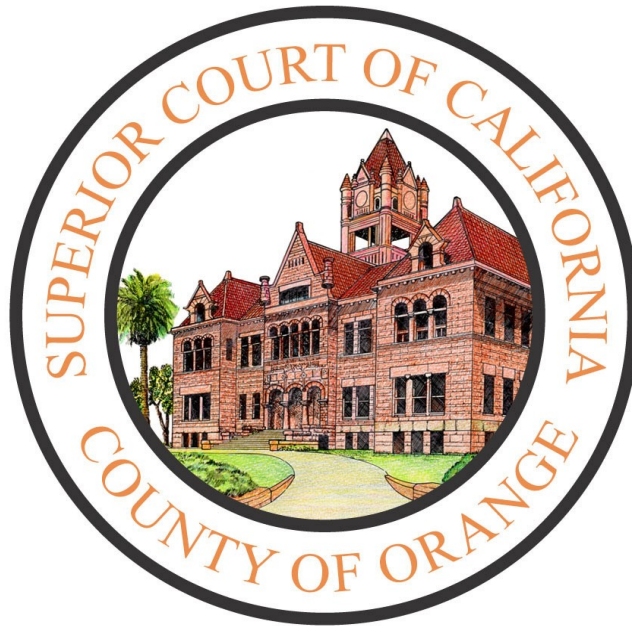


# Superior Court of California County of Orange



## Collaborative Courts 2015 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 **\$108.9 million** through the avoidance of more than **779,540** 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.



## Orange County Programs Attract Worldwide Attention

In 2015, the Orange County Collaborative Courts continued to provide leadership for other states and California counties, as well as for countries throughout the world, for treatment alternatives to incarceration for criminal offenders who are addicted, homeless, or mentally ill.

Three of the County's programs have been formally designated as national teaching sites: the DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center has been named an Academy Court by the National Center for DWI Courts; the Veterans Treatment Court has been named a Mentor Court by Justice for Vets and the National Drug Court Institute; and the Community Court has been named a Mentor Site by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Center for Court Innovation.

As noted more specifically in the pages which follow, jurists and partner agency personnel travelled to Orange County from far and wide during the year to observe programs and learn best practices. These visitors included a delegation from Indonesia, a judge from Israel, and teams from 24 separate jurisdictions — from Oregon to Louisiana, from Vermont to Hawaii.

Conferences also provided a forum for teaching, as Orange County's Collaborative Courts were featured at the Arizona Problem Solving Courts Conference, at the Beyond the Bench conference, and at the combined annual conferences of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and Justice For Vets in Washington D.C.

# 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, 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, 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 1995-2015

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

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

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

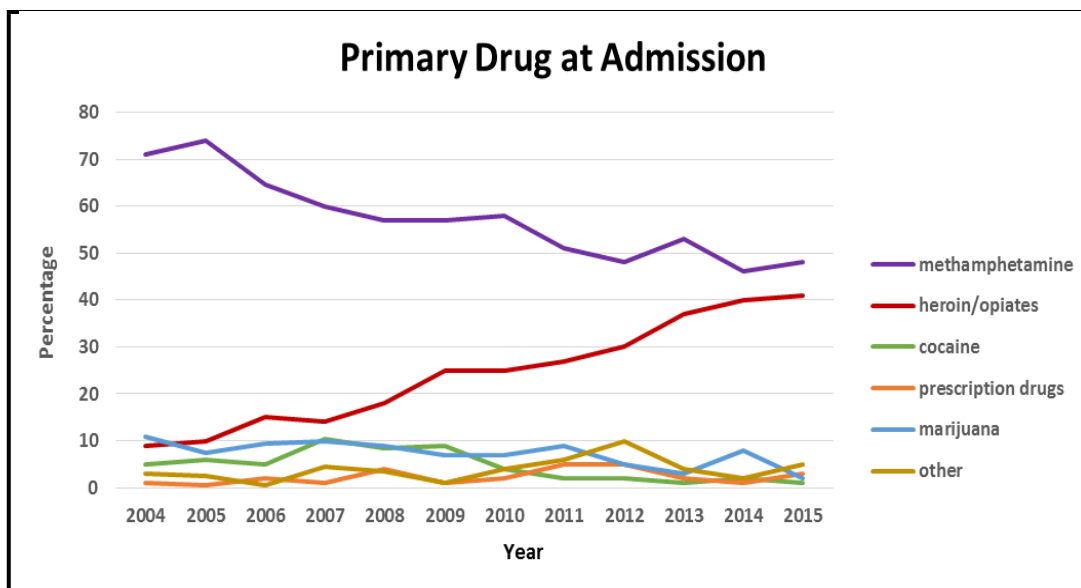
## Drug Court, continued

Funding for the Drug Court program also comes from grant awards. A fiscal-year grant of \$35,165 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, 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 2015, there were 344 participants in the Drug Court program countywide. During the year, 563 defendants were evaluated for admission, 132 of whom were admitted into the program; 4 participants were transferred to another treatment Court program which better suited their needs; and a total of 78 participants opted out or were terminated from the program, 43 of them because of program non-compliance. A total of 77 participants successfully graduated from Drug Court during the year. At the end of the year, there were 317 participants in program.

From the inception of Drug Court in 1995 through the end of 2015, 2,039 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% for any crime, compared with a recidivism rate for comparable non-participants of 74%. In 2015, 4 drug-free babies were born to program participants, bringing the total since inception to 151 babies born free of addiction while their mothers were 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, 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% 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.**

\* 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	739	586	431	283	2,039	
total number of graduates, three years after graduation	685	514	396	243	1,838	100%
number re-arrested	210	136	110	59	515	28%
% re-arrested	30.7%	26.5%	27.8%	24.3%	28%	



***In their own words*** — from the 2015 graduation speeches of Drug Court participants

“An evil darkness had a firm hold on me.”

“I had lost everything: my home, my marriage, my daughter,  
my career, my freedom, and myself.  
By the time I made it to Drug Court, I had no purpose.  
I was utterly hopeless, and wishing for death.”

