



Superior Court of California County of Orange

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Orange County Collaborative Courts Annual Report for 2012

Accompanying this letter is the 2012 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, Dependency Drug Court, mental health courts, Combat Veterans Court, Homeless Outreach Court, Truancy Court, and programs for youth in the dependency system.

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

1. Providing therapeutic treatment instead of incarceration results in a substantial savings in the costs of jail and prison bed days. In 2012, the stayed sentences of program graduates translated to a savings of more than **\$7.3 million**.
 - Drug Court saved **19,502** jail and prison bed days for a savings of **\$2,266,327**.
 - DUI Court saved **25,911** jail bed days for a savings of **\$3,011,117**.
 - The mental health court programs, including Combat Veterans Court, saved **10,733** jail and prison bed days for a savings of **\$1,247,282**.
 - Juvenile Drug Court saved **2,193** days of custody for a savings of **\$806,805**.
2. The early reunification of families through Dependency Drug Court results in more, and more stable, reunifications, as well as significant savings in out-of-home placement costs:
 - Researchers for the Social Services Agency found that graduates of Dependency Drug Court reunified an average of 143 days earlier than parents who did not go through the program. In 2012, the early reunification of **20** children with clean and sober parents resulted in an estimated cost savings to the County of **\$220,000**.
 - The Social Services Agency study also found that reunification was more likely, and was more likely to be sustained, for parents who graduated from Dependency Drug Court.

Page 2

3. Graduates of Collaborative Courts programs have low rates of recidivism:
 - Of the **1,541** Drug Court graduates who have been out of the program for three years, only **28.9%** have been re-arrested for any crime – far lower than the rate of **74%** for comparable offenders who did not participate in Drug Court.
 - Of the **180** mental health court graduates, all of whom had severe mental illness and a co-occurring substance addiction, only **29%** have been re-arrested.
 - Of the **152** Juvenile Drug Court graduates who have been out of the program for two years, only **13%** had a subsequent referral to Probation within that time.
 - Of the **34** graduates of Combat Veterans Court, only **2** have been re-arrested.
 - Of the **896** graduates of DUI Court, all of whom were repeat-offense drunk drivers, only **6.7%** have had a subsequent DUI conviction.

4. The Collaborative Court programs also produce substantial health-related cost savings:
 - Females in adult and Dependency Drug Court, DUI Court, and the mental health courts have given birth to **172** drug-free babies while participating in the programs, saving the health care system millions of dollars.
 - By reforming the lives of hundreds of repeat-offense drunk drivers, the DUI Courts have saved the significant future health care costs of many people – including the participants who will live longer and healthier lives, and the innocent victims who will not be injured or die in future automobile accidents.

5. Processing cases through Collaborative Court tracks yields cost savings when compared with processing them through “business as usual”:
 - Researchers for the Administrative Office of the Courts 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 County and the dedication of the partner agencies. On behalf of this collaboration, I am pleased to present this 2012 Annual Report, which is also available online at the Court’s public website at: www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts.

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