Superior Court of California
County of Orange

Collaborative Courts
2013 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 felony drug offenders turned into responsible taxpayers; repeat-offense drunk drivers changed into dedicated advocates of sobriety; traumatized 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, the programs have saved more than **$75 million** through the avoidance of more than **six hundred-fifty thousand** 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.

Strong Bipartisan Support for Drug Court:

> "Drug courts are an effective and cost-efficient way to help non-violent drug offenders commit to a rigorous drug treatment program in lieu of prison. By leveraging the coercive power of the criminal justice system, drug courts can alter the behavior of non-violent, low-level drug offenders through a combination of judicial supervision, case management, mandatory drug testing, and treatment to ensure abstinence from drugs."
>
> from President George W. Bush, *A Blueprint for New Beginnings: A Responsible Budget for America's Priorities* (2001)

> "Drug Courts are essential to our efforts to break the cycle of drug abuse, crime, incarceration, and re-arrest. These institutions have been instrumental in opening the doors to criminal justice reform — proving that with supervision, treatment, and rigorous standards of accountability, non-violent offenders can recover from addiction and steer clear of future criminal activity. By diverting participants into treatment, Drug Courts also reduce the burden and costs of incarceration to society."
>
> from President Barack Obama, open letter to attendees at the annual convention of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (2012)

CHAPTER 1
Drug Court

Located at four justice centers, the adult Drug Court program works with seriously addicted offenders to help them achieve sobriety and rebuild their lives. The voluntary, four-phase 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 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 complete 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 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 allocate 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 1995-2013

Hon. David McEachen
Hon. David Velasquez
Hon. Ronald Kreber
Hon. Erick Larsh
Hon. Carlton Biggs
Hon. Glenda Sanders
Hon. Matthew Anderson

Hon. Gerald Johnston
Hon. Allen Stone
Hon. Michael McCartin
Hon. Mary Fingal Schulte
Hon. Geoffrey Glass
Hon. Ronald Klar
Hon. Wendy Lindley
Hon. Joe Perez

Hon. David Thompson
Hon. Peter Polos
Hon. Jamoa Moberly
Hon. Linda Marks
Hon. Gail Andler
Hon. James Odriozola
Hon. Michael Cassidy

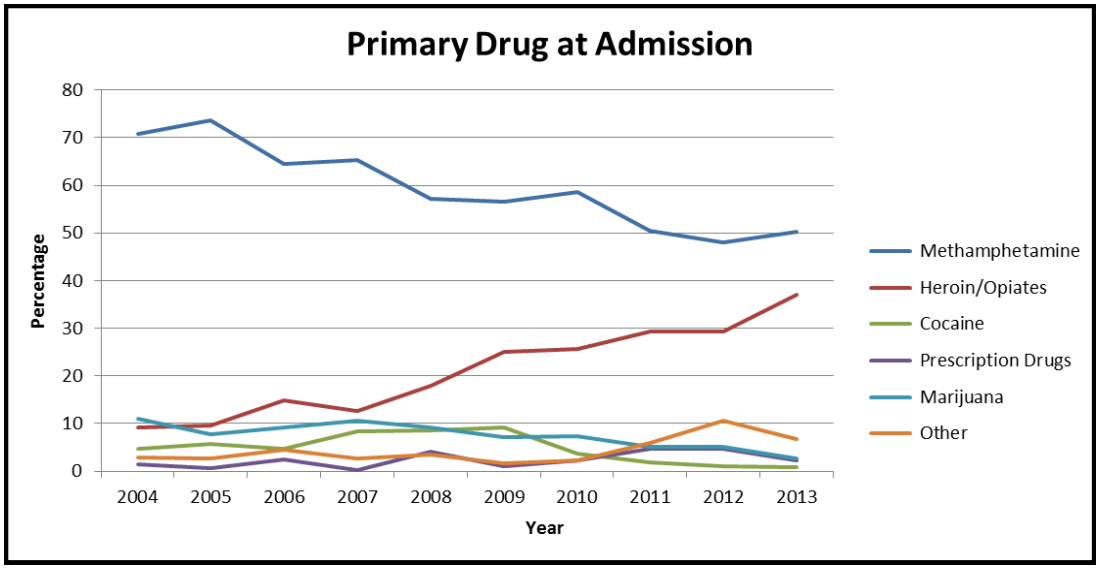
Drug Court, continued

Funding for treatment and other participant services also comes from grant awards. A fiscal year grant of $38,454 was received from the California Administrative Office of the Courts for drug and alcohol testing, bus passes for transportation to appointments and court appearances, incentive items, and training for Drug Court team members.

The Collaborative Courts Foundation, a non-profit agency founded by Executive Director Kathy 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 restorative dental care, emergency medical care, 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 2013, there were 382 participants in the Drug Court program countywide. During the year, 572 defendants were evaluated for admission, 221 of whom were admitted into the program; 3 participants were transferred to another treatment Court program which better suited their needs; and a total of 142 participants opted out or were terminated from the program, 75 of them because of program non-compliance. A total of **83** participants successfully graduated from Drug Court during the year. At the end of the year, there were **373** participants in program.

From the inception of Drug Court in 1995 through the end of 2013, **1,911** participants have graduated from the program. As set forth in detail on the following pages, the recidivism rate for Drug Court graduates, three years after graduation, is **28.8%** for any crime, compared with a recidivism rate for comparable non-participants of 74%. In 2013, **7** drug-free babies were born to program participants, bringing the total since inception to **143** babies born free of addiction.



Drug Court - Results and Benefits

Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of Drug Court is the reduction in the rate of recidivism, or re-arrest, for graduates of the program. Each year, the arrest records of the Drug Court graduates are reviewed and any arrest within three years of their completion of the program is noted. **Drug Court graduates have a recidivism rate of 28.8% 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 control group had a recidivism rate of 74% for any crime.**

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 that were avoided as a result of being sentenced to Drug Court. The cost of a jail bed day is set at $135.92, which is an average of the 2013 costs at the five County jail facilities.

In 2013, **the Drug Court program avoided 30,346 jail and prison bed days** which were stayed pending graduation, which translates to **a cost savings of $4,124,628**. Since inception, the Drug Court program has saved more than $41,243,220 in jail and prison bed costs.

The time that would have otherwise been served, and hence the cost savings, cannot be determined with complete certainty. This is because, if Drug Court were not ordered, a split sentence could have been ordered 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.

Separately, a cost study by the Administrative Office of the Courts** which tracked and valued the time of each person involved with the case process in selected Drug Court programs in California, including those at the Central Justice Center and Harbor Justice Center, found that both programs yielded a net cost savings compared with processing the offenders through "business as usual", and noted that **every dollar invested in the Drug Court program at the Central Justice Center resulted in a net benefit of $7.30**.