“When I first started this program I felt helpless, alone, scared, and desperate.  
I didn’t know how to get out of the mess I created of my life. I didn’t know how to  
stop using drugs. I didn’t know how to fix my relationship with my family.  
The only thing I knew was that I wanted to do all these things.”

## 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 \$136.58, which is an average of the 2015 costs at the five County jail facilities.

In 2015, the Drug Court program avoided **27,268 jail and prison bed days** prior to the application of custody credits, which were stayed pending graduation — which translates to **a cost savings of \$3,724,263**. Since inception, the Drug Court program has saved more than **\$48,215,700** 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 2015, **4 drug-free babies** were born to women while they were participating in Drug Court, bringing the cumulative total to **151** 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 **1,660 hours of community service** in 2015.

During the year, **77** 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>2015 Program Totals</b>					
Justice Center	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
active as of 12/31/2014	105	84	53	102	344
defendants evaluated for admission into program	101	129	125	208	563
admitted during 2015	33	38	20	41	132
transferred from another Drug Court program	0	1	1	0	2
terminated — opt-out period	4	13	5	3	25
terminated — Prop.47 opt out	2	3	2	0	7
terminated — participant request	1	2	0	0	3
transferred to another Drug Court program location	0	0	0	2	2
transferred to another treatment court program	2	0	1	1	4
terminated — program non-compliance	19	9	8	7	43
graduated	19	10	15	33	77
active as of 12/31/2015	91	86	42	98	317
drug-free babies born during the program	1	1	0	2	4
jail bed days saved	2974	1834	3786	3893	12,487
prison bed days saved	474	1888	0	12419	14,781



***In their own words*** — from the 2015 graduation speeches of Drug Court participants

“Drug Court has given me a beautiful gift that’s saved my life.”

“I have been reborn with a new purpose and a new future, and it began with me accepting the help that I couldn’t do for myself.”

“Drug Court has taught me how to get my life back.”



## DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

### 2015 Admissions

Justice Center		percent	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
<b>admissions</b>		100%	33	38	20	41	132
<b>gender</b>	female	42%	7	13	12	18	50
	male	62%	26	25	8	23	82
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	12%	1	4	2	9	16
	22 - 30 years	45%	13	18	9	19	59
	31 - 40 years	25%	9	10	4	10	33
	41 - 50 years	14%	10	3	3	3	19
	51 - 60 years	4%	0	3	2	0	5
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	1%	0	1	0	0	1
	Asian	1%	0	0	1	0	1
	Caucasian	80%	22	32	15	36	105
	Hispanic	14%	10	5	3	1	19
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	other	4%	1	0	1	4	6
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	23%	9	12	5	5	31
	has HS / GED	55%	19	26	12	16	73
	some college	17%	3	0	1	18	22
	college degree	5%	2	0	2	2	6
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	married	13%	3	9	2	3	17
	separated	3%	0	1	0	3	4
	divorced	9%	3	4	3	2	12
	single	73%	26	22	15	33	96
	no information	2%	1	2	0	0	3
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	24%	8	17	0	7	32
<b>employment</b>	employed	23%	6	5	6	14	31
	unemployed	76%	27	33	14	26	100
	no information	1%	0	0	0	1	1
<b>primary drug</b>	alcohol	2%	0	1	1	1	3
	cocaine	1%	0	0	0	1	1
	heroin	39%	11	6	5	30	52
	marijuana	2%	0	1	2	0	3
	methamphetamine	48%	21	29	11	3	64
	opiates	2%	1	1	0	1	3
	prescription drugs	3%	0	0	0	4	4
	other	3%	0	0	1	1	2

## DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

### 2015 Terminations

Justice Center		percent	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
<b>terminations</b>		100%	28	27	16	11	82
<b>gender</b>	female	38%	12	4	9	6	31
	male	62%	16	23	7	5	51
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	16%	1	8	2	2	13
	22 - 30 years	55%	19	10	9	7	45
	31 - 40 years	12%	4	4	2	0	10
	41 - 50 years	11%	4	1	2	2	9
	51 - 60 years	6%	0	4	1	0	5
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	2%	1	1	0	0	2
	Asian	1%	0	1	0	0	1
	Caucasian	74%	21	16	14	10	61
	Hispanic	20%	6	7	2	1	16
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	other	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	no information	3%	0	2	0	0	2
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	33%	9	12	4	2	27
	has HS / GED	45%	11	15	7	4	37
	some college	21%	8	0	4	5	17
	college degree	1%	0	0	1	0	1
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	married	11%	7	1	0	1	9
	separated	6%	3	0	1	1	5
	divorced	2%	1	1	0	0	2
	single	81%	17	25	15	9	66
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	12%	5	4	1	0	10
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	17%	3	5	4	2	14
	unemployed	82%	25	22	12	8	67
	unknown	1%	0	0	0	1	1
<b>primary drug at admission</b>	alcohol	2%	0	1	1	0	2
	cocaine	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	heroin	37%	8	8	5	9	30
	marijuana	2%	2	0	0	0	2
	methamphetamine	54%	16	18	9	1	44
	opiates	5%	2	0	1	1	4
	prescription drugs	0%	0	0	0	0	0

## DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

### 2015 Graduations

Justice Center		percent	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
<b>graduations</b>		100%	19	10	15	33	77
<b>gender</b>	female	49%	10	4	11	13	38
	male	51%	9	6	4	20	39
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	10%	2	1	2	3	8
	22 - 30 years	55%	11	5	7	19	42
	31 - 40 years	25%	4	3	4	8	19
	41 - 50 years	10%	2	1	2	3	8
	51 - 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	1%	0	0	0	1	1
	Asian	4%	1	0	0	2	3
	Caucasian	74%	11	8	11	27	57
	Hispanic	16%	6	2	2	3	13
	other	5%	1	0	2	0	3
<b>education at admission</b>	needs HS / GED	10%	2	2	2	2	8
	has HS / GED	49%	6	8	9	15	38
	some college	33%	9	0	2	14	25
	college degree	8%	2	0	2	2	6
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	married	10%	1	1	3	3	8
	separated	1%	0	0	0	1	1
	divorced	8%	1	2	2	1	6
	single	81%	17	7	10	28	62
	widowed	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	23%	5	5	5	3	18
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	32%	0	2	5	18	25
	unemployed	67%	19	8	9	15	51
	no information	1%	0	0	1	0	1
<b>primary drug at admission</b>	alcohol	1%	0	0	0	1	1
	cocaine	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	heroin	34%	4	3	3	16	26
	marijuana	4%	1	1	1	0	3
	methamphetamine	51%	12	6	10	11	39
	opiates	5%	1	0	0	3	4
	prescription drugs	5%	1	0	1	2	4
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0

## 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. At the end of 2015, 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 2015, the DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center continued as one of four programs in the country to be 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. During the year, the Court hosted separate site visits by judges and team members from Georgia, Colorado, and Monterey County; and in December, the Court welcomed teams from Vermont, Michigan, Arkansas, Montana and Guam for an all-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 Washington, DC, 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 drunk drivers.

In 2015, **164** defendants were admitted to DUI Court, and at the end of the year there were **185** active participants. During the year, **99** participants graduated from the program, bringing the total number of graduates to **1,236** since the inception of DUI Court.



### DUI Court Judicial Officers 2004-2015

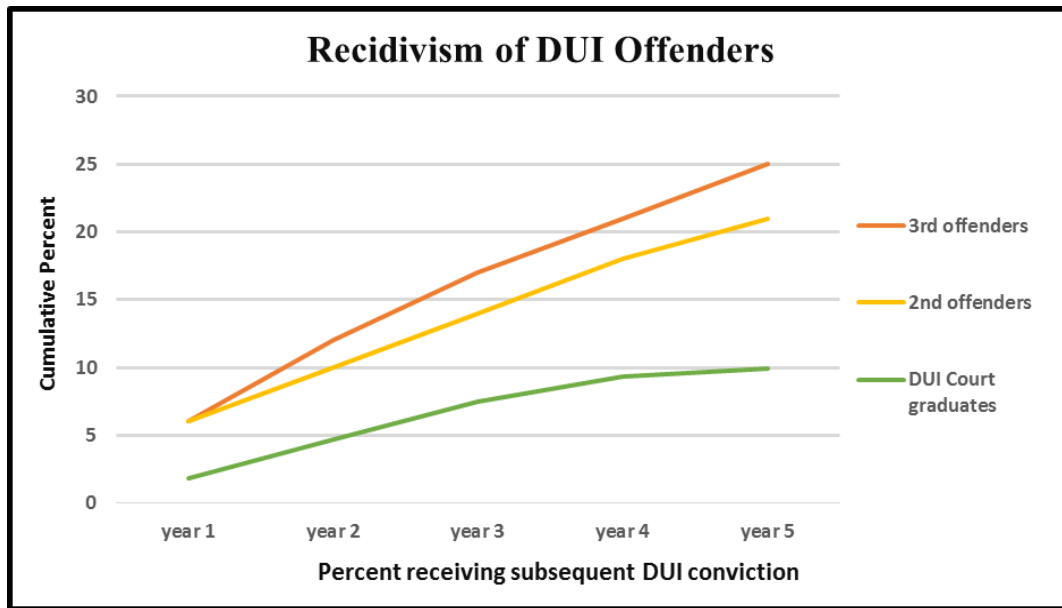
Hon. Carlton Biggs  
Hon. Michael Cassidy  
Hon. Terri Flynn-Peister  
Hon. Matthew Anderson  
Hon. Robert Knox

Hon. Douglas Hatchimonji  
Hon. Wendy Lindley  
Hon. Donald Gaffney  
Hon. Debra Carrillo  
Hon. Joe Perez

# DUI Court - Results and Benefits

## Reduced Recidivism

As shown by the chart below, only **9.9%** 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 at about **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	637	281	169	149	1236	
total number of graduates, five years after graduation	431	161	65	21	678	100%
re-convicted within 1 year	7	4	1	0	12	1.8%
re-convicted within 2 years	22	7	3	0	32	4.7%
re-convicted within 3 years	32	13	5	1	51	7.5%
re-convicted within 4 years	41	16	5	1	63	9.3%
re-convicted within 5 years	44	17	5	1	67	9.9%

## 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 \$136.58 per day. In 2015, the DUI Court program saved **26,733 jail bed days**, resulting in a **cost savings of \$3,633,549**. Since its inception, the DUI Court program has saved **252,559 jail bed days**, resulting in a total savings of **\$26,605,558**.

### 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. Since 2008, **11 babies** have been born free of drugs or fetal alcohol syndrome to women while they were 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 2015, participants performed **1,461 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 2015 phase advancement and graduation speeches of DUI Court participants

“I’ve always believed if I just wanted to quit that I would. Unfortunately I’ve been saying that to myself for over 20 years. Listening to all the sad stories how alcohol messed up their lives and families and their jobs. That’s not me is what I would say. But in reality those drunks in those meetings were me. I just wasn’t sober enough to realize it.”

“I was drinking more often, I was drinking alone, I was drinking during the daytime. I felt defeated and depressed, I was giving up. The only time I wasn’t miserable was when I was drinking.”

“I ignored the solitude, the isolation, the unkind words, the embarrassments. I overlooked the lost friendships, the failed relationships, and the stunted career path. My friends and my family, unable to save me, couldn’t bear to watch the train wreck unfolding before them.”

