



Collaborative Courts Newsletter



Summer 2013

Veterans Treatment Court Receives Honor

The Orange County Veterans Treatment Court, formerly the Combat Veterans Court, has again been chosen by the National Drug Court Institute to be a Mentor Court, one of only four programs in the country that is so designated.

For the next three years, the Court will be a teaching site at which other jurisdictions can learn best practices for the establishment and operation of this vital alternative to incarceration for veterans suffering from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, addiction, or other service-related problems.

Veterans Treatment Court is convened Tuesday mornings at the Community Court, at 909 N. Main St. in Santa Ana.

NJC Graduation Highlights National Drug Court Month

In recognition of National Drug Court Month, a graduation was held on May 17 at the North Justice Center for six participants who had completed all of the program requirements. On hand to give their congratulations were federal, state and local government representatives.

By completing the rigorous Drug Court program, the graduates have greatly increased their chances of staying free of addiction and out of the criminal justice system, demonstrating that Drug Court profoundly changes lives while enhancing public safety and saving scarce resources.

Collaborative Courts Foundation Sets Annual Gala Event

The Collaborative Courts Foundation, a nonprofit which obtains grant funding and other donations to support the participants in Orange County's treatment court programs, will hold its annual gala fundraising event on Saturday evening, September 7, at Seven Degrees in Laguna Beach.

Assistance given by the Foundation ranges from helping participants access restorative dental care and emergency medical services to providing them with bus passes and incentive items. The Foundation also presents workshops in financial literacy and employment skills.

For more information about this event, or to make a contribution, please see www.collaborativecourtsfoundation.org.

Boys Court Celebrates Educational Achievements

On June 21, a significant goal was achieved by eight proud participants in Boys Court, whose prospects for any kind of success were, until recently, very doubtful. In the office of the Court-Appointed Special Advocates, before a crowd of well-wishers and friends, the boys celebrated their high school graduation and their escape from the downward spiral that so often dooms their peers.



Judge Hernandez with the graduates

Boys Court is a voluntary program for youth in the dependency system that is held at the Lamoreaux Justice Center under the guidance of Hon. Maria Hernandez. It provides a wide range of supportive services to boys who, because of their challenging life circumstances, are at high risk of falling into homelessness and criminal involvement when they become adults.

When they first entered into foster care, most of these boys had been victims of severe neglect and abuse. By the time they were offered the assistance of Boys Court, they had all endured multiple foster care placements, their lives were marked by truancy and delinquency, and most were struggling with unaddressed substance abuse, mental health, or other socialization problems.

With the help of Judge Hernandez and team members from a variety of partnering agencies, the boys worked hard to build the strength and determination to regain control of their lives. On June 21, these eight young men proved to themselves and to the world that they were ready to take the next steps on their paths to becoming self-sufficient, responsible adults.

**Number of Active Participants
as of June 30, 2013**

Adult Drug Courts (four Justice Centers)	386
Juvenile Drug Court	47
Truancy Court	
Girls Court	104
Boys Court	43
	51
DUI Courts (four Justice Centers)	198
Mental Health Courts	
Opportunity (Co-Occurring Disorders) Court	
WIT ("Whatever It Takes") Court	38
Recovery Court	104
Assisted Intervention Court	34
	20
Veterans Treatment Court	38
Homeless Outreach Court	854
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Total number of OC residents served:	1,917

**Orange County Represented
at NADCP Conference**

Orange County's Collaborative Courts will be well represented at the annual conference of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), which will be held from July 14 - 17 in Washington DC.

The Harbor Justice Center / Newport Beach DUI Court, designated by the NADCP as an Academy Court, will be featured in an informational booth; and Hon. Matthew Anderson, who presides over the program, will take part in a panel discussion about DUI Courts.

A grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance will enable Hon. Joe Perez and team members from the Court and its partner agencies to attend the conference, specifically to gain knowledge and skills to enhance the County's mental health court programs. Additional grant funding will underwrite the conference attendance of Hon. Terri Flynn-Peister, who was recently assigned to preside over the DUI Court program at the West Justice Center.

**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.

**Trauma-Informed Treatment
Is Training Day Focus**

On June 19, a training was held for judicial officers and team members involved in the County's treatment court programs. In the morning, Dan Griffin, MA, discussed the principles of sanctions and incentives, the stages of change, and the key principles for using a trauma-informed approach to treatment. Next, he spoke about the interaction of family and treatment, and shared his insights regarding team dynamics and family roles.

In the afternoon, discussion turned to the differences in the ways that men and women experience, respond to, exhibit symptoms of, and recover from trauma. Noting that the interventions and treatment services must also be different, Mr. Griffin offered practical guidance for successfully navigating these challenging areas.

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 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 \$1,151,087
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 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.