of jail or prison days that were stayed for program graduates is counted, and any incarceration days that resulted from in-program sanctions are subtracted. Because, following AB 109 realignment, both jail and prison time would be served in the County jail, the cost for both jail and prison bed days is calculated at \$146.53 per day, which is an average of the 2016 costs at the five Orange County jail facilities.

In 2016, the mental health court programs **saved 5,474 jail and prison bed days** prior to the application of custody credits, resulting in a **cost savings of \$802,105**. Since inception, the mental health courts have saved more than **\$9,561,105** in jail and prison bed costs.

## Other Program Benefits

Community service hours are an essential component of the mental health courts — used as a sanction when participants are not in compliance with the program and as a productive use of time for participants who are not working or going to school. During 2016, participants performed a remarkable **12,331 hours of community service**.



***In their own words*** — from the graduation speeches of 2016 mental health court participants

“It is amazing to me to think of how sick I was.  
I would hear voices and have suicidal thoughts. I had no will to live.”

“Now I am taking my medication and am sober.  
I take better care of my health, I go to school. I have a stable future.”

## Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information

### 2016 Admissions

		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
<b>admissions</b>		100%	10	11	92	113
<b>sex</b>	female	33%	6	4	27	37
	male	67%	4	7	65	76
<b>age</b>	0-17 years	0%	0	0	0	0
	18 - 21 years	5%	0	1	5	6
	22 - 30 years	29%	3	3	27	33
	31 - 40 years	27%	3	2	26	31
	41 - 50 years	21%	3	1	20	24
	51 - 60 years	16%	1	4	13	18
	over 60 years	1%	0	0	1	1
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	8%	1	1	7	9
	Asian	2%	0	0	2	2
	Caucasian	65%	7	6	60	73
	Hispanic	21%	1	1	22	24
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	4%	1	3	1	5
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	22%	1	2	22	25
	has HS / GED	40%	4	4	37	45
	some college	34%	4	4	30	38
	college degree	4%	1	1	3	5
<b>marital status</b>	married	3%	0	1	2	3
	separated	11%	0	0	12	12
	divorced	22%	0	3	22	25
	single	65%	10	7	56	73
	widowed	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	29%	0	3	30	33
<b>employment</b>	employed	2%	2	0	0	2
	unemployed	98%	8	11	92	111
<b>primary drug</b>	alcohol	6%	1	1	5	7
	cocaine	4%	1	1	2	4
	heroin	12%	1	0	13	14
	marijuana	12%	1	4	9	14
	methamphetamine	59%	6	3	58	67
	opiates	2%	0	1	1	2
	prescription drugs	2%	0	1	1	2
	other	3%	0	0	3	3

## Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information

### 2016 Terminations

		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
<b>terminations</b>		100%	11	5	34	50
<b>sex</b>	female	50%	7	2	16	25
	male	50%	4	3	18	25
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	18%	2	2	5	9
	22 - 30 years	30%	3	3	9	15
	31 - 40 years	18%	3	0	6	9
	41 - 50 years	26%	2	0	11	13
	51 - 60 years	8%	1	0	3	4
	over 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	16%	0	0	8	8
	Asian	0%	0	0	0	0
	Caucasian	62%	8	4	19	31
	Hispanic	16%	2	0	6	8
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	6%	1	1	1	3
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	28%	0	0	14	14
	has HS / GED	50%	6	2	17	25
	some college	18%	4	3	2	9
	college degree	4%	1	0	1	2
<b>marital status</b>	married	2%	1	0	0	1
	separated	10%	0	0	5	5
	divorced	10%	2	0	3	5
	single	78%	8	5	26	39
	widowed	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	22%	4	0	7	11
<b>employment</b>	employed	2%	1	0	0	1
	unemployed	98%	10	5	34	49
<b>primary drug at admission</b>	alcohol	4%	1	0	1	2
	cocaine	4%	0	0	2	2
	heroin	14%	3	2	2	7
	marijuana	12%	3	1	2	6
	methamphetamine	58%	2	1	26	29
	opiates	4%	1	1	0	2
	prescription drugs	4%	1	0	1	2

## Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information

### 2016 Graduations

		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
<b>graduations</b>		100%	3	7	12	22
<b>gender</b>	female	55%	1	3	7	11
	male	45%	2	4	5	11
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	5%	0	0	1	1
	22 - 30 years	40%	2	2	5	9
	31 - 40 years	30%	1	3	3	7
	41 - 50 years	20%	0	2	2	4
	51 - 60 years	5%	0	0	1	1
	over 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	5%	0	0	1	1
	Asian	5%	0	1	0	1
	Caucasian	65%	2	3	10	15
	Hispanic	25%	1	3	1	5
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	30%	0	2	4	6
	has HS / GED	40%	1	4	3	8
	some college	25%	2	1	4	7
	college degree	5%	0	0	1	1
<b>marital status</b>	married	5%	0	1	0	1
	separated	5%	0	0	2	2
	divorced	15%	0	0	3	3
	single	70%	3	6	6	15
	widowed	5%	0	0	1	1
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	25%	0	0	6	5
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	15%	1	2	0	3
	unemployed	85%	2	5	12	19
<b>primary drug at admission</b>	methamphetamine	60%	2	2	10	14
	heroin	10%	0	2	0	2
	cocaine	0%	0	0	0	0
	marijuana	15%	0	1	2	3
	alcohol	10%	1	1	0	2
	n/a	5%	0	1	0	1

## CHAPTER 5

# The Community Court

In January, 2002, a team led by Presiding Judge Frederick Horn and Judge Wendy Lindley began a formal needs assessment and planning process for the creation of a Community Court, which would address the complex challenges presented by the homeless veterans, the hopeless addicts, and the mentally ill castoffs of society who sought refuge at the County's civic center. Over the course of two years, this team interviewed 30 key stakeholders, convened focus groups with many social service providers, education leaders, criminal justice professionals, and faith-based organizations, and held a resident town hall forum in Spanish.

The Community Court, located at 909 N. Main St. in Santa Ana, opened to the public in October, 2008. In a warm, early-California setting it provides programs and services which promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and enhance the quality of life of the community, and which assist people in need to transform their lives by giving them the tools and resources to help them lead clean and sober, productive, fulfilling lives.

Any walk-in client is welcome to enter the Community Court in order to access any of the onsite supportive services that are offered there -- including but not limited to mental health assessment and referral, medical health assessment and referral, vocational skills training and employment assistance, legal aid for civil matters, and assistance with accessing government benefits and veterans resources. Criminal offenders with open cases who are homeless, addicted, or mentally ill may be referred to the Community Court to be evaluated for admission to any of the treatment court programs that are convened there.

Hon. Mary Kreber presides over the programs at the Community Court. The sessions of the Drug Court and DUI court held there serve residents of the Central Justice Center jurisdiction, while the several mental health courts, the Veterans Treatment Court, and the Homeless Outreach Court programs which are held there serve residents of the entire county. The Community Court is staffed by representatives from the Court and its justice partners, and from the agencies which provide onsite services and resources for the walk-in clients and program participants — including among others the VA Healthcare System Long Beach, the California Department of Rehabilitation, the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, and the Orange County Health Care Agency.

In 2014, the Center for Court Innovation, in partnership with the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, designated the Orange County Community Court as a National Mentor Site, one of only four in the country, at which other jurisdictions are able to learn best practices for the creation and operation of these effective public safety partnerships.



***In his own words*** — from a 2016 program participant at the Community Court

“I have seen what a year and six months of sobriety can do for the quality of my life. It has restored my relationships with my family, I’ve maintained a steady job, I have money in the bank, but most of all I am pretty much the happiest I’ve ever been.”

## The Community Court, continued

In 2016, in addition to the visitors who came to observe the Veterans Treatment Court program, the Community Court hosted site visits by judges and teams from Solano County and the Las Vegas, NV, Justice Court, by a Korean judge who was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Southern California Law School, by a delegation from the Republic of Vietnam, and by a writer from The Atlantic, whose five-part series on the programs can be found on the Internet by searching with "The Atlantic Orange County Community Court".