<b>DUI COURT</b>					
<b>2015 Program Totals</b>					
Justice Center	Central	North	West	Harbor	total
active as of 12/31/2014	31	44	45	62	182
defendants evaluated for admission into program	80	87	130	281	578
admitted during 2015	23	31	41	69	164
transferred from another DUI Court program	0	0	0	0	0
terminated — opt-out period	0	4	2	2	8
terminated — extenuating circumstances	0	0	0	0	0
transferred to another DUI Court program	0	0	0	0	0
transferred to another treatment court program	0	0	0	0	0
terminated — program non-compliance	3	5	5	10	23
graduated	17	27	29	26	99
active as of 12/31/2015	34	40	49	93	216
drug-free babies born during program	0	0	0	0	0
jail bed days saved	4448	8122	5682	8481	26,733
prison bed days saved	0	0	0	0	0



***In their own words*** — from 2015 DUI Court phase advancement and graduation speeches

“I have learned how powerful and devastating alcohol can be; that alcohol does not discriminate; and that it can affect anyone, no matter where they come from.”

“This program does more than keep you sober for a year. It gives you the tools to fight this disease for the rest of your life.”

<b>DUI COURT - Demographic Information</b>							
<b>2015 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%	23	31	41	69	164
<b>gender</b>	female	28%	6	6	11	23	46
	male	72%	17	25	30	46	118
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	3%	1	1	1	2	5
	22 - 30 years	37%	8	15	12	25	60
	31 - 40 years	24%	7	10	13	9	39
	41 - 50 years	17%	3	1	8	16	28
	51 - 60 years	16%	3	3	6	15	27
	over 60 years	3%	1	1	1	2	5
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	1%	0	0	1	1	2
	Asian	4%	1	0	4	1	6
	Caucasian	50%	8	9	20	45	82
	Hispanic	37%	13	20	13	17	63
	Native American	1%	0	1	0	0	1
	other	5%	1	1	3	3	8
	(data unavailable)	1%	0	0	0	2	2
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	16%	5	7	8	6	26
	has HS / GED	25%	6	12	8	15	41
	some college	43%	8	10	19	33	70
	college degree	16%	4	2	6	15	27
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	single	64%	19	22	25	39	105
	married	16%	2	4	9	12	27
	separated	5%	1	1	2	4	8
	divorced	14%	1	4	4	14	23
	no information	1%	0	0	1	0	1
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	21%	2	11	2	19	34
<b>employment</b>	employed	77%	18	21	34	53	126
	unemployed	22%	4	10	7	15	36
	no information	1%	1	0	0	1	2



<b>DUI COURT - Demographic Information</b>							
<b>2015 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	7	6	12	28
<b>gender</b>	female	39%	1	1	0	6	11
	male	61%	2	6	1	6	17
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	6%	0	1	0	1	2
	22 - 30 years	36%	0	4	2	4	10
	31 - 40 years	25%	1	1	3	2	7
	41 - 50 years	11%	1	1	0	1	3
	51 - 60 years	18%	1	0	1	3	5
	over 60 years	4%	0	0	0	1	1
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian	3%	0	0	1	0	1
	Caucasian	68%	1	2	4	12	19
	Hispanic	29%	2	5	1	0	8
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	11%	0	2	0	1	3
	has HS / GED	21%	1	2	2	1	6
	some college	39%	1	2	4	4	11
	college degree	29%	1	1	0	6	8
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	divorced	11%	0	0	0	3	3
	married	21%	1	1	3	1	6
	separated	4%	0	1	0	0	1
	single	64%	2	5	3	8	18
	widowed	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	29%	1	4	0	3	8
<b>employment</b>	employed	61%	2	5	3	7	17
	unemployed	39%	1	2	3	5	11
	unknown	0%	0	0	0	0	0

## DUI COURT - Demographic Information

### 2015 Graduations

Justice Center		percent	Central	Harbor	North	West	total
<b>graduations</b>		100%	17	26	27	29	99
<b>gender</b>	female	31%	7	9	7	8	31
	male	69%	10	17	20	21	68
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	1%	1	0	0	0	1
	22 - 30 years	37%	8	9	11	9	37
	31 - 40 years	25%	4	5	7	9	25
	41 - 50 years	19%	3	9	3	4	19
	51 - 60 years	14%	0	2	6	6	14
	over 60 years	4%	1	1	0	1	3
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	1%	0	0	0	1	1
	Asian	9%	0	1	2	6	9
	Caucasian	53%	9	15	13	15	52
	Hispanic	33%	8	7	11	6	32
	(data unavailable)	4%	0	1	1	0	2
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	8%	3	2	1	2	8
<b>at admission</b>	has HS / GED	30%	4	6	12	8	30
	some college	42%	5	12	11	13	41
	college degree	20%	5	6	3	6	20
	no information	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>marital status</b>	married	18%	5	6	4	2	18
	separated	5%	1	1	1	2	5
	divorced	21%	2	9	4	6	21
	single	55%	8	10	18	18	54
	no information	1%	1	0	0	0	1
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	24%	4	8	7	5	24
<b>employment</b>	employed	68%	10	20	18	19	67
<b>at admission</b>	unemployed	32%	7	6	9	10	32
	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.

A case manager who is funded by the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, and a Deputy Probation Officer who is funded by the County, guide participants through a phased program, at least eighteen months in length, which 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.

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 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 a Mentor Court by Justice for Vets and the National Drug Court Institute.

In 2015, judges and partner agency staff from Wisconsin, Michigan, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii, as well as from Plumas, and Sacramento Counties, made separate visits to the Community Court to observe the team meeting and the court session, and to speak with Judge Perez and the team to learn best practices for the establishment or improvement of Veterans Court in their jurisdictions.

In June, at the VetCon conference in Washington DC, team members from Veterans Mentor Court participated in the presentation of workshops and a panel discussion. The opening ceremony of the conference featured the induction of Judge Wendy Lindley (ret.) into the Justice For Vets Hall of Fame.

During the year, **16** participants graduated from Veterans Treatment Court, bringing to **76** the total number of graduates since the inception of the program. At the end of 2015, there were **30** 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 **76** participants who have graduated since the inception of the program, **only 8 have been re-arrested**. — a recidivism rate of **10.5%**.