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* 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.

** California Drug Courts: A Methodology for Determining Costs and Benefits; Phase II: Testing the Methodology, Final Report submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts; Shannon M. Carey, Ph.D., et al., April 2005, at p.31. The full report is available at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/collab/documents/drug_court_phase_II.pdf .

Drug Court - Results and Benefits, continued

Recidivism Data for Participants, Three Years after Graduation						
Justice Center	Central	Harbor	North	West	total	percent
total graduates	625	468	358	206	1,657	100%
re-arrested, any charge	193	129	104	51	477	28.8%
% re-arrested, any charge	30.9%	27.6%	29%	24.8%	28.8%	28.8%
re-arrested, substance abuse	159	101	86	36	382	23%
re-convicted, any charge	179	119	91	55	444	26.7%
re-convicted, substance abuse	145	86	70	38	339	20.4%

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 2013, **7 drug-free babies** were born to women while they were participating in Drug Court, bringing the cumulative total to **143** 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 **2,102 hours of community service** in 2013.

During the year, **83** 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.

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* see, e.g., Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Drug Court Clearinghouse FAQ Fact Sheet, November 10, 2004 (http://www1.spa.american.edu/justice/documents/1995.pdf).

DRUG COURT					
2013 Program Totals					
Justice Center	**Central**	**Harbor**	**North**	**West**	**total**
active as of 12/31/2012	143	97	96	46	382
defendants evaluated for admission into program	120	252	79	121	572
admitted during 2013	63	79	30	49	221
transferred from another Drug Court program	0	1	1	0	2
terminated — opt-out period	17	18	15	14	64
terminated — extenuating circumstances	0	2	1	0	3
transferred to another Drug Court program location	2	1	0	0	3
transferred to another treatment court program	2	0	0	0	2
terminated — program non-compliance	30	17	18	10	75
graduated	29	23	15	16	83
active as of 12/31/2013	126	116	77	54	373
drug-free babies born during the program	5	0	1	1	7
jail bed days saved	5,372	4,015	1,730	4,742	15,859
prison bed days saved	902	5,627	5,558	2,400	14,487

"I know that the work, healing, and learning is not over. However, I am grateful to have the tools, the desire, and the support to continue on this path to an authentically good and happy life. I know that without Drug Court the next chapter of my life would not be possible, and I will always be indebted to the people of this program."

from a 2013 participant's graduation speech

DRUG COURT - Demographic Information							
2013 Admissions							
Justice Center		**percent**	**Central**	**Harbor**	**North**	**West**	**total**
admissions		100%	63	79	30	49	221
gender	female	43%	31	30	13	22	96
	male	57%	32	49	17	27	125
age	18 - 21 years	12%	9	9	5	4	27
	22 - 30 years	50%	28	44	14	23	109
	31 - 40 years	23%	16	16	8	11	51
	41 - 50 years	11%	10	7	1	7	25
	51 - 60 years	4%	0	3	2	4	9
race / ethnicity	African-American	4%	5	1	2	1	9
	Asian	3%	1	3	1	1	6
	Caucasian	72%	33	69	17	39	158
	Hispanic	19%	23	3	10	7	43
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	other	2%	1	3	0	1	5
education	needs HS / GED	20%	9	8	12	15	44
	has HS / GED	48%	29	39	18	20	106
	some college	23%	18	27	0	7	52
	college degree	6%	3	4	0	6	13
	no information	3%	4	1	0	1	6
marital status	married	7%	7	5	3	2	17
	separated	4%	5	1	1	2	9
	divorced	5%	1	4	3	2	10
	single	81%	48	68	23	39	178
	no information	3%	2	1	0	4	7
parental status	with minor children	18%	15	9	11	4	39
employment	employed	29%	7	39	2	16	64
	unemployed	67%	51	40	26	31	148
	no information	4%	5	0	2	2	9
primary drug	alcohol	3%	2	4	0	1	7
	cocaine	1%	1	1	0	0	2
	heroin	34%	12	42	7	15	76
	marijuana	3%	4	0	1	1	6
	methamphetamine	53%	42	27	19	28	116
	opiates	3%	2	2	1	1	6
	prescription drugs	2%	0	3	1	1	5
	no information	1%	0	0	1	2	3

DRUG COURT - Demographic Information							
2013 Terminations							
Justice Center		**percent**	**Central**	**Harbor**	**North**	**West**	**total**
terminations		100%	30	17	18	10	75
gender	female	25%	8	5	6	0	19
	male	75%	22	12	12	10	56
age	18 - 21 years	18%	6	2	4	1	13
	22 - 30 years	55%	14	12	10	5	41
	31 - 40 years	13%	4	2	4	0	10
	41 - 50 years	13%	6	1	0	3	10
	51 - 60 years	1%	0	0	0	1	1
race / ethnicity	African-American	3%	2	0	0	0	2
	Asian	4%	1	0	0	2	3
	Caucasian	68%	21	15	10	5	51
	Hispanic	20%	5	1	7	2	15
	Native American	1%	0	0	1	0	1
	other	3%	1	1	0	0	2
	no information	1%	0	0	0	1	1
education	needs HS / GED	35%	12	3	9	2	26
	has HS / GED	43%	10	12	9	1	32
	some college	12%	5	2	0	2	9
	college degree	5%	3	0	0	1	4
	no information	5%	0	0	0	4	4
marital status	married	9%	3	2	2	0	7
	separated	8%	1	0	4	1	6
	divorced	5%	1	0	1	2	4
	single	74%	25	15	11	4	55
	no information	4%	0	0	0	3	3
parental status	with minor children	17%	5	3	5	0	13
employment	employed	36%	8	11	3	5	27
at admission	unemployed	57%	22	5	15	1	43
	unknown	7%	0	1	0	4	5
primary drug	alcohol	1%	1	0	0	0	1
at admission	cocaine	3%	2	0	0	0	2
	heroin	39%	11	10	3	5	29
	marijuana	5%	1	0	3	0	4
	methamphetamine	43%	14	5	8	5	32
	opiates	5%	0	1	3	0	4
	prescription drugs	4%	1	1	1	0	3

