



# 2009 YEAR END SUMMARY REPORT

## Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts

Felony Drug Court

Substance Abuse Court

Family Treatment Court

Mental Health Court

Juvenile Recovery Court

Domestic Violence Therapeutic Court

Low-Intensity Substance Abuse Court



# INTRODUCTION .....

In 2009, Clark County had seven active Therapeutic Specialty Courts (TSC) between Superior and District Court. A TSC is a multidisciplinary team approach to work in coordination with the justice system and several treatment and recovery-oriented ancillary agencies to promote sobriety and well-being, long-term stability, and reduce recidivism. These specialty court programs offer community solutions and a huge cost-savings to traditional case processing. Therapeutic Specialty Courts started in 1989 in Miami—Dade County, Florida with the first Drug Court Program. It was born out of an idea that community safety and accountability can be increased by treating substance-abusing offenders in the community, thus reducing recidivism and stopping the revolving door of criminal activity.

Clark County Superior Court has three TSCs, the Felony Drug Court, Family Treatment Court and Juvenile Recovery Court. Clark County District Court had four TSC programs in 2009, the Substance Abuse Court, Domestic Violence Therapeutic Court, a Low-Intensive Substance Abuse Court and the Mental Health Court. With the help of a special one-tenth of one percent sales tax, Clark County has been able to maintain, create or expand upon substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment services in the community. Mid-year, the Clark County Board of Commissioners had a difficult decision to make and needed to make funding and/or program reductions due to the lower than anticipated revenue from the sales tax as a result of the down-turned economy. From this decision, District Court eliminated one of their specialty courts, the Low Intensive Substance Abuse Court.

Last May, the Specialty Courts collaborated with the City of Vancouver and Clark-Vancouver Television to commemorate National Drug Court month. At that time, Clark County also celebrated ten years of innovative and progressive approaches to the criminal justice system. Eligible program participants are identified early in the justice system which accelerates their ability to return to the community with a wrap-around treatment of care approach working towards sustained recovery.

This report summarizes the 2009 activity of the programs. We would like to thank the Clark County Community at large for the support of the Therapeutic Specialty Court programs. There are countless agencies and personnel that give their heart and souls to the Therapeutic Court programs and the participants we serve. But we would especially like to thank the hard work and effort that our participants and alumni put in 24 hours a day, dedicating their life to recovery.

Brad Finegood  
Superior Court Coordinator

Shauna McCloskey  
District Court Coordinator

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# DRUG COURT .....

Honorable Diane Woolard Presiding

- ▶ **Started May 1999**
- ▶ **311 Total Graduates through 2009**
- ▶ **Court held Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**  
**Main Courthouse, Dept. 8, Third floor**  
**1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA**

Active Caseload December 31, 2009	100
Opted In	77
Graduated	41
Drug-free Babies Born	2
Opted Out	14
Terminated	20
Active Caseload January 1, 2009	101
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	1,744
Value of Hours (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	\$35,525

▶ 2009 was an extremely busy and successful year for the Clark County Drug Court. There were 41 graduates throughout 2009. Up until this year the Clark County Drug Court was strictly a post-conviction drug court. This meant that a participant must plead guilty in order to enter Drug Court. The major change for the Clark County Drug Court came in conjunction with the Clark County Prosecutor's Office and their Diversion program. The Drug Court program began accepting persons that were unsuccessful in their Felony Diversion program into Drug Court. Under this program the participants that were potentially getting remanded off of Diversion and facing a conviction on their record for their felony charge, would have the opportunity to enter and successfully complete Drug Court in order to keep their charge pre-conviction and not have the felony on their record.

Additionally, the Drug Court started taking Residential DOSA cases into its supervision model. The Residential DOSA program was rewritten by the Washington Legislature (HB 1791) in 2009 to allow more judicial supervision of substance-abusing offenders. Residential DOSA, which stands for Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative, allows the Drug Court to access other State funding streams in order to maximize the ability to serve the Clark County population.