## 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 \$136.58 per day, which is an average of the 2015 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 2015, the Veterans Treatment Court program **saved 3,333 jail and prison bed days** prior to the application of custody credits, which resulted in a **cost savings of \$453,021**. Since inception, the program has saved a total of **19,369** jail and prison bed days, for a cost savings of **\$2,485,235**.

## 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**  
**2015 Program Totals**

		<b>admissions</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>terminations</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>graduations</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>total</b>		13	100%	6	100%	16	100%
<b>gender</b>	female	2	15%	1	17%	0	0%
	male	11	85%	5	83%	16	100%
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	22 - 30 years	5	39%	1	17%	10	63%
	31 - 40 years	4	31%	2	33%	5	31%
	41 - 50 years	2	15%	1	17%	1	6%
	51 - 60 years	2	15%	2	33%	0	0%
	over 60 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	0	0%	0	0%	1	6%
	Asian	1	7%	0	0%	2	13%
	Caucasian	7	54%	2	33%	8	50%
	Hispanic	4	32%	4	67%	5	31%
	Native American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	1	7%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	has HS / GED	7	54%	4	67%	9	56%
	some college	4	31%	0	0%	5	31%
	college degree	2	15%	2	33%	2	13%
<b>marital status</b>	married	2	15%	1	17%	6	38%
	separated	3	23%	2	33%	2	13%
	divorced	1	8%	1	17%	3	18%
	single	7	54%	2	33%	5	31%
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	3	23%	0	0%	5	31%
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	5	38%	2	33%	7	44%
	unemployed	8	62%	4	67%	9	56%
<b>primary drug</b>	alcohol	9	68%	2	32%	14	88%
	cocaine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	heroin	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%
	marijuana	1	8%	0	0%	1	6%
	methamphetamine	1	8%	1	17%	0	0%
	opiates	1	8%	1	17%	0	0%
	prescription drugs	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	n/a	1	8%	1	17%	1	6%

## 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 2015 phase advancement and graduation speeches of Veterans Treatment Court participants

"In November 2009, my deployment to Afghanistan began. I was 21 years old. During a period of a little over 7 months, my whole life turned. My sleep patterns changed, I lost brothers who I loved dearly, I shot men who shot at me. I wrote my will 3 times. All I knew was war, all I saw was blood and death."

"After two combat tours in Iraq, I came home and settled down with hopes and dreams of starting a new life. However, I was quickly consumed by anger, anxiety, isolation, and substance abuse. The VA told me that I suffered from PTS but I refused to believe it. I blamed my issues on others and what I believed to be their lack of understanding of what I was going through. The combination of PTS and substance abuse quickly led to my self-destruction and I got three DUI's in two months."

\* \* \*

"Veterans Court changed my life, and not only mine – my parents, my kids, my whole family."

"I will forever be thankful. I will never lose sight of who I am, and will continue to work on myself each and every day using the tools I learned in Veterans Court."

"I wake up these days truly happy because the horizon finally looks the way I want it to."



## CHAPTER 4

# Mental Health Courts

Orange County's Mental Health Court programs are all based on the Drug Court model, and are all 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 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 2015, a total of **13** participants graduated from Opportunity Court and Recovery Court, and at the end of the year, **46** 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 2015, a total of **5** participants graduated from WIT Court, and at the end of the year, **99** 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. At the end of 2015, **26** participants were active in the program.

<b>Mental Health Courts</b>						
<b>2015 Admissions by Mental Health Disorder</b>						
	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	Assisted Intervention Court	total	percent
admissions	6	13	76	14	109	100%
Bi-Polar Disorder	4	8	16	4	32	29.4%
Schizophrenia	0	4	4	5	13	12%
Major Depressive Disorder	1	1	1	2	5	4.6%
Schizoaffective Disorder	0	0	9	2	11	10%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	0	0	2	0	2	1.8%
Mood Disorder NOS	1	0	22	0	23	21.1%
Psychiatric Disorder NOS	0	0	22	1	23	21.1%

***In their own words*** — from the phase advancement speeches of  
2015 mental health court participants

“When I stopped taking medication I started hearing voices and talking to myself and I lost everything. I was very sad. I didn’t care about my son and my family. I didn’t even care about myself.”

“I had a hard time telling right from wrong.  
Now I am starting to see the light. I no longer have delusions.”



# 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 **34.9%**.

Mental Health Courts					
Recidivism Data for Program Graduates					
	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total	percent
total graduates as of 12/31/2015	110	51	97	258	100%
re-arrested, any charge	39	15	36	90	34.9%
% re-arrested, any charge	35.4%	27.2%	37.1%	34.9%	

## 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 \$136.58 per day, which is an average of the 2015 costs at the five Orange County jail facilities.

In 2015, the mental health court programs **saved 5,501 jail and prison bed days** prior to the application of custody credits, resulting in a **cost savings of \$747,696**. Since inception, the mental health courts have saved more than **\$8,755,500** 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 2015, participants performed a remarkable **15,549 hours of community service**.



***In his own words*** — from the graduation speech of a 2015 mental health court participant

“Before this program, I could not get a job. Nothing mattered anymore. I was hopeless. Today I have a job I love, I have true friends that care about me, my family is in my life, I have hopes and dreams. Thank you for not giving up on me.”

## Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information

### 2015 Admissions

		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
<b>admissions</b>		100%	6	13	76	95
<b>sex</b>	female	28%	3	3	21	27
	male	72%	3	10	55	68
<b>age</b>	0-17 years	0%	0	0	0	0
	18 - 21 years	15%	1	1	12	14
	22 - 30 years	31%	2	4	23	29
	31 - 40 years	29%	3	5	20	28
	41 - 50 years	19%	0	2	16	18
	51 - 60 years	6%	0	1	5	6
	over 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	18%	0	0	17	17
	Asian	6%	1	1	4	6
	Caucasian	57%	3	11	40	54
	Hispanic	18%	2	1	14	17
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	1%	0	0	1	1
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	28%	0	1	26	27
	has HS / GED	47%	2	8	35	45
	some college	16%	2	3	10	15
	college degree	9%	2	1	5	8
<b>marital status</b>	married	4%	1	1	2	4
	separated	4%	0	0	4	4
	divorced	13%	0	1	11	12
	single	79%	5	11	59	75
	widowed	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	22%	0	1	20	21
<b>employment</b>	employed	1%	1	0	0	1
	unemployed	99%	5	13	76	94
<b>primary drug</b>	alcohol	8%	0	1	7	8
	cocaine	1%	0	0	1	1
	heroin	12%	1	3	7	11
	marijuana	14%	1	1	11	13
	methamphetamine	61%	2	7	49	58
	opiates	4%	2	1	1	4
	prescription drugs	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	0%	0	0	0	0

## Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information

### 2015 Terminations

		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
<b>terminations</b>		100%	14	12	52	78
<b>sex</b>	female	42%	5	5	23	33
	male	58%	9	7	29	45
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	10%	1	0	7	8
	22 - 30 years	32%	5	5	15	25
	31 - 40 years	32%	6	5	14	25
	41 - 50 years	19%	2	1	12	15
	51 - 60 years	6%	0	1	4	5
	over 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	10%	0	0	8	8
	Asian	1%	0	0	1	1
	Caucasian	72%	11	12	33	56
	Hispanic	15%	3	0	9	12
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	1%	0	0	1	1
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	33%	2	3	21	26
	has HS / GED	33%	4	4	18	26
	some college	19%	4	2	9	15
	college degree	14%	4	3	4	11
<b>marital status</b>	married	5%	2	0	2	4
	separated	9%	2	2	3	7
	divorced	9%	0	0	7	7
	single	74%	9	10	39	58
	widowed	3%	1	0	0	1
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	23%	4	1	13	18
<b>employment</b>	employed	2%	1	0	0	1
	unemployed	98%	13	12	52	77
<b>primary drug at admission</b>	alcohol	4%	1	0	2	3
	cocaine	3%	1	0	1	2
	heroin	12%	1	2	6	9
	marijuana	8%	2	1	3	6
	methamphetamine	67%	6	8	39	53
	opiates	1%	0	0	1	1
	prescription drugs	4%	2	1	0	3
	other	1%	1	0	0	1

## Mental Health Courts - Demographic Information

### 2015 Graduations

		percent	Opportunity Court	Recovery Court	WIT Court	total
<b>graduations</b>		100%	5	8	5	18
<b>gender</b>	female	33%	2	1	3	6
	male	67%	3	7	2	12
<b>age</b>	18 - 21 years	11%	1	0	1	2
	22 - 30 years	22%	0	3	1	4
	31 - 40 years	39%	3	1	3	7
	41 - 50 years	22%	0	3	1	4
	51 - 60 years	6%	1	0	0	1
	over 60 years	0%	0	0	0	0
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	6%	0	1	0	1
	Asian	17%	0	3	0	3
	Caucasian	67%	5	2	5	12
	Hispanic	5%	0	1	0	1
	Native American	0%	0	0	0	0
	other	5%	0	1	0	1
<b>education</b>	needs HS / GED	22%	0	0	4	4
	has HS / GED	44%	2	5	1	8
	some college	22%	1	3	0	4
	college degree	12%	2	0	0	2
<b>marital status</b>	married	6%	0	1	0	1
	separated	17%	2	0	1	3
	divorced	22%	1	2	1	4
	single	55%	2	5	3	10
<b>parental status</b>	with minor children	22%	0	1	3	4
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	12%	1	1	0	2
	unemployed	88%	4	7	5	16
<b>primary drug at admission</b>	methamphetamine	33%	2	2	2	6
	heroin	12%	1	1	0	2
	cocaine	12%	0	1	1	2
	marijuana	33%	1	3	2	6
	alcohol	5%	1	0	0	1
	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.

The sessions of the Drug Court and DUI court programs held at the Community Court 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 2015 program participant at the Community Court

“In the past I really had no life and I couldn’t hold a job. I didn’t really care about anything except for drugs, and my future was non-existent. Today, I don’t even think about drugs. I have too much to lose and I realize that there is more to my life. I am a lot healthier and have better relationships with others. I also have a job. I have goals that I would not be able to accomplish if I were high.”

## **The Community Court, continued**

In January, the Presiding Judge and other judges from the Kern County Superior Court visited the Community Court with partner agency staff to observe a session of WIT Court and to speak with Judge Perez and the team. In June, the Community Court hosted a two-day visit by a jurist from Israel; and in July, the Chief Judges of five Indonesian District Courts, along with the directors of the Indonesian Supreme Court's education and program evaluation sections, visited the Community Court for an introduction to collaborative justice.



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

In December, a group of judges attending the Beyond the Bench conference visited the Community Court to observe a session of Veterans Treatment Court and to engage in discussion with Judge Perez and the members of the treatment court team. The following day, Judge Perez participated in a panel discussion at the conference on lessons learned from providing a specialized court track for veterans.

At the end of the week, at an associated day of workshops presented by the Center for Court Innovation, Judge Perez spoke about community-based alternatives to traditional case disposition in the criminal justice system. He was also interviewed regarding procedural justice — essentially, the aspects of the justice system that promote the perception of equal access and fairness — for a podcast by the Center for Court Innovation.

### **Military Diversion Program Set at the Community Court**

A new 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 being overseen at the Community Court by Hon. Joe Perez. Established pursuant to PC1001.80, the program seeks to address the underlying causes of the criminal behavior; however, the program differs significantly from Veterans Court, both in the level of oversight and accountability, and because therapeutic treatment will be ordered at arraignment by another judge as a pre-plea diversion from prosecution, rather than imposed by Judge Perez as a post-plea and post-conviction condition of probation.

Treatment 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 Perez for periodic progress reviews; and upon successful completion, the charges may be dismissed.