DRUG COURT - Demographic Information							
2013 Graduations							
Justice Center		**percent**	**Central**	**Harbor**	**North**	**West**	**total**
graduations		100%	26	23	16	18	83
gender	female	39%	8	7	7	10	32
	male	61%	18	16	9	8	51
age	18 - 21 years	10%	1	5	0	2	8
	22 - 30 years	51%	14	11	10	7	42
	31 - 40 years	14%	5	2	4	1	12
	41 - 50 years	20%	5	4	2	6	17
	51 - 60 years	5%	1	1	0	2	4
race / ethnicity	African-American	4%	1	1	1	0	3
	Asian	4%	2	0	1	0	3
	Caucasian	66%	18	17	7	13	55
	Hispanic	21%	3	4	7	4	18
	other	5%	2	1	0	1	4
education	needs HS / GED	19%	5	3	3	5	16
(at admission)	has HS / GED	43%	12	8	11	5	36
	some college	29%	7	11	1	5	24
	college degree	5%	2	0	1	1	4
	no information	4%	0	1	0	2	3
marital status	married	10%	3	0	3	2	8
	separated	2%	0	0	1	1	2
	divorced	16%	4	3	4	2	13
	single	66%	19	18	8	10	55
	widowed	1%	0	0	0	1	1
	no information	5%	0	2	0	2	4
parental status	with minor children	27%	8	1	9	4	22
employment	employed	33%	9	9	4	5	27
at admission	unemployed	63%	17	13	12	11	53
	no information	4%	0	1	0	2	3
primary drug	alcohol	2%	0	2	0	0	2
at admission	cocaine	4%	0	0	3	0	3
	heroin	19%	6	5	1	4	16
	marijuana	5%	2	1	0	1	4
	methamphetamine	60%	16	10	12	12	50
	opiates	4%	1	2	0	0	3
	prescription drugs	4%	1	2	0	0	3
	no information	2%	0	1	0	1	2

CHAPTER 2
DUI Court

DUI Court admits second- and third-time 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 committee 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 is a minimum of twelve months in length and 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 provided with help in accessing ancillary services such as educational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, employment skills training, job searches, medical and dental treatment, housing, child care, 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 2013, the DUI Court program was supported by a portion of the Penal Code §23649 alcohol problem assessment fees, and by a portion of the 2012-2013 Substance Abuse Focus Grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts. The ongoing dedication of staff resources to sustain DUI Court is provided by Health Care Agency, the Probation Department, and the offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender through annual budget allocations from the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

The DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach was selected by the National Center for DWI Courts to be an Academy Court for 2011-2013 — a designation which enables the program to continue as one of only four sites in the country serving as a model for the establishment of similar programs in other jurisdictions. During the year, judges and other collaborative justice professionals came from as far away as Washington, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and North Dakota to observe the program for a day — including attending the team meeting and the court session, and discussing the program with Judge Matthew Anderson and the partnering agency representatives. The visits highlight three days of classes and workshops presented by the National Drug Court Institute.

In 2013, 122 defendants were admitted to DUI Court, and at the end of the year there were 172 active participants. During the year, **135** participants graduated from the program, bringing the total number of graduates to **1,031** since the inception of DUI Court in 2004.

DUI Court Judicial Officers 2004-2013

Hon. Carlton Biggs
Hon. Matthew Anderson
Hon. Michael Cassidy
Hon. Debra Carrillo
Hon. Terri Flynn-Peister
Hon. Douglas Hatchimonji
Hon. Donald Gaffney
Hon. Joe Perez
Hon. Wendy Lindley

DUI Court - Results and Benefits

Low Recidivism

During the nine years from the inception of the DUI Court program in 2004 through the end of 2013, of the **1,030** program graduates, **only 92** have been convicted of a subsequent DUI offense — a **recidivism rate of 7.7%**. In contrast, the California DMV sets forth the results of a long-term recidivism study at p.46 of its 2012 Annual Report, showing 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.

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 their mandated sentences through electronic home confinement. The average cost to house an inmate at one of the five county jail facilities is $135.92 per day. In 2013, **the DUI Court program saved 36,305 jail bed days,** resulting in a **cost savings of $4,934,576.** Since its inception, the DUI Court program has saved 171,697 jail bed days, resulting in a total savings of $19,248,345.

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 2013, **2 babies** were born free of drugs or fetal alcohol syndrome to women participating in DUI Court.

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 2013, participants performed **1,443 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.

"When I got my last DUI, I was still going to court on a DUI that I'd received just a few months before. On this one, I crashed my car and could have hurt or killed someone. By the grace of God I did not."

from a participant's 2013 graduation speech

DUI COURT					
2013 Program Totals					
Justice Center	**Central**	**Harbor**	**North**	**West**	**total**
active as of 12/31/2012	41	92	48	45	226
defendants evaluated for admission into program	73	204	79	84	440
admitted during 2013	24	40	21	37	122
transferred from another DUI Court program	0	1	0	0	1
terminated — opt-out period	1	2	5	2	10
terminated — extenuating circumstances	0	0	0	0	0
transferred to another DUI Court program	1	0	0	0	1
transferred to another treatment court program	0	0	0	1	1
terminated — program non-compliance	6	8	9	4	27
graduated	16	56	30	33	135
active as of 12/31/2013	40	67	25	43	175
drug-free babies born during program	0	0	1	1	2
jail bed days saved	3,861	16,105	8,718	6,013	34,697
prison bed days saved	0	0	538	1,070	1,608

In their own words — from 2013 DUI Court graduation speeches

"I came from the darkest depths of alcoholism and addiction, and I'm standing here today a transformed woman."

"I now have the tools to deal with life's adversities without turning to alcohol to get me through them. You didn't save my life, you taught me how to save my own life."

DUI COURT - Demographic Information							
2013 Admissions							
Justice Center		**percent**	**Central**	**Harbor**	**North**	**West**	**total**
admissions		100%	24	40	21	37	122
gender	female	30%	6	14	3	13	36
	male	70%	18	26	18	24	86
age	18 - 21 years	3%	0	2	1	1	4
	22 - 30 years	35%	13	10	7	12	42
	31 - 40 years	26%	5	14	5	8	32
	41 - 50 years	17%	3	6	4	8	21
	51 - 60 years	14%	2	7	3	5	17
	over 60 years	5%	1	1	1	3	6
race / ethnicity	African-American	2%	0	1	0	1	2
	Asian	7%	0	1	0	8	9
	Caucasian	55%	11	25	9	21	66
	Hispanic	30%	12	6	12	7	37
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	other	3%	1	3	0	0	4
	unknown	3%	0	4	0	0	4
education	needs HS / GED	9%	2	3	3	3	11
	has HS / GED	31%	9	8	12	9	38
	some college	36%	9	20	4	11	44
	college degree	22%	4	9	2	12	27
	no information	2%	0	0	0	2	2
marital status	single	61%	15	24	14	22	75
	married	16%	4	7	2	6	19
	separated	7%	2	3	0	3	8
	divorced	14%	3	6	2	6	17
	no information	2%	0	0	3	0	3
parental status	with minor children	16%	2	8	4	5	19
employment	employed	57%	17	28	11	13	69
	unemployed	21%	7	10	0	9	26
	no information	22%	0	2	10	15	27

