



Collaborative Courts Newsletter



Autumn 2013

Veterans Programs to be Featured at Conference

The annual Beyond the Bench conference, to be held in Anaheim on December 3, will include a panel discussion regarding Orange County's best practices for providing assistance and resources to military service veterans who are in the justice system, either as criminal defendants or as parties to civil domestic violence restraining orders.

Veterans can become involved in the justice system because of unaddressed mental health or anger management issues, which may be traceable to Post Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, or other combat-related causes; and the danger to the veteran's family and the community will increase if the problems are left untreated.

At the conference, Hon. Wendy Lindley and two members of the Veterans Treatment Court team will discuss the program's therapeutic alternative to incarceration. They will be joined by Judge Lon Hurwitz, who will speak about his resource-based approach to helping veterans who are before the court in the family law arena.

NADCP Gathering Sparks Discussion and Debate

Collaborative Court team members returned from grant-funded attendance at the annual conference of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, held July 14-16 in Washington DC, with enhanced skills and resources, with renewed enthusiasm for the work they do, and with a heightened appreciation for the outstanding programs that have made Orange County a leader in collaborative courts.

One workshop that caused discussion among the County's mental health court team members included a speaker who seemed to downplay the need for these programs to follow the Drug Court model regarding sanctions. In contrast, the County's very successful evidence-based programs incorporate all of the key components of Drug Court, including appropriate sanctions for program non-compliance.

A workshop on assessing the risk and needs of potential program participants prompted follow-up meetings of team members from all of the County's programs to discuss ways to continue insuring that defendants who plead into the programs are amenable to treatment, and that they are provided with the most appropriate levels of service.

DUI Court Achieves Milestone of 1,000 Program Graduates

The DUI Court graduation at Harbor Justice Center on September 10 was a significant event, both for the nine participants who had completed the rigorous program and for the life-changing program itself, as it passed the milestone of 1,000 graduates since its inception in 2004.



Judge Anderson congratulates the 1,000th clean and sober DUI Court graduate

Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach was a fitting site for the event, as it was there that the first DUI Court in the county was established by Hon. Carlton Biggs. Now guided by Judge Matthew Anderson, the program continues its role as an Academy Court, where jurists and court administrators from around the country come for training.

The repeat offenders in the program undergo at least twelve months of substance abuse treatment from the county Health Care Agency, along with continuous monitoring by the Probation Department and frequent progress reviews before the Court. Graduates have a recidivism rate of less than 7%, a remarkable reduction from the five year recidivism rates of 20 and 25% for second and third-offense drunk drivers, as reported in a study by the DMV.

The DUI Court program has saved a total of 157,763 jail bed days, resulting in a cost savings of more than \$18.3 million. By transforming people who had been a deadly menace on the highway into clear-eyed advocates of sobriety, the Court and its justice partners are working together to make our communities safer – saving money while saving lives.

Number of Active Participants as of September 30, 2013

Adult Drug Courts (four Justice Centers)	374
Juvenile Drug Court	48
Truancy Court	96
Girls Court	43
Boys Court	49
DUI Courts (four Justice Centers)	186
Mental Health Courts	
Opportunity (Co-Occurring Disorders) Court	39
WIT ("Whatever It Takes") Court	105
Recovery Court	35
Assisted Intervention Court	23
Veterans Treatment Court	37
Homeless Outreach Court	629
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Total number of OC residents served:	1,664

Collaborative Courts Foundation Holds Gala Event

The Collaborative Courts Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides a wide range of direct support to the participants in Orange County's various treatment court programs, held its annual fundraising dinner at Seven Degrees in Laguna Beach on September 7th.

The Foundation provides critical assistance to program participants by funding and coordinating medical and dental services, medical supplies and medications, and free or low-cost vision care, as well as interim housing, public transportation vouchers, and educational assistance. The Collaborative Courts Foundation also provides workshops on topics such as financial literacy, health and wellness, and employment skills.

This year's gala event, which raised more than \$46,000, honored Orange County treatment court pioneer, Judge Wendy Lindley, who has announced her intention to retire by the end of the year.

2012 Annual Report 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.

Youth in Truancy Court Gain a New Perspective on Life

On July 29, a field trip to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles offered a new perspective to youth participating in Orange County's Truancy Court program.

Truancy Court is the third and most intensive intervention level in the County's Truancy Response Program. It is designed to reach chronically truant youth, and it addresses both school attendance and the underlying issues within the family that can contribute to the problem. It also seeks to instill in the participants the attitudes and goals that can help them to become responsible adults.

Seeing the somber exhibits and hearing from a holocaust survivor helped the visitors to understand the horrifying consequences of cultural prejudice, and to appreciate that bullying in any form is unacceptable in society.

Current Grant Funding

Administrative Office of the Courts **\$38,454**

Substance Abuse Focus Grant
funding cycle: 7/1/13 – 6/30/14

This grant benefits the adult and Juvenile Drug Courts, as well as the DUI Court and the Veterans Treatment 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 **\$1,153,426**

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act grant
funding cycle: 7/1/13 – 6/30/14

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: **\$ 1,434,457**

Additional funding for the treatment court programs is received from the **State of California**. Previously distributed as annual grants through the Drug Court Partnership, the Comprehensive Drug Court Initiative, and the Dependency Drug Court program, the funding for this purpose is now a direct appropriation from the State to the County, administered by Health Care Agency.