## 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 under the direction of Hon. Joe Perez, is now 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 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 **430 participants**. Potential participants in the Homeless Outreach Court are interviewed at the Community Court 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 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 2015, **254** people **completed** the program, with more than **2,000 hours of community service**. Since the inception of Homeless Outreach Court, **2,762** 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

On December 16, in a ceremony at the Community Court, the Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to Christina Bennett, the Program Director of SSI Outreach for the Mental Health Association of Orange County. Ms. Bennett has been working with participants in the Homeless Outreach Court for more than 13 years, helping them to access the government disability benefits and other services which can assist them in regaining their self-sufficiency.

Christina Bennett was praised for her hard work and dedication by each of the speakers at the event, including Assistant Presiding Judge Charles Margines and Chief Deputy Public Defender Sharon Petrosino.

## 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.

During 2015, 24 participants were admitted into the program, 14 participants were terminated or left the program without fault, and 26 graduated. Prior to their entry into the program, most of these 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 one month and a year, with an average of 178 days, or nearly six months, clean and sober.

At the end of 2015, Juvenile Drug Court had 21 active participants. Since the inception of the program, a total of 666 participants have been admitted and 252 have graduated.

### Juvenile Drug Court Judicial Officers 1998-2015

Hon. Ronald E. Owen  
Hon. Robert E. Hutson

Hon. Donna Crandall  
Hon. Maria Hernandez  
Hon. Julian Bailey

Hon. Carolyn Kirkwood  
Ref. Maureen Aplin



***In their own words*** — from the 2015 phase advancement and graduation speeches of boys and girls participating in Juvenile Drug Court

"I started smoking weed when I was 14. I was getting high daily and stopped going to school. I got arrested for vandalism and petty theft, and when I got out I went on the run because I wasn't thinking and I just wanted to get high."

"I was not happy with who I was or how I looked, but when I tried drugs I felt like I had arrived. This was my purpose until I started losing everyone and everything. When I saw how heartbroken my mom was, I tried stopping and I stopped for short periods of time, but I didn't know how to stay stopped."

"While in my active addiction at home I became a horrible monster, someone I hated. I was deeply ashamed of my behavior. I was a liar, a cheat and a thief, but I didn't know how to change my ways."



# 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 2015 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 2015 Juvenile Drug Court participants with prior drug charges was arrested for a new law violation involving drugs.

Since graduating from Juvenile Drug Court, **226** participants have had at least an entire year of follow-up. Of these **226** graduates, **only 23** (10%) had a new referral to the Probation Department within one year of graduation. A total of **209** graduates have been out of the program for at least two years. Of these **209** graduates, **only 27** (13%) 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 2015 was \$550.34 per day.

The **26** participants who graduated in 2015 had **4,704 days of custody stayed**, resulting in a **cost savings to the County of \$2,588,799**. The Probation Department calculates that the total cost savings to the County, since the inception of the Juvenile Drug Court program, amounts to **\$22,846,264**.



***In their own words*** — from the 2015 phase advancement and graduation speeches of boys and girls participating in Juvenile Drug Court

“I have been sober for six months and I would not have been able to do it without this support. I would like to let my peers know that all of this is worth it. If I could do it anyone can do it. It feels good to feel.”

“I’ve learned that you need to find something that motivates you, and use that motivation to do as well as you can.”

“I’d like to thank my mom for not giving up on me and for making sure no one else gave up on me. Today I have a job, I am enrolled at high school, I am on the football team, and I am sober.”

## JUVENILE DRUG COURT - Demographic Information

### 2015 Program Totals

		admissions	%	terminations	%	graduations	%
<b>total</b>		24	100	14	100	26	100
<b>gender</b>	female	10	42%	5	36%	10	38%
	male	14	58%	9	64%	16	62%
<b>age</b>	13 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	14 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	15 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	16 years	7	29%	1	7%	0	0%
	17 years	10	42%	4	29%	3	12%
	18 years	7	29%	2	14%	11	42%
	19 years	0	0%	7	50%	12	46%
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Asian	0	0%	1	7%	1	4%
	Caucasian	4	17%	3	21%	7	27%
	Hispanic	17	71%	9	64%	18	69%
	Native American	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	3	13%	1	7%	0	0%
<b>education at admission</b>	attending high school	7	29%	4	29%	3	11%
	attending alternative HS	17	71%	9	64%	22	85%
	has diploma/GED	0	0%	1	7%	0	4%
	has some college	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%
<b>marital status</b>	single	24	100%	14	100%	26	100%
	married	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>employment at admission</b>	employed	0	0%	2	14%	1	4%
	unemployed	24	100%	12	86%	25	96%
<b>primary drug</b>	alcohol	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	cocaine	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	heroin	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%
	marijuana	20	83%	9	64%	19	73%
	methamphetamine	3	13%	5	36%	7	27%
	prescription drugs	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	other	0	0%	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 **308** people, from **152** 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 **90** 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, a total of **66** 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015, **only 9.5%** were arrested for violating the law in the six months following their exit, **compared with 12.0%** of the students who did not successfully complete the program.

## Maturity and Perspective

*In their own words* — from essays written by 2015 Truancy Court participants

"With a high school diploma you can do many things that will make you happy and it proves that no matter what you went through you still managed to graduate and maybe go to college. If you graduate and you have someone looking up at you then you can encourage them to stay in school and graduate."

"I want to go to college so I can study being a teacher. I'm good with kids so I think being a teacher is a good job for me. Kids have me thinking about how my own kids are going to be."

"I want a good job because I want to help out my mom and family. I'm going to focus in school. I'm going to set goals in my life which means I'm going to do anything to get there."

"In five years I imagine myself being proud of who I have become. I would hope that obtaining a high school diploma will make my dad proud of me."



