



Superior Court of California County of Orange

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Orange County Collaborative Courts Annual Report for 2015

Accompanying this letter is the 2015 Annual Report of the Collaborative Courts, which sets forth the results of Orange County's Collaborative Court programs for the last calendar year.

These programs – which offer therapeutic, life-changing alternatives to the revolving door of incarceration and re-arrest – include adult and juvenile Drug Courts, DUI Court, mental health courts, Veterans Treatment Court, Homeless Outreach Court, Truancy Court, and supportive programs for youth in the dependency system.

The remarkable success of these programs, both economic and social, is reflected in many ways:

1. Graduates of the Collaborative Courts programs have significantly **lower rates of recidivism**:
 - Of the **2,039** Drug Court graduates who have been out of the program for three years, only **28%** were re-arrested within that time for any offense – far lower than the recidivism rate of **74%** for comparable offenders who did not participate in Drug Court.
 - Of the **1,236** repeat-offense drunk drivers who have graduated from DUI Court, only **9.9%** of those who have been out of the program for five years have had a subsequent DUI conviction within that time – far lower than the re-conviction rates of **21%** and **25%** for second- and third-time DUI offenders statewide.
 - Of the **258** mental health court graduates, all of whom had severe mental illness and a substance addiction, only **35%** have been re-arrested.
 - Of the **209** Juvenile Drug Court graduates who have been out of the program for two years, only **13%** had a subsequent referral to Probation within that time.
 - Of the **76** graduates of Veterans Treatment Court, only **8** have been re-arrested – a recidivism rate of **10.5%**.
2. Providing therapeutic treatment instead of incarceration results in **substantial savings** in the costs of locally-served jail and prison bed days. In 2015, the stayed sentences of adult and juvenile program graduates resulted in **67,539** custody days saved before the application of custody credits, which translates to a savings of nearly **\$11.2 million**.

Page 2

Specifically:

- Drug Court saved **27,268** jail bed days for a savings of **\$3,724,263**.
- DUI Court saved **26,733** jail bed days for a savings of **\$3,633,549**.
- The mental health court programs, including Veterans Treatment Court, saved **8,834** jail bed days for a savings of **\$1,200,717**.
- Juvenile Drug Court saved **4,704** custody days for a savings of **\$2,558,799**.

3. The Collaborative Court programs also produce other significant benefits for the County:

- Female participants have given birth to **191** drug-free babies while taking part in the programs – saving the healthcare system millions of dollars.
- Repeat-offense drunk drivers have been turned into dedicated advocates of sobriety – able to live longer, healthier lives, and sparing those innocent victims who will not be killed or injured in future automobile accidents.
- Drug-addicted criminals have been transformed into responsible, taxpaying members of the community – stopping the cycle of crime, and its costs to victims and the justice system.
- Combat veterans, steeped in violence and stress, have been helped to overcome their deep psychological challenges and to re-integrate into society.
- Mentally ill offenders have been helped to lead stable, productive lives.
- Homeless offenders have been given the tools to regain their self-sufficiency.

4. Processing cases through Collaborative Court tracks yields cost savings when compared with processing them through “business as usual”:

- Researchers for the California Judicial Council found that every **\$1.00** invested in the Drug Court for the Central Justice Center jurisdiction in Santa Ana resulted in a cost savings of **\$7.30**.

The outstanding results and benefits of Orange County’s Collaborative Court programs are a tribute to the steadfast support of the Board of Supervisors, and to the dedication of the judicial officers, management and staff of the partner agencies. On behalf of this collaboration, I am pleased to present this 2015 Annual Report, which is also available on the Court’s website at www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts.

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