In a welcoming environment, the Community Court offers hope for a better life

### Military Diversion Program at the Community Court

A diversion program for military service veterans, who have psychological or substance abuse problems arising from their service and who are charged with misdemeanor offenses, is heard each week at the Community Court. The program was established by Hon. Joe Perez, and is now under the direction of Hon. Mary Kreber. Established pursuant to PC1001.80, the military diversion program seeks to address the underlying causes of the criminal behavior; however, it differs significantly from Veterans Court, both in the level of oversight and accountability, and in the process for acceptance into the program.

The therapeutic treatment in the PC1001.80 military diversion program is ordered at the time of arraignment as a pre-plea diversion from prosecution, with the case then being transferred to the Community Court for regular progress reports. In Veterans Court, by contrast, the treatment is included as a post-plea and post-conviction condition of probation, as ordered by Judge Kreber.

Treatment in the PC1001.80 diversion program may be ordered for up to two years, and is provided by the VA for personnel who have been honorably discharged, and for others by Health Care Agency or another approved provider. Following the order into treatment, defendants report to Judge Kreber for periodic progress reviews; and upon successful completion of treatment, the charges may be dismissed. At the end of 2016, **55** people were active in the military diversion program.

## CHAPTER 6

# Homeless Outreach Court

Homeless Outreach Court was started by Hon. Wendy Lindley in 2003 as a way to address the outstanding infractions and low-level misdemeanors of homeless people, while connecting them to a wide range of supportive services. The program, which is now under the direction of Hon. Mary Kreber, is held three Wednesdays a month at the Community Court in Santa Ana, and once each month during alternate months in a community room of the First Christian Church in Anaheim and at the Village of Hope homeless shelter in Tustin.

The program provides a compassionate response to the fact that the homeless participants, many of whom suffer from chronic mental illness, may receive citations simply because they are homeless — with the ironic result that such charges may hinder their efforts to obtain the government disability assistance that could aid in their rehabilitation. Through this voluntary program, participants can address their citations and outstanding warrants by accessing, as appropriate, physical and mental health care; alcohol or drug-dependency self-help recovery meetings; community service activities; classes in life skills, computer skills, and literacy; and by becoming employed.

Homeless Outreach Court is an unfunded collaboration of the Court, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, the Orange County Department of Housing and Community Services, the Health Care Agency, the Veterans Administration, the Orange County Legal Aid Society, local law enforcement agencies, and a variety of homeless services providers.

The Public Defender has assumed the primary responsibility for the task of managing the very large caseload, which at the end of the year numbered **488 participants**. Public Defender staff help each participant to address not only the issues that brought that person to court, but also any other issues that impede his or her ability to achieve self-sufficiency. Referrals can be made to onsite partner agencies for assistance such as job skills training from the California Department of Rehabilitation, mental health assessment and treatment, legal services, housing services, veterans benefits, and governmental disability benefits.

In 2016, **130** people **completed** the program, with more than **1,040 hours of community service**. Since the inception of Homeless Outreach Court, **2,892** people have completed the program and have been helped to access the tools they need to regain their self-sufficiency.



*from Larisa Dinsmoor*, a Deputy Public Defender in the Homeless Outreach Court, featured in an article in The Atlantic that highlighted her work with this vulnerable population.\*

“The majority of people become homeless [because] something tragic happens in their lives. ... My role is not only to represent my clients, but also to build a relationship with them and find out what’s really going on in their lives that is causing them to be homeless.”

Noting that it is “much more costly to continually re-incarcerate someone than to simply take a moment and provide resources that already exist”, Ms. Dinsmoor continued, “You don’t want to just simply get someone off the streets. ... What I’ve seen is people actually go on [to start] their lives again and be successful and get jobs and have careers.”

\*[www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/09/why-defending-the-homeless-in-court-is-not-enough/499175/](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/09/why-defending-the-homeless-in-court-is-not-enough/499175/)

## CHAPTER 7 Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court, which is held at the Lamoreaux Justice Center in Orange, was established in 1998 to address the serious substance abuse issues of minors. The goal of the program, now known as Juvenile Recovery Court, is to support the youthful offender's commitment to sobriety by providing the treatment and supervision needed to promote abstinence from drug and alcohol abuse and to deter criminal behavior. The program is supported by grant funding obtained by the Probation Department through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act.