DUI COURT - Demographic Information							
2013 Terminations							
Justice Center		**percent**	**Central**	**Harbor**	**North**	**West**	**total**
terminations		100%	6	9	9	3	27
gender	female	33%	1	4	1	3	9
	male	67%	5	5	8	0	18
age	18 - 21 years	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	22 - 30 years	48%	3	1	9	0	13
	31 - 40 years	26%	2	5	0	0	7
	41 - 50 years	19%	1	2	0	2	5
	51 - 60 years	7%	0	1	0	1	2
	over 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0	0
race / ethnicity	African-American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian	4%	0	1	0	0	1
	Caucasian	63%	3	7	5	2	17
	Hispanic	33%	3	1	4	1	9
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
education	needs HS / GED	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	has HS / GED	30%	2	1	5	0	8
	some college	44%	3	4	3	2	12
	college degree	26%	1	4	1	1	7
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
marital status	divorced	15%	0	2	1	1	4
	married	11%	0	1	0	2	3
	separated	4%	1	0	0	0	1
	single	70%	5	6	8	0	19
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
parental status	with minor children	15%	1	1	2	0	4
employment	employed	63%	4	4	8	1	17
	unemployed	33%	2	4	1	2	9
	unknown	4%	0	1	0	0	1

DUI COURT - Demographic Information

2013 Graduations

Justice Center		percent	Central	Harbor	North	West	total
graduations		100%	17	55	29	31	132
gender	female	28%	7	16	8	6	37
	male	72%	10	39	21	25	95
age	18 - 21 years	2%	0	2	1	0	3
	22 - 30 years	38%	10	20	12	8	50
	31 - 40 years	30%	3	14	11	12	40
	41 - 50 years	20%	3	11	4	8	26
	51 - 60 years	9%	0	8	1	3	12
	over 60 years	1%	1	0	0	0	1
race / ethnicity	African-American	3%	0	3	1	0	4
	Asian	11%	3	3	2	6	14
	Caucasian	54%	7	35	14	16	72
	Hispanic	29%	7	11	12	8	38
	other	3%	0	3	0	1	4
education	needs HS / GED	7%	4	3	0	2	9
	has HS / GED	28%	9	9	10	9	37
	some college	46%	3	30	15	13	61
	college degree	19%	1	13	4	7	25
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
marital status	married	18%	5	7	7	5	24
	separated	1%	0	0	0	1	1
	divorced	14%	2	11	2	3	18
	single	67%	10	37	20	22	89
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
parental status	with minor children	20%	4	10	11	1	26
employment	employed	71%	10	46	20	17	93
	unemployed	24%	7	9	6	10	32
	unknown	5%	0	0	3	4	7

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. This groundbreaking program, the first to be established in California, embodies an approach that has been encouraged by an amendment to Penal Code section 1170.9, which now 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.

The program, which is held at the Community Court under the guidance of Hon. Joe Perez, has attracted national attention as an innovative and effective way to help combat 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 has been designated as a Mentor Court by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

A case manager, funded by a grant obtained by the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, and a Deputy Probation Officer, funded by the County, guide participants through a phased program that includes mental health counseling, self-help meetings, weekly meetings with a care coordinator and a Probation Officer, the development of a life plan, frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, and regular court-review hearings.

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 veterans; and partnerships have been formed with other service providers to offer additional support to veterans in the program.

In the fall, judicial and administrative personnel from Lane County, Oregon and King County, Washington visited Veterans Treatment Court — observing team meetings and court sessions, and discussing with the judge and the team best practices in the creation and operation of these vital programs. On December 3, the annual Beyond the Bench conference featured a panel discussion regarding the assistance that is made available to veterans who are involved in the justice system in Orange County, either as criminal defendants or as parties to civil domestic violence restraining orders.

During the year, **19** participants graduated from Veterans Treatment Court, bringing to **53** the total number of graduates since the inception of the program. At the end of 2013, there were **38** participants 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, or re-arrest, for graduates of the program. In determining the rate of recidivism, the arrest records of all program graduates are reviewed each year after their graduation, and any arrest since graduation is noted. Of the **53** participants who have graduated since the inception of the program, **only 6 have been re-arrested**.

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 $135.92 per day, which is an average of the 2013 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 2013, the Veterans Treatment Court program **saved 3,427 jail and prison bed days**, which resulted in a **cost savings of $465,797**. Since inception, the program has saved 11,784 jail and prison days, for a cost savings of $1,454,282.

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.

COMBAT VETERANS COURT - Demographic Information							
2013 Program Totals							
		admissions	percent	terminations	percent	graduations	percent
total		23	100%	5	100%	19	100%
gender	female	0	0%	1	20%	1	5%
	male	23	100%	4	80%	18	95%
age	18 - 21 years	0	0%	0	0%	3	16%
	22 - 30 years	12	52%	3	60%	11	58%
	31 - 40 years	5	22%	0	0%	4	21%
	41 - 50 years	3	13%	1	20%	0	0%
	51 - 60 years	0	0%	1	20%	0	0%
	over 60 years	3	13%	0	0%	1	5%
race / ethnicity	African-American	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
	Asian	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
	Caucasian	13	57%	4	80%	8	42%
	Hispanic	8	35%	1	20%	11	58%
	Native American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
education	needs HS / GED	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
	has HS / GED	10	44%	3	60%	5	26%
	some college	7	30%	0	0%	10	53%
	college degree	5	22%	2	40%	4	21%
marital status	married	5	22%	1	20%	2	11%
	separated	2	8%	0	0%	1	5%
	divorced	10	44%	2	40%	4	21%
	single	6	26%	2	40%	12	63%
parental status	with minor children	6	26%	0	0%	4	21%
employment	employed	9	39%	0	0%	7	37%
	unemployed	14	61%	5	100%	12	63%
primary drug	alcohol	13	57%	0	0%	13	68%
	cocaine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	heroin	1	4%	1	20%	0	0%
	marijuana	5	22%	2	40%	2	11%
	methamphetamine	4	17%	2	40%	1	5%
	opiates	0	0%	0	0%	1	5%
	prescription drugs	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	0	0%	0	0%	2	11%

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 Court. The film can be viewed at http://www.intheirboots.com/itb/shows/special-presentations/other-than-honorable.html .

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 by searching with "Second Chance for Veterans", and "Kleps Award: Orange County's Combat Veterans Court", respectively.