# DRUG COURT HIGHLIGHTS .....

## ▶ In Our View June 3, 2009: Kudos, Drug Court

Editorial from Columbian.com

*On May 15th, Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a celebration at Esther Short Park. Below is the text from the editorial printed in the Columbian on June 3, 2009. This editorial is in response to the original May 31, 2009 article on Drug Court's 10th Anniversary. Below is the link to the editorial.*

<http://www.columbian.com/article/20090603/OPINION02/706039966>

Three-fourths of drug court graduates are not arrested in the two years following their participation in the program. By contrast, 80 percent of incarcerated drug offenders are re-arrested after they are released. Even drug offenders who don't graduate from drug court — but at least gave it a try — have lower recidivism rates than defendants who receive no treatment for drug abuse.

But set aside for a moment the humanitarian component of drug courts and look at the issue through the prism of a taxpayer who doesn't give two hoots about drug addicts, whose only interest is return on investment. From that perspective, drug courts make good sense because, for every dollar spent on this type of treatment, an estimated two dollars are saved somewhere down the line in arrests not made, trials not needed, and costly imprisonments not imposed.

Although you don't hear much scoffing or criticism about drug courts these days, that wasn't always the case. When then-prosecutor Janet Reno began drug courts in Miami 20 years ago (four years before she became U.S. attorney general), the concept was not universally accepted. Too much coddling of criminals, skeptics complained. Throw the bums behind bars, cried members of the zero-tolerance crowd.

And when drug courts began here in Clark County 10 years ago, there likely was ample cynicism about offering drug offenders an alternative to getting jailed. Even the rigor of the drug court — regular court appearances, inpatient treatment, a 12-step program, behavior modification, court approval of where you live and work — probably did not convert many of the critics.

As the local drug court continued for a decade, a discouragingly low graduation rate (only about one-third of those who enter drug courts finish the program), fortified the critics who insisted it wasn't working.

Today, though, 291 people are no longer drug addicts, thanks to the local drug court. Even more important for taxpayers, 291 people no longer are criminals, and no longer are clogging the judicial system. Expensive, publicly funded jail cells serve no purpose for these people. They've turned their lives around.

Last month the local drug court observed its 10th anniversary, with a May 15 celebration at Esther Short Park. Much of the credit for that decade of success belongs to Superior Court Judge James Rulli, who started the felony drug court in 1999. Among the success stories, as Stephanie Rice reported in the print edition of Sunday's Columbian, is Kenneth Jennings. At age 18, Jennings entered jail for the first time and began 13 years of legal problems that included two dozen bookings. He chose drug court only to avoid incarceration, not so much for the therapeutic value it offered.

Slowly, though, the conversion took hold, and now Jennings is a married, self-employed general contractor and co-chair of the Clark County Substance Abuse Advisory

Board. He has advanced from a drain on the public dime to a role model in his community.

The drug court is so effective, it has inspired creation of other therapeutic courts including family treatment courts (for parents at risk of losing custody of their children), mental health courts and drug courts for juvenile offenders.

The collective track record of these therapeutic courts is not perfect, but they represent an effective, positive alternative to incarceration. Therapeutic courts, for the most part, have survived any drastic cuts during these tough economic times. That's because budget writers understand the value of moving beyond the punishment phase, and doing what's necessary to change those who enter the judicial system.

 **Drug Court Graduate Expresses Gratitude**

*The following letter, from a recent Drug Court graduate, discusses the positive changes in the Graduate's life and how he was aided by the Access To Recovery (ATR) Program while participating in Drug Court.*

To Whom it May Concern:

I have had multiple felony drug convictions, been to prison and was on my way back again when I was arrested in November of 2006. After my last arrest I entered into the Drug Court program which helped change my life. During the time I was in Drug Court I was blessed by the assistance I received and so desperately needed from A.T.R. (Access to Recovery). I had a terrible case of meth mouth and used the A.T.R. program to have a full mouth extraction and I received full dentures. With the life management skills and accountability I acquired in Drug Court and continued to build upon after my graduation along with my new appearance (THANKS TO ACCESS TO RECOVERY), people no longer see the old me.

Today I am a federal government employee with vast responsibilities who is greatly entrusted by the agency I work for. Now the amazing part is that all this has manifested in my life in a short time I have been clean and sober (1-18-09 will be 2 years). If I had not learned the necessary life management skills I did in Drug Court and treatment or if I did not receive the assistance I so desperately needed with my appearance I would not be where I am today.