Under the direction of Hon. Julian Bailey, the team includes representatives from the Court, Health Care Agency, the Probation Department, the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender, and any retained counsel. Minors participating in the program are required to attend frequent progress review hearings with the judicial officer; remain clean and sober; attend weekly self-help groups; participate in group, individual, and family counseling; attend skills-building classes and other educational activities; and follow the terms and conditions of probation.

There were 21 participants in the program at the start of 2016. During the year **39** participants were admitted into the program, **23** participants were terminated or left the program without fault, and **10** graduated. Prior to their entry into the program, most of the graduates were using drugs daily — having started, on average, when they were 13 years old. At the time of their graduation, they had been clean and sober between two and eight months, with an average of **100** days clean and sober.

At the end of 2016, Juvenile Drug Court had **27** active participants. Since the inception of the program, a total of **702** participants have been admitted and **262** have graduated.

### Juvenile Drug Court Judicial Officers 1998-2016

Hon. Ronald E. Owen  
Hon. Robert E. Hutson  
Hon. Julian Bailey

Hon. Donna Crandall  
Hon. Maria Hernandez  
Hon. Fred Slaughter

Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood  
Ref. Maureen Aplin



***In their own words*** — from the 2016 phase advancement and graduation speeches of boys and girls participating in Juvenile Drug Court

"I started using drugs when I was 10.

Some of my friends offered me marijuana, and that's how I got started.

At 11 and 12 I was stealing, breaking into houses which led to my first incarceration.

After I got released I went back to doing the same things.

I was using drugs daily, I could not go for a couple of hours without it.

I got arrested 5 more times after that for violations, for not going to school, for using, and for going home late.

I continued hurting my family especially my mom with my behavior and my substance abuse."

"I started changing. I would disrespect my family, hit my mother, and even steal from my family for my drug use. I also wouldn't go to school at all, or even go home."

# Juvenile Drug Court — Results and Benefits

## Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of Juvenile Drug Court, for the program’s participants as well as for its graduates, is the reduction in the rate of recidivism — that is, being re-arrested and referred to the Probation Department, or being the subject of a delinquency petition under Welfare and Institutions Code Sec. 600.

The 2016 participants came into the Juvenile Drug Court program with a significant history of criminal activity, usually involving drugs — with an average of three prior sustained petitions each, some with as many as eight prior sustained petitions. Following their admission, and while they were participating in the program, **only one** of the 2016 Juvenile Drug Court participants with prior drug charges was arrested for a new law violation involving drugs.

Since graduating from Juvenile Drug Court, **252** participants have had at least an entire year of follow-up. Of these **252** graduates, **only 27** (11%) had a new referral to the Probation Department within one year of graduation. A total of **226** graduates have been out of the program for at least two years. Of these **226** graduates, **only 27** (12%) had a new referral to Probation within two years of graduation.

## Significant Cost Savings

While the participants are in the Juvenile Drug Court program, their time in custody is stayed, and upon graduation the charges against them are dismissed. According to Orange County Probation’s Fiscal Division, the average cost of housing a minor at the Orange County juvenile correctional facilities in 2016 was \$729.31 per day.

The 10 participants who graduated in 2016 had **1,789 days of custody stayed**, resulting in a **cost savings to the County of \$1,304,736**. The Probation Department calculates that the total cost savings to the County, since the inception of the Juvenile Drug Court program, amounts to nearly **\$24,151,000**.



***In their own words*** — from the 2016 phase advancement and graduation speeches of boys and girls participating in Juvenile Drug Court

“After I started this program, I started to notice how people really are, especially the ones I had around me. That is when I realized that life is too precious to waste on negative influences and to strive for better.”

“Joining this program got me thinking a lot about my life and what I was going to do with myself and my future.”