In their own words — from the 2013 phase advancement and graduation speeches of Veterans Treatment Court participants

"At first I denied that I ever had a problem. I didn't see the changes in myself because the changes that war brings about in us had started well before I even realized, and I lived with it for so long before I came home that it became part of me, like a parasite silently attaching itself to a host not aware of its presence. When I finally allowed myself to believe I had a problem it was already too late, my spiral to the bottom was well in effect. In lieu of pharmaceuticals, I used drugs and alcohol. To this volatile mix I added firearms."

"I was still living the combat mindset and always having a firearm close because without a weapon I felt naked. I would actively patrol my neighborhood, even 'standing post' late into the night expecting and hoping that something would happen. I just couldn't let go of Iraq, or of my training. I thought that without it I was doomed, that it kept me alive."

"Since starting my program here, my life has improved exponentially."

"I now possess the skills to admit when I need help and the courage to find it. … I feel blessed that I was given the opportunity to correct my actions."

"Gone are the days where my mind is trying to locate combat. I no longer get upset with my wife over trivial things, picking a fight with her just for the sake of it. I can finally sleep at night without having the frequent nightmares … I no longer need to yell at people like I'm hazing junior Marines. I finally get a feeling of 'fitting in'. I know that it will take a long time before I'm there, but I feel like I have the implements to achieve that."

CHAPTER 4
Mental Health Courts

Orange County's Mental Health Court programs are all based on the Drug Court model, and all are convened at the Community Court. Established by Hon. Wendy Lindley, they are now under the guidance of Hon. Joe Perez.

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 drug 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 2013, a total of **21** participants graduated from Opportunity Court and Recovery Court, and at the end of the year, 85 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 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 2013, a total of **16** participants graduated from WIT Court, and at the end of the year, 115 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 so severe that ultimately the offender will likely be determined to be incompetent to stand trial. Pending that determination, however, many of these defendants will 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, and has a capacity of 25 participants. At the end of 2013, **22** participants were active in the program.

Mental Health Courts

2013 Admissions by Mental Health Disorder

	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	Assisted Intervention Court	total	percent
admissions	35	33	97	13	178	100%
Bi-Polar Disorder	11	16	36	3	66	37%
Schizophrenia	4	6	7	3	20	11.2%
Major Depressive Disorder	6	1	8	1	16	9%
Schizoaffective Disorder	3	4	11	4	22	12.4%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	1	1	0	1	3	1.7%
Mood Disorder NOS	7	5	12	0	24	13.5%
Psychiatric Disorder NOS	3	0	23	1	27	15.2%

In their own words — from 2013 phase advancement speeches

"Before this program I was extremely unpredictable in my actions. I was a very angry, unstable and dangerous person."

"In the past, trouble awaited me in almost every situation. The feeling of impending doom was always with me."

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, or re-arrest, for graduates of the programs. In determining the rate of recidivism, the arrest records of all program graduates are reviewed each year after their graduation, and any arrest since graduation is noted. As shown in the chart below, the overall rate of re-arrest for any offense for mental health program graduates is **29%**.

Mental Health Courts Recidivism Data for Participants					
	Opportunity Court	**Recovery Court**	**WIT Court**	**total**	**percent**
total graduates as of 12/31/2013	102	35	77	214	100%
re-arrested, any charge	30	11	21	62	29%
% re-arrested, any charge	29.4%	31.4%	27.3%	29%	29%
re-arrested, substance abuse	25	4	13	42	19.6%
re-convicted, any charge	28	6	21	55	25.7%
re-convicted, substance abuse	24	1	11	36	16.8%

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 $135.92 per day, which is an average of the 2013 costs at the five Orange County jail facilities.

In 2013, the mental health court programs **saved 4,778 jail and prison bed days**, resulting in a **cost savings of $649,426**. Since inception, the mental health court programs have saved nearly $7,380,000 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 2013, participants performed a remarkable **12,237 hours of community service**.

Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information						
2013 Admissions						
		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
admissions		100%	35	33	97	165
sex	female	46%	10	17	49	76
	male	54%	25	16	48	89
age	0-17 years	1%	0	0	1	1
	18 - 21 years	14%	5	7	11	23
	22 - 30 years	27%	8	9	28	45
	31 - 40 years	28%	11	10	26	47
	41 - 50 years	23%	8	6	25	39
	51 - 60 years	6%	3	0	6	9
	over 60 years	1%	0	1	0	1
race / ethnicity	African-American	8%	0	4	8	12
	Asian	6%	1	5	4	10
	Caucasian	70%	27	18	71	116
	Hispanic	14%	4	5	14	23
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	2%	3	1	0	4
education	needs HS / GED	28%	10	9	27	46
	has HS / GED	41%	11	16	40	67
	some college	23%	8	6	24	38
	college degree	8%	6	2	6	14
marital status	married	9%	2	6	7	15
	separated	8%	1	1	10	12
	divorced	11%	2	2	14	18
	single	71%	30	24	64	118
	widowed	1%	0	0	2	2
parental status	with minor children	30%	5	7	37	49
employment	employed	2%	2	1	0	3
	unemployed	98%	33	32	97	162
primary drug	alcohol	6%	7	1	1	9
	cocaine	5%	0	0	8	8
	heroin	18%	8	6	16	30
	marijuana	12%	7	6	6	19
	methamphetamine	54%	10	18	61	89
	opiates	1%	0	0	2	2
	prescription drugs	2%	2	0	2	4
	other	2%	1	2	1	4

Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information						
2013 Terminations						
		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
terminations		100%	9	4	29	42
sex	female	45%	7	2	10	19
	male	55%	2	2	19	23
age	18 - 21 years	19%	2	1	5	8
	22 - 30 years	43%	3	1	14	18
	31 - 40 years	14%	1	1	4	6
	41 - 50 years	19%	2	1	5	8
	51 - 60 years	5%	1	0	1	2
	over 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0
race / ethnicity	African-American	5%	0	0	2	2
	Asian	2%	1	0	0	1
	Caucasian	62%	6	3	17	26
	Hispanic	24%	1	0	9	10
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	7%	1	1	1	3
education	needs HS / GED	17%	2	1	4	7
	has HS / GED	50%	5	0	16	21
	some college	26%	1	2	8	11
	college degree	7%	1	1	1	3
marital status	married	10%	3	1	0	4
	separated	14%	0	1	5	6
	divorced	7%	0	0	3	3
	single	67%	6	2	20	28
	widowed	2%	0	0	1	1
parental status	with minor children	31%	2	2	9	13
employment	employed	5%	2	0	0	2
	unemployed	95%	7	4	29	40
primary drug at admission	alcohol	14%	1	1	4	6
	cocaine	2%	0	0	1	1
	heroin	12%	1	0	4	5
	marijuana	21%	2	1	6	9
	methamphetamine	41%	4	0	13	17
	opiates	0%	0	0	0	0
	prescription drugs	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	10%	1	2	1	4

Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information						
2013 Graduations						
		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
graduations		100%	11	7	16	34
gender	female	53%	6	3	9	18
	male	47%	5	4	7	16
age	18 - 21 years	9%	2	1	0	3
	22 - 30 years	15%	2	2	1	5
	31 - 40 years	11%	2	1	1	4
	41 - 50 years	44%	2	3	10	15
	51 - 60 years	15%	2	0	3	5
	over 60 years	6%	1	0	1	2
race / ethnicity	African-American	3%	1	0	0	1
	Asian	3%	1	0	0	1
	Caucasian	72%	8	3	13	24
	Hispanic	11%	1	1	2	4
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	11%	0	3	1	4
education	needs HS / GED	18%	2	1	3	6
	has HS / GED	35%	5	3	4	12
	some college	26%	1	1	7	9
	college degree	21%	3	2	2	7
marital status	married	6%	1	1	0	2
	separated	18%	1	1	4	6
	divorced	35%	2	3	7	12
	single	41%	7	2	5	14
parental status	with minor children	26%	2	1	6	9
employment at admission	employed	9%	2	1	0	3
	unemployed	91%	9	6	16	31

"I have hope for the future that I can't even put into words. I felt so lost and hopeless that I wasn't sure I wanted to live anymore. I thoroughly enjoy life today, and I do my best to pass this hope that I've been given onto others who suffer."

from a participant's 2013 graduation speech

CHAPTER 5
Homeless Outreach Court

Homeless Outreach Court was started 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. During the year, this innovative program was held in Tustin at the Orange County Rescue Mission, and in Santa Ana at the Community Court.

The program provides a compassionate response to the fact that the homeless participants, many of whom suffer from chronic mental illness, may receive infractions 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. Instead of the usual court sanctions of fines and custody, program participants receive credit for accessing appropriate physical and mental health care; for attending alcohol or drug-dependency recovery meetings; for engaging in community service activities; for attending classes in life skills, computer skills, and literacy; and for 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 **536 participants**. At the Community Court, potential participants are interviewed by the Public Defender's paralegal, who will determine not only the issues that brought the person to court, but also any other issues that impede that person's ability to achieve self-sufficiency. Referrals can then be made to on-site partner agencies for such assistance as job skills training from the California Department of Rehabilitation, mental health assessment and treatment, legal services, housing services, veterans benefits, and other governmental disability benefits.

In 2013, **463** people completed the program, with more than **3,700 hours of community service**. Since the inception of Homeless Outreach Court, 2,185 people have completed the program and have been helped to access the tools they need to regain their self-sufficiency.

Humanitarian of the Year Award

Kathleen Burnham, the founder and Director of the non-profit Collaborative Courts Foundation, received the Humanitarian of the Year award at a ceremony held on November 20 at the Community Court. Each year, the Humanitarian of the Year award is given to recognize a person whose work has provided life-changing assistance to the participants in the Orange County Homeless Outreach Court.

The Collaborative Courts Foundation, which provides assistance to the participants in all of the County's treatment court programs, offers vital help to the participants in Homeless Outreach Court by funding and coordinating medical and dental services and supplies, vision services, interim housing, vouchers for public transportation, and educational assistance. For more information, please visit www.collaborativecourtsfoundation.org .

CHAPTER 6
Dependency Drug Court

Located at the Lamoreaux Justice Center, Dependency Drug Court was a collaborative family reunification program designed to address the issues of parents whose children had been removed from the home by the County because of the parents' abuse of drugs or alcohol. In the face of severe budgetary and resource constraints, the program was ended in June, 2013.

Dependency Drug Court was a collaboration of the Social Services Agency, the Health Care Agency, the Orange County Counsel, the office of the Public Defender, the parents' retained legal counsel, and the Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme, which was retained by the County to provide legal representation for the children. Program participants complied with frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, individual and group counseling, regular court appearances, and attendance in perinatal or parenting classes.

Funding for Dependency Drug Court came from several sources. The Orange County Board of Supervisors approved annual funding for the County agencies which allocated personnel and services that were essential to the success of the program. Additional funding for the program, formerly obtained through the Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation Act, was allocated to the County directly from the State, and administered by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

From the inception of the program in 2005 through the end of 2010, each of the six judicial officers assigned to hear dependency matters also presided over a Dependency Drug Court calendar. Beginning in 2011, the Dependency Drug Court calendars were combined, and all were heard in one courtroom, with Hon. Richard Lee presiding. In late 2012, pursuant to the agreement of the partnering agencies, the Dependency Drug Court program was modified so as to place an even greater emphasis on the permanency of the reunification. The format of the program was revamped so that, rather than working toward the goal of "graduation", success was achieved by progressing through a series of modules – including a maintenance module, in which aftercare was provided through the date of case closure.

Following the closure of the Dependency Drug Court in June, the Court and its collaborative partners re-deployed the program resources, with the goal of continuing to provide intensive treatment for substance abusing parents who are in the county dependency system.

Dependency Drug Court Judicial Officers 2005-2013

Hon. Gary Bischoff	Hon. Ronald Kreber	Hon. Jane Shade
Hon. Donna Crandall	Hon. Gary Vincent	Hon. Maria Hernandez
Hon. John Gastelum	Hon. Caryl Lee	Hon. Salvador Sarmiento
Hon. Dennis Keough	Hon. Douglas Hatchimonji	Hon. Cheryl Leininger
Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood	Hon. Richard Lee	Hon. James Marion

Dependency Drug Court — Results and Benefits

Cost Savings from Early Reunification

Since the inception of Dependency Drug Court, **463** children were reunified with parents who had graduated from the program and were committed to raising their children in a safe and secure environment. Research showed that this reunification took place significantly earlier than would otherwise have been the case: a study updated in 2010 for the Social Services Agency* found that families in the Dependency Drug Court program reunified an average of **143 days earlier** than those who did not participate in the program.

Early family reunification translated directly into a cost savings to the County because of the avoided costs of placing the children temporarily into foster care. It is estimated that the total savings to the County in the costs of this out-of-home placement since the inception of the program amounted to more than **$6,580,000.**

Increased and More Stable Reunification

Graduation from Dependency Drug Court correlated with a high rate of family reunification. Since the inception of the program, **96.7%** of the children whose mothers or fathers had graduated from the Dependency Drug Court program **were returned to their homes**, compared with **64%** of the children whose parents started but did not complete the program.