### Truancy Court Judicial Officers 2001-2015

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, **38** girls were active in 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 2009-2015

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 **38** girls who were served by the program, **32** of them had endured 5 or more placements — with **17** 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, **18** of the **38** girls have had **two or fewer additional placements** and of these, **5** have had **no placement changes**. The improvement is especially notable for girls who had shown the least placement stability. Of the **32** girls who had five or more previous placements, **15** have had **two or fewer** additional placements, with **14** of these having had either **one or no** additional placements. Of the **17** girls who had ten or more placements, **10** have had **two or fewer** additional placements, with **9** 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 **38** girls who were served by the Girls Court program, **23** had a history of AWOL behavior prior to their admission; and of these twenty-three girls, **10** 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 **6** girls with a history of five or more runaway incidents before entry into the program — including two girls with 14 incidents each. Of these six girls, **one** has had **no AWOL** behavior since starting Girls Court, and the **2** girls with fourteen incidents each 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 2015 participants who were attending junior high or high school, **54% remained in one school** during the entire school year. In addition, **80%** of the girls **did not have any suspensions**, and **none were expelled** from school.

The average GPA of the Girls Court participants **increased** from **2.36** to **2.52**, with **58%** of the girls improving their overall individual GPA. Six of the participants were seniors during the 2014-2015 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, **3** of the girls obtained their high school diplomas, and **2** are remaining in school as fifth year seniors.

<b>GIRLS COURT</b>			
<b>Demographic Information for all 2015 participants</b>			
		total	percent
<b>age</b>	12 years	1	3%
	13 years	3	8%
	14 years	7	18%
	15 years	13	34%
	16 years	2	5%
	17 years	6	16%
	18 years	3	8%
	19 years	3	8%
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	African-American	1	3%
	Asian	0	0%
	Caucasian	12	32%
	Hispanic	23	61%
	(not reported)	2	5%
<b>history of mental illness</b>		30	79%
<b>type of placement at admission</b>	foster family agency certified home	2	5%
	foster family home	3	8%
	group home	12	32%
	Orangewood Children's Home	2	5%
	relative or non-related extended family member home	5	13%
	supervised independent living	1	2%
	runaway	12	32%
	incarcerated	1	2%

***In her own words*** — from an essay written by a 2015 participant in Girls Court

"I was in a foster home but got sent to Orangewood because of my behavior.  
I would run away from Orangewood like every day because I didn't want to be there.  
I had drug problems ....

In Girls Court I got a new social worker and ever since that day I became a better person in life.  
Now I don't have a running away problem or a drug problem.  
I have been sober, which means a lot to me and my love ones."

# 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 2015, a total of 57 boys were served; and at the end of the year, 42 participants were active in Boys Court.

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 his own words*** — from an essay written by a 2015 participant in Boys Court

“After my mom and dad were convicted of 62 felonies,  
my sister and I were entered into the foster care system.  
The most notable of those felonies was child abuse, and lack of proper education.  
At the time, I felt as if no one cared about me.  
I was a scared, lonely, and aimless child  
who couldn’t fathom what was going to happen next.

As I’ve progressed in my journey,  
I’ve always felt a sense of love from the Boys Court staff.  
The court is like the parents I never had.  
Comprised of big hearted people  
who have chosen to dedicate their time and efforts,  
so that a kid like me can have the best possible life.”



# 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 **57** boys who were served by the program, **47** of them had endured 5 or more placements — with **29** of them having had ten or more placements each (eleven of the boys had more than twenty placements each, and one had *twenty-nine*).

Since their entry into the Boys Court program, **50** of the **57** boys have had **two or fewer additional placements**, and of these, **30** have had **no placement changes** (including ten of the eleven boys who had more than twenty previous placements each). The improvement is especially notable for the boys who had shown the least placement stability. Of the **47** boys who had five or more previous placements, **39** have had **two or fewer** additional placements, with **34** of these having only **one or no** additional placements. Of the **29** boys who had ten or more placements, **24** of them have had **two or fewer** additional placements, with **20** of these having **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 boy leaves his foster home without permission. There were **32** boys in the program who had a history of AWOL behavior prior to entering Boys Court. Since coming into the program, **28** of these boys have had **two or fewer AWOLs**, with **24** 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 **13** boys with a history of five or more runaway incidents before entry into the program — including seven boys with more than 10 incidents each, one of whom had 28 AWOLs. Of these thirteen boys, **8** have had **no AWOL behavior** since starting Boys Court, and **11** have had **two or fewer incidents** — including two boys who had 48 previous AWOL incidents between them.

## School Success

Boys Court participants develop an increased appreciation for education, and show improvement in their educational outcomes. Of the **33** participants who were attending either junior high or high school, **36% remained in one school** during the entire school year. In addition, **90% did not have any suspensions** during the year, and **none were expelled** from school.

In 2015, the average GPA of the Boys Court participants **increased** from **2.06** to **2.10**. Before entering the program, many of the boys were on a path that would lead to dropping out of school; however, of the twelve boys who were seniors during the 2014-2015 academic year, **5** received their high school diplomas, **1** passed the GED, and **5** are remaining in school as fifth-year seniors.

<b>BOYS COURT</b>			
<b>Demographic Information for all 2015 participants</b>			
		<b>total</b>	<b>percent</b>
<b>age</b>	13 years	0	0%
	14 years	3	5%
	15 years	10	18%
	16 years	11	19%
	17 years	16	28%
	18 years	10	18%
	19 years	2	4%
	20 years	4	7%
	21 years	1	2%
<b>race / ethnicity</b>	Asian	4	7%
	Caucasian	12	21%
	Hispanic	36	63%
	African– American	2	4%
	(data unavailable)	3	5%
<b>history of mental illness</b>		36	63%
<b>type of placement at admission</b>	foster family agency certified home	4	7%
	foster family home	1	2%
	group home	13	23%
	guardian home	4	6%
	Orangewood Children’s Home	2	4%
	relative or non-related extended family member home	4	7%
	supervised independent living	9	16%
	runaway	14	25%
	incarcerated	3	5%
	(data unavailable)	3	5%

***In his own words*** — from an essay written by a 2015 participant in Boys Court

“My only wish would be that the same dedication, love, and support could be given to other kids as well”

Thank you for your support  
of the Collaborative Courts