TODAY I AM A HARDWORKING, TAX PAYING, PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY. Please consider this because I am sure the cost of assisting in my recovery needs is far less than the long term expenses to the state and the tax payers if I had not received the help and assistance I needed not to mention the overall benefit as I am a gainfully employed tax payer!!

# MORE DC HIGHLIGHTS .....

## ▶ A MEASURE OF SUCCESS: HOW MUCH DID WE SAVE?

### 2009 DRUG COURT GRADUATES



To witness any of the Therapeutic Specialty Court Graduations is always such a moving experience. It provides an opportunity for the graduates to demonstrate all of the hard work that they have put into their sobriety and recovery. Family members, friends, community members and alumni join together with the Therapeutic Court team to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduate.

In the Felony Drug Court Program there is one extra little caveat that is added into each and every graduation. The graduate’s defense attorney, Barry Brandenburg or Mary Arden will begin by talking about the graduate’s participation throughout the program. Inevitably, there comes a point in the graduation proceedings where the defense attorney asks the audience, “What is it that I want to hear?” Without hesitation the audience yells (they really do yell), “How much did we save?” Usually, the number ranges from the tens of thousands into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. This number is solely based on the cost of jail bed days alone.

This is a tremendous factor of why Drug Courts work. By keeping people in the community and treating their addiction, not only are we providing a safer community to Clark County, but we as Drug Courts save the tax payer a considerable amount of money. The following is a summary of the 2009 felony Drug Court graduates simple cost savings:

#### **Of the 41 graduate in 2009**

- ⇒ 11 graduates were facing probable state prison sentences.
  - ◆ Of those 11 graduates, the total number of days incarceration in the state penitentiary that drug court saved was 6,503 days. The average cost for a male prison bed day is 108.55 for a female and \$78.15 a male.
    - \* This leads to a cost savings to the state prisons of \$508,170.38
- ⇒ 30 graduates were facing probable County Jail sentences
  - ◆ Of those 30 graduates, the total number of days incarceration in the Clark County Jail that Drug Court saved was 8,696 days. The average jail bed per day cost \$78.83 per day.
    - \* This leads to a cost savings in Clark County of \$685,505.49
- ⇒ Additional cost savings to the Clark County community from our 2009 gradu-

# MORE DC HIGHLIGHTS Continued .....

## MEASURE Continued

- ⇒ These drug and alcohol free babies save the community between \$750,000 to \$1,400,00.00 over the cost of the child's life. (Kalotra, March, 2002)
  - ◆ From the 41 graduates, there were 5 drug and alcohol free babies born.
    - \* This leads to a cost savings between \$3,750,000 and \$7,000,000

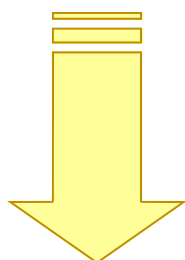
***The total cost savings from the 2009 Drug Court's 41 graduates, (in saved bed days and drug and alcohol free babies alone) is between \$4,943,675.87 and \$8,193,675.87***

Kalotra, C. J. (March, 2002). *Estimated cost related to the birth of a drug and/or an alcohol exposed baby.* OJP DRUG COURT CLEARINGHOUSE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT.

## ..... RECIDIVISM

In April, 2009 an internal review of Clark County Drug Court Graduate's Felony Recidivism was conducted. The following was the results using Judicial Information System (JIS), which accounts for activity only in the State of Washington. For the purpose of this review, Felony non-driving offenses were considered.

April, 2009



- Number of Graduates: 288
- New Felony Convictions within 6 months of graduation: 3
- New Felony Convictions within 2 years of graduation: 23
- New Felony Convictions within 5 years of graduation: 20
- Total number of Graduates who committed new felonies within 5 years of graduation: 46 (16%)



## ▶ District Court Obtains Grant from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission in Fall 2009

As alcohol and drug impaired drivers pose a significant risk to our community, District Court and Corrections sought grant funding through the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to enhance our existing Unified Substance Abuse Court (SAC, DVTC, MHC) system with a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court emphasis.