In addition, the sustainability of the family reunification was greater among parents who graduated from Dependency Drug Court as compared to parents who did not complete the program. Since the inception of the program, of the children of parents who graduated from Dependency Drug Court, **only 9.8% re-entered into foster care**, compared with **22.5%** of the children whose parents did not complete the program.

Drug-Free Babies

For parents struggling to rebuild their lives and families, the birth of a drug-addicted baby would likely diminish their chances of success. Special perinatal training and program management were offered to Dependency Drug Court participants to ensure that pregnant mothers delivered drug-free babies — another important measure of success, both in human and in economic terms.

During the operation of the program, at least **3 drug-free babies** were born to women while they were participating in Dependency Drug Court — potentially saving the County hundreds of thousands of dollars in health care costs.

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* Orange County Dependency Drug Court Summary Report; Robin O'Neil, Ph.D., April 2005 – December, 2010; prepared for the Orange County Social Services Agency (at p.25).

CHAPTER 7
Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court, which is held at the Lamoreaux Justice Center in Orange, was established in 1998 to addresses the serious substance abuse issues of minors. The goal of the program 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 through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. Hon. Maria Hernandez presided over the program for most of 2013, succeeded by Hon. Julian Bailey.

Hon. Julian Bailey presides over Juvenile Drug Court

The Juvenile Drug Court 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.

During 2013, 44 participants were admitted into the program, 19 participants were terminated or left the program (3 without fault) and **25 graduated**. The graduates had typically started using drugs before their 14th birthday and most were using drugs several times a week. When they graduated, they had been clean and sober for at least two months, one for more than a year, and at graduation the participants had an average of 245 days clean and sober.

At the end of 2013, Juvenile Drug Court had **34** active participants. Since the inception of the program, a total of 601 participants have been admitted and **211** have graduated.

Juvenile Drug Court Judicial Officers 1998-2013

Hon. Ronald E. Owen
Hon. Robert E. Hutson
Hon. Donna Crandall
Hon. Maria Hernandez
Hon. Julian Bailey
Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood
Ref. Maureen Aplin

Juvenile Drug Court — Results and Benefits

Low Recidivism

An important measure of the success of Juvenile Drug Court 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 — for both the participants and the graduates of the program.

The 2013 participants came into the Juvenile Drug Court program with a significant history of criminal activity — with an average of two 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 2013 Juvenile Drug Court participants was arrested for a new law violation.

Since graduating from Juvenile Drug Court, 187 participants have had an entire year of follow-up. Of these **187** graduates, **only 19** (10%) had a new referral to the Probation Department within one year of graduation. A total of 169 graduates have been out of the program for at least two years. Of these **169** graduates, **only 20** (11.8%) had a new referral to Probation within that time.

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 Services Department, the average 2013 cost of housing a minor at one of the Orange County juvenile correctional facilities was $420.00 per day.

The 25 participants who graduated in 2013 had **4,435 days of custody stayed,** resulting in a **cost savings to the County of $1,862,700**. The total cost savings to the County, since the inception of the Juvenile Drug Court program, amounts to nearly $8,500,000.

In her own words — from the 2013 graduation speech of a Juvenile Drug Court participant

"Before entering this program, I was using alcohol almost every day, and ditching school to go get drunk. I didn't care if I was on probation, I didn't care about how my father felt, and I didn't care about my future. I never once thought I was an alcoholic. … Never in my life had I thought that I would be smoking meth every day ....

I love my father for never giving up on me, and for being very supportive through this. I am truly sorry for everything I have done in the past. I've hurt you, I've lied to you, and I've been such a disappointment. But I promise I will do everything I can to be the daughter you never had, and to be the mother my daughter will always have."

JUVENILE DRUG COURT - Demographic Information							
2013 Program Totals							
		admissions	**%**	**terminations**	**%**	**graduations**	**%**
total		44		19		25	100
gender	female	11	25%	3	16%	14	56%
	male	33	75%	16	84%	11	44%
age	13 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	14 years	1	2%	1	5%	0	0%
	15 years	4	9%	1	5%	0	0%
	16 years	9	21%	1	5%	8	32%
	17 years	19	43%	10	53%	12	48%
	18 years	11	25%	6	32%	5	20%
race / ethnicity	African-American	0	0%	1	5%	0	0%
	Asian	3	7%	0	0%	0	0%
	Caucasian	12	27%	8	42%	10	40%
	Hispanic	24	55%	8	42%	13	52%
	Native American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	5	11%	2	11%	2	8%
education at admission	attending high school	10	23%	5	26%	5	20%
	attending alternative HS	33	75%	14	74%	20	80%
	has diploma/GED	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	has some college	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%
marital status	single	44	100%	19	100%	25	100%
	married	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
employment	employed	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	unemployed	44	100%	19	100%	25	100%
primary drug	alcohol	2	5%	0	0%	0	0%
	cocaine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	heroin	1	2%	3	16%	2	8%
	marijuana	23	52%	12	63%	16	64%
	methamphetamine	17	39%	3	16%	5	20%
	prescription drugs	1	2%	0	0%	1	4%
	other	0	0%	1	5%	1	4%

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, 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 Court will order the parents to attend the Parent Empowerment Program; and it may also refer the family for counseling services provided by the Health Care Agency and to the CalWorks program through the Social Services Agency. A Public Defender assists the family in accessing community resources and helps them to comply with the Court's orders.

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 **119** Truancy Court participants and their families received these "wraparound" services.

On July 29, a field trip to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles offered a new perspective to youth participating in Truancy Court, helping them to refine their attitudes about cultural prejudice and bullying as they become mature and responsible adults.

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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 2013, a total of **125** youth successfully completed the program, all of whom had a markedly improved attendance rate including **90 or more consecutive days of perfect attendance**.

In addition, the parents of **88** of the students in Truancy Court attended the Parent Empowerment Program — acquiring the skills that can help them insure their children's prompt and continuous attendance at school and improve their chances for success.

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, 2012 through June 30, 2013, **only 8.3%** were arrested for violating the law in the six months following their exit, **compared with 18.6%** of the students who did not successfully complete the program.

Maturity and Perspective

In their own words —

"My family is a priority for me, and I want what's best for them. Unfortunately, [my brothers] have begun to follow my habit. I'm afraid that if it doesn't change soon, they will begin to view school as unimportant like I foolishly did. Not going to school will cause more problems than it fixes, and the negative of not going heavily outweighs the positive. I hope that by improving my attendance then maybe my siblings will follow my example."