“I’ve realized how much time I’ve wasted, and I’m just glad to be able to say that I’ve realized this when I did. Because life is short. Looking death in the face made me realize there was so much more to life than going out and getting high, but I couldn’t have done it by myself.”

## JUVENILE DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

### 2016 Program Totals

		admissions	%	terminations	%	graduations	%
<b>total</b>		39	100	23	100	10	100
<b>gender</b>	female	14	36%	12	52%	1	10%
	male	25	64%	11	48%	9	90%
<b>age</b>	14 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	15 years	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%
	16 years	5	13%	1	4%	0	0%
	17 years	11	28%	5	22%	2	20%
	18 years	21	54%	11	48%	5	50%
	19+ years	1	3%	6	26%	3	30%
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	2	5%	0	0%	0	0%
	Asian	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%
	Caucasian	2	5%	3	13%	0	0%
	Hispanic	33	85%	18	78%	9	90%
	Native American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	1	3%	2	9%	1	10%
<b>education at admission</b>	attending high school	6	15%	3	13%	1	10%
	attending alternative HS	27	69%	18	78%	7	70%
	HS diploma/GED	1	3%	0	0%	1	10%
	some college	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	no information	5	13%	2	9%	1	10%
<b>marital status</b>	single	39	100%	23	100%	10	100%
	married	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	unemployed	39	100%	23	100%	10	100%
<b>primary drug</b>	alcohol	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	cocaine	1	3%	0	0%	1	10%
	heroin	0	0%	1	4%	0	0%
	marijuana/THC	33	85%	20	87%	7	70%
	methamphetamine	4	10%	2	9%	2	20%
	prescription drugs	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%

## CHAPTER 8

# Truancy Court

Truancy Court, located at the Lamoreaux Justice Center, is the third and most intensive intervention level of the County's Truancy Response Program, which targets chronically truant youth\* and their families. Established by Hon. Robert B. Hutson in 2001, the program has the goals of stabilizing school attendance in order to increase the chances of future academic success, reducing the number of youth who go on to commit crimes that result in the filing of formal petitions pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code §602, and educating families regarding the importance of education and engagement. Truancy Court is supported through funding received by the County pursuant to the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act.

When a student is identified as truant by a participating school district, the student and the parents are given notice to attend a mandatory meeting with school officials that is conducted by a representative from the District Attorney's Office. If the truancy problem is not corrected in response to this school-level intervention, the school district forwards a truancy referral to the Probation Department. If the student and the parents do not cooperate with the Probation Department in addressing the truancy problem, or if the student is younger than 12 years old, the family is referred to Truancy Court.

Truancy Court involves students and their parents in a collaborative effort to resolve the attendance problem. Partners include the District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department, the Department of Education, the Juvenile Court, the Public Defender, the Social Services Agency, the Health Care Agency, the community-based Parent Empowerment Program through F.A.C.E.S., and other support organizations. The students are monitored by the District Attorney and directed to attend school daily, and they must provide proof of attendance to the Court each week; the Public Defender assists the family in accessing community resources and helps them to comply with the Court's orders.

The Court will order the parents to attend a six-session Parent Empowerment Program (PEP), and the CalWorks program through the Social Services Agency. During the year a total of **433** people, from **150** families involved in the Truancy Court program, attended PEP classes, which provided them with skills that can help them improve the children's chances for success.

Truancy Court participants remain active until the chronic truancy problem, and such other issues that have contributed to the problem, are remedied to the satisfaction of the Court. Participants may be under Court supervision for as little as two months, or for twelve months or more, unless the family moves out of the County or a subsequent criminal charge is filed.

Community Service Programs, Inc. (CSP) offers participants culturally competent mental health services – including clinical assessments; case management; individual, family and group counseling; crisis intervention; behavior modification plans; and referrals to community support. During the year, a total of **102** Truancy Court participants and their families received these "wraparound" services.

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\* As defined by California Education Code section 48260, a student is truant if, without a valid excuse, during one school year he or she is tardy or absent from school for more than any 30-minute period on three separate occasions, or is absent from school for three full days, or any combination thereof.

