



Collaborative Courts Newsletter



Winter 2014

Recognition for Humanitarian of the Year

Kathleen Burnham, the founder and Director of the non-profit Collaborative Courts Foundation, received the Humanitarian of the Year award at a ceremony held on November 20 at the Community Court.

Each year, the Humanitarian of the Year award is given to recognize a person whose work has provided life-changing assistance to the participants in the Orange County Homeless Outreach Court.

Among other help that it offers to program participants, the Collaborative Courts Foundation funds and coordinates medical and dental services and supplies, vision services, interim housing, vouchers for public transportation, and educational assistance.

Keystone State Delegation Visits DUI Court

On December 3, a group of jurists, court administrators and justice partner personnel from York County, PA, travelled to the DUI Court at Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach to observe a team meeting and a court session, and afterwards to exchange ideas and discuss best practices with Judge Matthew Anderson and the members of the DUI Court team.

The HJC/NB DUI Court is one of four programs in the country designated to serve as an Academy Court by the National Center for DWI Courts.

Veterans Programs Highlighted at Statewide Conference

The annual Beyond the Bench conference, held recently in Anaheim, featured a panel discussion on December 3 regarding the assistance that is made available to veterans who are involved in the justice system in Orange County, either as criminal defendants or as parties to civil domestic violence restraining orders.

Hon. Wendy Lindley and two members of the Veterans Treatment Court team were joined in the presentation by Hon. Lon Hurwitz, who spoke about his resource-based approach to helping veterans who are involved in family court matters.

Judge Wendy Lindley Retires from the Bench

Hon. Wendy S. Lindley, who helped to change the face of criminal justice in Orange County and throughout the nation, has retired from the Superior Court. Judge Lindley fought to establish the County's first Drug



Judge Lindley acknowledging one of the thousands of offenders whose lives have been transformed

Court in 1995, and she thereafter used that successful program as a model to create other therapeutic alternatives to jail and prison for criminal offenders who are homeless, addicted, or mentally ill. In addition to the mental health courts and the innovative Homeless Outreach Court, she also began the first Veterans Court in California and was instrumental in starting the Community Court, which co-locates onsite a wide range of supportive services.

Judge Lindley's legacy includes the rehabilitation of thousands of County residents: addicted criminals turned into responsible taxpayers; drunk drivers changed into advocates of sobriety; traumatized combat veterans helped to re-integrate into society; mentally ill offenders now leading stable, productive lives; homeless people given the tools to regain their self-sufficiency; reformed parents proud to have had drug-free babies.

In addition to these profound human benefits, the programs established by Judge Lindley have saved nearly \$60 million dollars through the avoidance of more than half a million jail and prison bed days.

Number of Active Participants as of December 31, 2013

Adult Drug Courts (four Justice Centers)	376
Juvenile Drug Court	44
Truancy Court	109
Girls Court	46
Boys Court	51
DUI Courts (four Justice Centers)	175
Mental Health Courts	
Opportunity (Co-Occurring Disorders) Court	45
WIT ("Whatever It Takes") Court	115
Recovery Court	40
Assisted Intervention Court	21
Veterans Treatment Court	38
Homeless Outreach Court	536
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Total number of OC residents served:	1,597

Veterans Treatment Court Mentors NW Teams

Orange County's Veterans Treatment Court, which has been designated a Mentor Court by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, hosted visits by court teams from King County, WA, on October 29 and Lane County, OR, on November 5.

Veterans Treatment Court helps participants to overcome Post Traumatic Stress, other mental health issues, or substance abuse problems that are related to their military service. It leverages the substantial resources of the VA and other veterans support groups to assist veterans in re-integrating into society.

Each of the visiting groups observed a team meeting, a court session, and a participant graduation as they learned about the responsibilities of the partner agencies, the vital role of the combat veteran peer mentors, and other aspects of the intensive program.

2013 Annual Report Coming Soon

The 2013 Collaborative Courts Annual Report, with a description of all the programs, as well as their results and benefits during the past year, will be available in February. The 2012 Report is on the Court's website at www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts.

Assemblyman Travis Allen Visits Community Court

Assemblyman Travis Allen (R-72nd Dist.) received a tour of the Community Court on November 21 which was followed by an observation of Drug Court that included a program participant's graduation.

The Community Court, located at 909 N. Main Street in Santa Ana, has offices onsite for partner agencies ranging from the California Department of Rehabilitation and the Social Services Agency to the Mental Health Association of Orange County and Legal Aid.

Collaborative Court tracks heard at the Community Court include Drug Court, DUI Court, Veterans Treatment Court, four mental health court programs, and Homeless Outreach Court.

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 **\$59,308**

Title IV E funds
funding cycle: 10/1/13 – 9/30/14

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

Total Grant Funding: **\$ 1,451,188**

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.