



# Collaborative Courts Newsletter



Spring 2013

## DUI Court the Focus of Japanese Scholar

The visit of a representative from the criminal justice system in Japan may help to establish a new way to address the increasing problem of drunk driving in that country.

Takeyoshi Imai, who is a Professor of Law at the Hosei University Law School and the Director of the Japanese Criminal Law Society, said that he was encouraged by the DUI Court process and its results, though he was cautious of the challenges that would accompany its incorporation into the legal system in Japan.

On March 26, Professor Imai attended a session of DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach. In addition to the progress reviews given in court by Health Care Agency and the Probation Department staff, he saw the graduation of a program participant, and heard him speak about the transformation of his life.

A visit to the DUI Court program at the Community Court on March 28, at which he observed the team meeting as well as the court session, rounded out the itinerary of the Court's distinguished guest before he left, newly inspired, for home.

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## Harbor Justice Center Hosts DUI Court Training

On March 6, more than fifty jurists and criminal justice partners from around the country attended DUI Court at the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach. The agenda for the day included watching the team meeting, at which the cases on calendar were reviewed, and the court session, which featured progress reports and a graduation.

The attendees were able to speak at length with the judge, and with the team members from each of the partnering agencies, in order to learn proven, evidence-based best practices for the establishment of these vital programs in their own jurisdictions.

The event was part of a three-day training presented by the National Drug Court Institute, which has designated the Harbor Justice Center program as one of only four Academy Courts in the country. The visitors represented fledgling DUI Court programs from Washington to Colorado, and from North Dakota to Louisiana.

## Dependency Drug Court to Cease Operations

In the face of critical courtroom and resource constraints, Dependency Drug Court will close its doors on June 7. The family reunification program, which is located at the Lamoreaux Justice Center in Orange (pictured below), has addressed the issues of parents whose children have been removed from the home by the County because of the parents' abuse of drugs or alcohol.



The Dependency Drug Court program includes frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, individual and group counseling, regular court appearances, and attendance in perinatal or parenting classes. Since its inception in 2005, it has shown both social and economic success.

A study by the Social Services Agency found that families in the Dependency Drug Court program were able to reunify earlier than those who did not participate in the program, saving the County the significant costs of out-of-home placement. Graduation from Dependency Drug Court has also been correlated with both increased and more stable family reunifications.

Since the inception of the program, 96.7% of the children whose mothers or fathers graduated from Dependency Drug Court were returned to their homes, compared with 64% of the children whose parents started but did not complete the program; and of those children, only 9.8% re-entered into foster care, compared with 22.5% of the children whose parents did not complete the program.

The Court will work with its collaborative partners to redeploy the program resources, in order to continue providing intensive treatment for substance abusing parents who are in the county dependency system.

**Number of Active Participants  
as of March 31, 2013**

<b>Adult Drug Courts (four Justice Centers)</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>Juvenile Drug Court</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Dependency Drug Court</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Truancy Court</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Girls Court</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Boys Court</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>DUI Courts (four Justice Centers)</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Mental Health Courts</b>	
<b>Opportunity (Co-Occurring Disorders) Court</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>WIT ("Whatever It Takes") Court</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Recovery Court</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Assisted Intervention Court</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Combat Veterans Court</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Homeless Outreach Court</b>	<b>891</b>
<b>Total number of OC residents served:</b>	<b>2,023</b>

**Truancy Court Attracts  
State and County Involvement**

Truancy Court, the third and most intensive stage of the County’s Truancy Response Program, has recently generated increased interest, at both the State and County level, in this innovative approach to addressing chronic truancy.

A program director from the state Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) visited on February 20th to gain insights into the successful collaboration of the Court and its agency partners that can be of assistance to other counties in as they work with the AOC to develop ways to enhance school attendance.

In addition, the District Attorney is engaged in outreach within the County to increase involvement in the program by partners ranging from the Department of Education, which provides the alternative ACCESS learning services, to school district representatives from cities across the county that were previously under-represented in the program.

**2012 Annual Report  
Now Available Online**

The 2012 Collaborative Courts Annual Report, which describes all of the programs and their significant social and economic results during the past year, is available at [www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts](http://www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts).

**Girls Court Provides Welcome  
for New Participants**

On February 6th, seven new participants were welcomed into Girls Court, a program that provides adolescent girls who are in the dependency system with the assistance and support that can diminish their risk of mental health problems and criminal involvement after they become eighteen years old and leave foster care.

During their orientation, the girls learned about the goals of the program from Judge Kim Menninger, and met with the team members and peer mentors who will help them to develop their individual life plans. Through Girls Court, participants will gain access to physical and mental health resources, educational and vocational opportunities, and the knowledge and skills they need to have healthy, rewarding lives.

**Current Grant Funding**

**Administrative Office of the Courts \$42,000**

Substance Abuse Focus Grant  
funding cycle: 7/1/12 – 6/30/13

This grant benefits the adult and Juvenile Drug Courts, as well as the Dependency Drug Court, with the Orange County Superior Court as the lead agency.

**Bureau of Justice Assistance \$200,000**

Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant  
funding cycle: 10/1/12 – 9/30/14

This grant benefits the mental health courts, with the Orange County Superior Court as the lead agency.

**CA Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation \$1,151,087**

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act grant  
funding cycle: 7/1/12 – 6/30/13

This grant benefits the Juvenile Drug Court and the Truancy Court, with the Orange County Probation Department as the lead agency.

**US Social Security Administration \$42,577**

Title IV E funds  
Funding cycle 10/1/12 – 9/30/13

This grant benefits Juvenile Drug Court, with the Orange County Probation Department as the lead agency.

**Total Grant Funding: \$ 1,435,664**

Additional funding for the benefit of the treatment court programs 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 for this purpose is now received as a direct appropriation from the State to the County, administered by Health Care Agency.