# Truancy Court — Results and Benefits

## Improved School Attendance

A key measure of the effectiveness of Truancy Court is the improvement in the student's school attendance. During the fiscal year from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, a total of **39** youth successfully completed the program, all of whom had a markedly improved attendance rate, including **90 or more consecutive days of perfect attendance**.

## Decreased Delinquency

Successful intervention to address chronic truancy also decreases the likelihood of subsequent criminal behavior. Of the students who completed the program during the fiscal year from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, **only 6.1%** were arrested for violating the law in the six months following their exit, **compared with 8.2%** of the students who did not successfully complete the program.

## Maturity and Perspective

*In their own words* — from essays written by 2016 Truancy Court participants

“Not only does education get you to better places but it also provides more experiences to broaden your horizons, discover more topics or careers you might be interested in, making new friends, meeting new people, and most importantly will make you more successful in life overall.”

“Having an education is free, and can literally give you the opportunity to do whatever it is you want to do with your life.”

“All I have to do is work hard and make sure my mind is set on a goal, and I'll be able to do whatever I want.”

“Everyone has their own destination in life and it's up to us to set the path for our future.”



### Truancy Court Judicial Officers 2001-2016

Hon. Robert B. Hutson  
Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood  
Hon. Caryl Lee  
Hon. Louis Clapp

Hon. Deborah Chuang  
Hon. Kim Menninger  
Hon. Fred Slaughter  
Hon. Richard Lee  
JHO Deanna Costa

Ref. Maureen Aplin  
Hon. Donna Crandall  
Hon. Cheryl Leininger  
Hon. Julian Bailey

## CHAPTER 9 Dependency Teen Programs

### Girls Court

One of two programs established by Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood for youth in the dependency system, Girls Court supports young women who have suffered trauma or abuse at some point in their lives. If unaddressed, the psychological effects of this abuse can put the girls at high risk of dropping out of school, using drugs, becoming homeless, and falling into the criminal justice system when they become adults. The program participants, many of whom are living in foster care group homes, receive appropriate treatment and counseling, and are helped to gain the skills and resources they need to build healthy relationships and to achieve stable, productive lives.

The Girls Court team includes representatives from the Court, the Social Services Agency, Health Care Agency, the Probation Department, Orange County Counsel, Public Defender, Juvenile Defenders, the Department of Education, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Orangewood Children’s Foundation, the Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme, and other appointed counsel.

Engagement, involvement, and participation are vital components of the program. The team members meet regularly with each girl to address challenges and to provide encouragement and support. The program includes a comprehensive assessment, joint case planning, case management, and frequent case reviews with the Judge.

The Orange County Teen Collaborative, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers as well as representatives from a number of County, non-profit and faith-based organizations, provides the participants with mentoring, strength-based programs and services, and a wide variety of enrichment activities which enable the participants to develop a positive outlook on life and to forge supportive relationships with others in the program.

Funding for case management and many ancillary services is obtained from Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act. During the year, **27** girls were served by the Girls Court program.



“An investment now to stabilize the lives of these adolescent girls is a small cost compared to the financial burden that will be imposed if they remain in the justice or social welfare system.”

Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood

### Girls Court Judicial Officers 2009-2016

Hon. Jane Shade  
Hon. Kimberly Menninger  
Hon. Cheryl Leininger

# Girls Court — Results and Benefits

## Increased Placement Stability

Because frequent changes of homes and schools can negatively impact a young girl's self-esteem, as well as her behavior and her ability to form positive relationships, one of the goals of Girls Court is to reduce the number of placement changes. Prior to entering the Girls Court, multiple placements were the norm, and of the **27** girls who were served by the program, **24** of them had endured 5 or more placements — with **11** of them having had ten or more placements each (with one of these girls having had *thirty-two*).

Since their entry into the Girls Court program, **10** of these **27** girls have had **two or fewer additional placements** and of these, **3** have had **no placement changes**. The improvement is especially notable for girls who had shown the least placement stability. Of the **24** girls who had five or more previous placements, **10** have had **two or fewer** additional placements, with **7** of these having had either **one or no** additional placements. Of the **11** girls who had ten or more placements, **5** have had **two or fewer** additional placements, with **3** of these having either **one or no** further placements.