"Helping out my mom just like she has helped me and motivated me to keep on going to school and graduating is something I am going to be thankful for the rest of my life. One of my goals is to be able to hear "You did it, you finally graduated". Seeing my family proud of me is what I would like to see. I know one day I will have kids and I would not want them to put me in a situation like the one I put my parents through."

Truancy Court Judicial Officers 2001-2013

Hon. Robert B. Hutson
Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood
Hon. Deborah Chuang
Hon. Kim Menninger
Hon. Caryl Lee
Ref. Maureen Aplin
Hon. Donna Crandall

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. Funding for case management and many ancillary services is obtained from Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act.

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. In addition to frequent case reviews, the program includes a comprehensive assessment; joint case planning and management; and linkage to role models and mentors. During the year, the participants increased their contacts with County social workers, nearly all received the services of a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and special education services were provided to those who qualified for them.

Because one goal of the program is to provide the participants with opportunities to experience a normal adolescence, efforts are made to arrange the enrichment activities that many young people take for granted, such as educational, cultural, and social outings. These events also provide an opportunity for the participants for forge positive relationships with others in the program. At the end of 2013, there were **45** participants in Girls Court.

"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 (2010)

Girls Court Judicial Officers 2009-2013

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. Since they entered into the program, **23** of the girls have had **two or fewer** additional placements and, of these, **11** have had **no** placement changes.

The improvement was especially noteworthy for girls who had shown the least placement stability. Prior to entering the program, **36** of the girls had endured 5 or more placements, with **14** of them having had ten or more placements. Since entering the program, of these thirty-six girls, **19** have had **two or fewer** additional placements – with **14** having had either **1 or no** additional placements; and of the fourteen girls who had ten or more placements, **6** have had either **1 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 girls in the program at the end of the year, **18** had a history of AWOL behavior prior to admission into the program; and of these eighteen girls, **11** have **not had any** instances of runaway behavior 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 2013 participants, **64% remained** in one school during the entire school year. Of the girls with a history of suspensions from school, **88% decreased** the number of suspensions from the year before. In addition, **none** were referred to the Truancy Court program.

In 2013, the average GPA of the Girls Court participants was 2.23; and many improved their GPA from the year before, with an average GPA **increase** of **33%.** Of the girls taking the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), **75% passed** the English portion of the exam, and **54% passed** the Math portion.

Before entering the program, many of the girls were on a path that would lead to dropping out of school; however in 2013, **5** of 6 of the participants who were eligible to graduate high school succeeded in doing so — an **83%** graduation rate.

GIRLS COURT			
Demographic Information **for participants active as of 12-31-2013**			
		total	percent
admissions		45	100%
age	13 years	1	2%
	14 years	3	7%
	15 years	5	11%
	16 years	7	16%
	17 years	15	32%
	18 years	7	16%
	19 years	4	9%
	20 years	3	7%
race / ethnicity	African-American	3	7%
	Asian	1	2%
	Caucasian	9	20%
	Hispanic	32	71%
history of mental illness		34	76%
type of placement at admission	foster family agency certified home	8	18%
	foster family home	8	18%
	group home	16	35%
	guardian home	1	2%
	Orangewood Children's Home	1	2%
	relative or non-related extended family member home	7	16%
	runaway	4	9%

Boys Court

Boys Court was opened in 2010 at the Lamoreaux Justice Center to serve 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 voluntary program is under the guidance of Hon. Maria Hernandez, who works with a team of representatives from a variety of partnering agencies – including Orange County's Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, the Department of Education, Probation Department, County Counsel, Public Defender, Juvenile Defenders, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Orangewood Children's Foundation, and the Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme.

Boys Court participants 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. At the end of the year, there were **51** participants in Boys Court.

Judge Hernandez among the Boys Court celebrants

On June 21, a significant goal was achieved by eight proud participants in Boys Court. In the office of their Court-Appointed Special Advocates, before a crowd of well-wishers and friends, they celebrated their high school graduation and their escape from the downward spiral that so often dooms their peers. They had worked hard, with the help of Judge Hernandez and the team members, to build their strength and determination and to regain control of their lives. On that day the eight young men proved to themselves and to the world that they were ready to take the next steps on their paths to becoming self-sufficient, responsible adults.

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 **36** of the boys had endured 5 or more placements — with **18** of them having had ten or more placements.

Since their entry into the Boys Court program, **27** of the boys have had two or fewer additional placements, and **8** of the boys have had **no** placement changes.

The improvement was especially noteworthy for the boys who had shown the least placement stability. Of the 36 boys who had five or more placement changes, **19** have had **2 or fewer** additional placements, with **12** of these having only **1 or no** additional placements. Of the 18 boys who had ten or more placement changes, **11** have had **2 or fewer** additional placements, with **6** of these having **1 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 boy leaves his foster home without permission. There were **26** boys in the program who had a history of AWOL behavior prior to entering Boys Court. Since coming into the program, **17** of these boys have had **2 or fewer** AWOLs, with 7 of these having **no** subsequent AWOL behavior.

There were **8** boys with a history of five or more runaway incidents before entry into the program, and of these boys **3** have had **no** AWOL behavior since starting Boys Court.

School Success

Boys Court participants develop an increased appreciation for education, and show improvement in their educational outcomes. Of the 2013 participants, **61% remained** in one school during the school year. Of the boys with a history of suspensions from school, **67% decreased** the number of suspensions from the year before. In addition, **none** of the participants were referred to Truancy Court.

In 2013, the average GPA of the Boys Court participants was 2.02. Of the boys who improved their GPA, the average GPA **increase** was **43%** from the year before. Of the boys taking the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), **75% passed** the English portion and **69% passed** the Math portion of the Exam.

Before entering the program, many of the boys were on a path that would lead to dropping out of school; however, in 2013, **6** participants graduated from high school, **1** passed the GED, and **1** completed his adult education credits. Out of 10 eligible senior boys, there was a **70%** graduation rate.

BOYS COURT			
Demographic Information **for participants active as of 12-31-2013**			
		total	**percent**
admissions		51	100%
age	13 years	2	4%
	14 years	5	10%
	15 years	6	12%
	16 years	6	12%
	17 years	11	21%
	18 years	10	19%
	19 years	6	12%
	20 years	5	10%
race / ethnicity	Asian	2	4%
	Caucasian	12	24%
	Hispanic	37	72%
history of mental illness		39	77%
type of placement at admission	foster family agency certified home	1	2%
	foster family home	6	12%
	group home	23	45%
	incarcerated	1	2%
	Orangewood Children's Home	8	15%
	relative or non-related extended family member home	5	10%
	runaway	3	6%
	unknown	4	8%

Thank you for your support
of the Collaborative Courts