## Fewer Runaway Incidents

Another measure of program success is the reduction in the frequency of AWOL, or runaway incidents, where a girl leaves her foster home without permission — often to live on the street or under the dubious influence of an older boyfriend. Of the **27** girls who were served by the Girls Court program, **15** had a history of AWOL behavior prior to their admission; and of these fifteen girls, **7** have had **no incidents of runaway behavior** since entering the program.

This improvement is especially notable for the girls who had shown chronic runaway behavior. There were **4** girls with a history of five or more runaway incidents before entry into the program — including two girls with 14 incidents between them. Of these four girls, **one** has had **no AWOL** behavior since starting Girls Court, and the **2** girls with fourteen incidents between them have run away **only once** and **twice** respectively since entering the program.

## School Success

Girls Court participants develop an increased appreciation for education, and show consistent improvement in their educational outcomes. Of the 25 participants who were attending junior high or high school, **52% remained in one school** during the entire school year. In addition, **100%** of the girls **did not have any suspensions**, and **only one** was expelled from school.

The average GPA of the Girls Court participants **increased** from **2.57** to **2.72**, with **58%** of the girls improving their overall individual GPA. Twelve of the participants were seniors during the 2015-2016 academic school year. Before entering the program, many of them were on a path that would lead to dropping out of school; but, encouraged by their participation in the program, **8** of the girls obtained their high school diplomas, and **4** are remaining in school as fifth year seniors.

<b>GIRLS COURT</b>			
<b>Demographic Information for all 2016 participants</b>			
		total	percent
<b>age</b>	12 years	0	0%
	13 years	3	11%
	14 years	8	30%
	15 years	7	26%
	16 years	6	22%
	17 years	2	7%
	18 years	0	0%
	19 years	1	4%
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	1	4%
	Asian	0	0%
	Caucasian	8	30%
	Hispanic	18	66%
<b>history of mental illness</b>		21	78%
<b>type of placement at admission</b>	foster family agency certified home	3	11%
	foster family home	2	7%
	group home	15	56%
	Guardian Home	3	11%
	relative or non-related extended family member home	3	11%
	Resource Family Home	0	0%
	supervised independent living	1	4%

***In her own words*** — from an essay written by a 2016 participant in Girls Court

“Girls Court has put some of the most kind hearted caring people in my life. It took a lot of hard work for me to become independent but thanks to Girls Court, I did it. I will forever be thankful, because without Girls Court, I wouldn’t have had anyone in my corner and who knows where I’d be.”

# Boys Court

Boys Court is a voluntary program at the Lamoreaux Justice Center which serves at-risk adolescent males in the dependency system. Most of these youth have had multiple foster care placements, and their unaddressed substance abuse, mental health, or other socialization problems put them at high risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system as adults.

The participants in Boys Court have faced exceedingly challenging circumstances so far in their lives. At the time they entered into foster care most were victims of neglect, and many had been left by their parents without any provision of support. Many also suffered from a more violent abuse — either physical, emotional, or sexual. For most, one or both of their parents were incarcerated, deceased, or “whereabouts unknown”. At the time of their entry into the program, most of the boys had been diagnosed with mental illness, more than half had a history of substance abuse, and many had a record of delinquency.

During the year, the boys who were diagnosed with mental illness began or continued voluntarily to receive therapy for their mental health issues, and the boys who had a history of substance abuse received treatment for their substance abuse issues. In 2016, a total of **43** boys were served by the Boys Court program.

Boys Court was under the guidance of Hon. Maria Hernandez from its inception in 2010 until mid-2015, when she turned its direction over to Hon. Craig Arthur. The team includes representatives from a variety of partnering agencies – including the County’s Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, Department of Education, Probation Department, County Counsel, Public Defender, and Juvenile Defenders, along with staff from Orangewood Children’s Foundation, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and the Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme.

The Orange County Teen Collaborative, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers as well as representatives from a number of County, non-profit and faith-based organizations, provides the participants with mentoring, strength-based programs and services, and a wide variety of enrichment activities.



***In their own words*** — from essays written by 2016 participants in Boys Court

“When I first came to court, I was frightened.  
I was afraid of people. I was angry with the world.  
Now I am slowly learning to work with others, to improve myself.”

“Boys Court has helped me stay on track and I’ve also met good people  
that actually care and help me out, and I’m thankful.  
If I didn’t have Boys Court I think I would be locked up or in the streets.”

“In a few weeks I will actually graduate from High School.  
I am hoping that with your help I can find a permanent job,  
and perhaps also go to College.”

# Boys Court — Results and Benefits

## Increased Placement Stability

Because frequent changes of homes and schools can negatively impact a boy's self-esteem, as well as his behavior and his ability to form positive relationships, one of the goals of Boys Court is to reduce the number of placement changes. Prior to entering the program, multiple placements were the norm, and of the **43** boys who were served by the program, **37** of them had endured 5 or more placements — with **23** of them having had ten or more placements each (nine of the boys had more than twenty placements each, and one had *twenty-nine*).

Since their entry into the Boys Court program, **31** of the **43** boys have had **two or fewer additional placements**, and of these, **10** have had **no placement changes**. The improvement is especially notable for the boys who had shown the least placement stability. Of the **37** boys who had five or more previous placements, **27** have had **two or fewer** additional placements, with **19** of these having only **one or no** additional placements. Of the **23** boys who had ten or more placements, **18** of them have had **two or fewer** additional placements, with **14** of these having **one or no** further placements (including eight of the nine boys who had more than twenty previous placements each, and the one with 29).

## Fewer Runaway Incidents

Another measure of program success is the reduction in the frequency of AWOL, or runaway incidents, where a boy leaves his foster home without permission. There were **22** boys in the program who had a history of AWOL behavior prior to entering Boys Court. Since coming into the program, **19** of these boys have had **two or fewer AWOLs**, with **14** of them having had **no incidents of runaway behavior** since entering the program.

This improvement is especially notable for the boys who had shown chronic runaway behavior. There were **8** boys with a history of five or more runaway incidents before entry into the program — including four boys with 10 or more incidents each, one of whom had *twenty* AWOLs. Of these eight boys, **6** have had **two or fewer incidents**, with **5** having **no AWOL behavior** since starting Boys Court. Of the four boys with 10 or more incidents, **3** of them (including the boy with 20 incidents), have had **two or fewer incidents** since entering Boys Court (with two who had 21 AWOL incidents between them having **no incidents** of runaway behavior since entering the program).

## School Success

Boys Court participants develop an increased appreciation for education, and show improvement in their educational outcomes. Of the **26** participants who were attending either junior high or high school, **37% remained in one school** during the entire school year. In addition, **91% did not have any suspensions** during the year, and **none were expelled** from school.

Although the average GPA of the Boys Court participants decreased from **2.10** to **1.80**, prior to entering the program many of the boys had been on a path that would lead to dropping out of school; but, of the nine boys who were seniors during the 2015-2016 academic year, **4** received their high school diplomas, **1** passed the California High School Proficiency Exam, and **4** are remaining in school as fifth-year seniors.

<b>BOYS COURT</b>			
<b>Demographic Information for all 2016 participants</b>			
		<b>total</b>	<b>percent</b>
<b>age</b>	12 years	1	2%
	13 years	2	5%
	14 years	7	16%
	15 years	9	21%
	16 years	6	14%
	17 years	8	19%
	18 years	7	16%
	19 years	2	5%
	20 years	1	2%
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	Asian	1	2%
	Caucasian	11	26%
	Hispanic	29	67%
	African– American	2	5%
<b>history of mental illness</b>		28	65%
<b>type of placement at admission</b>	foster family agency certified home	5	12%
	foster family home	0	0%
	group home	23	53%
	guardian home	1	2%
	Resource Family Home	1	4%
	Supervised Independent Living	7	15%
	relative or non-related extended family member home	5	12%
	(data unavailable)	1	2%

***In his own words*** — from an essay written by a 2016 participant in Boys Court

“I don't know if I could ever have come this far without your help.”

Thank you for your support  
of the Collaborative Courts