Funds from this grant allowed Corrections to hire and secure a full time probation officer position. By adding intensive probation supervision and using evidenced-based risk and needs assessment tools on high risk and habitual DUI offenders, our DUI emphasis in the Unified Substance Abuse Court is better equipped to closely monitor offender accountability and report measurable outcomes. The probation officer conducts routine probation intakes and office visits, monitors court conditions and compliance as well as completes regular records checks. One notable enhancement from this grant is adding community supervision and field work. The probation officer is assisted by a uniformed law enforcement officer and conducts regular home visits on our court participants. Another addition will be the ability to use biometric kiosks that increases offender reporting and adds a higher level of accountability. Due to the technical nature of the kiosk machines, we hope to be utilizing this component around mid-2010.

As Drug Courts have been in existence for 20 years, and during that time have proven their effectiveness, DWI/DUI Courts came along a little over a decade ago to address a high risk population that stemmed from alcohol and/or substance issues. Modeled after Drug Courts, DWI/DUI Courts use the Ten Guiding Principles (published by the National Drug Court Institute) requiring participants to attend on-going status hearings in court, complete an intensive regimen of substance abuse treatment and other indicated services, and undergo random or continuous biological testing for alcohol or drug use (NADCP, 2005). Participants receive sanctions for violations of program rules and rewards for positive achievements that steadily increase in magnitude over successive infractions or accomplishments. Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program. Compare this to the typical re-arrest rates on those in a traditional court, in which 46% of probationers commit a new offense and over 60% commit a probation violation. The studies demonstrate that Drug Courts significantly reduce crime and save money for taxpayers by offsetting the costs of law enforcement, court case processing and victimization resulting from future criminal activity. With such a demonstrated strategy, DWI/DUI Courts aim to produce the same results and reduce impaired drivers in our community.

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE COURT .....

Honorable Richard Melnick Presiding

- ▶ **Started April 1999**
- ▶ **83 Total Graduates through 2009**
- ▶ **Court held Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.  
Main Courthouse, Courtroom 2-2, Ground Floor  
1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA**

Active Caseload December 31, 2009	74
Opted In	49
Graduated	11
Drug-free Babies Born	0
Opted Out	23
Terminated	7
Active Caseload January 1, 2009	59
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	1,328
Value of Hours (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	\$27,051



Substance Abuse Court (SAC) is a twelve month minimum District Court Therapeutic Specialty Court program that monitors misdemeanor offenses in a judicially supervised court program that promotes sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated team approach. The team is a collaboration of substance abuse treatment agencies, probation and law enforcement agencies, a court coordinator, and traditional court staff. The SAC program utilizes a myriad of ancillary recovery support systems to help each participant reach their potential and reduce any barriers getting in the way of their success. The judge employs the use of a graduated system of sanctions and incentives within a three-phased structure to monitor and motivate offender behavior change. The program has been in existence for 10 years.

On Jan. 15th, 2010 Governor Christine Gregoire announced the appointment of Judge Rich Melnick to the Superior Court bench. Judge Melnick had presided over the Substance Abuse Court for over four years and was an enormous advocate for the Specialty Courts on the Advisory Board of the sales tax legislation. His insight and motivational techniques to engage the participants in this court will truly be missed!

# MENTAL HEALTH COURT.....

Honorable Darvin Zimmerman Presiding

- ▶ **Started April 2000**
- ▶ **Over 200 completed the program through 2009**
- ▶ **Court held Wednesdays at 10:00am.**  
**Main Courthouse, Courtroom 2-4,**  
**1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA**

Active Caseload December 31, 2009	42*
Opted In	22
Graduated	14
Drug-free Babies Born	1
Opted Out	5
Terminated	18
Active Caseload January 1, 2009	59
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	200
Value of Hours (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	\$4,074



Mental Health Court (MHC) is a Clark County District Court Therapeutic Specialty Court program that offers eligible participants the chance to enter an alternative treatment and sentencing alternative program for defendants with a serious and persistent mental illness that are facing misdemeanor criminal charges. This intensive collaborative team approach is a partnership of people interested in supervising and assisting offenders willing to make changes in their life using best practice and evidenced-based approaches.

To participate, the defendant must enter a plea of guilty and voluntarily agree to enter and abide by the conditions set forth in the program. The mission of Mental Health Court is to promote public safety, reduce criminal activity associated with offenders with a mental illness, and enable the participant to live productive and law-abiding lifestyles in our community.

\*In June, the MHC team stopped taking any new referrals due to a collaborative stakeholder decision to make program design and policy changes. Although many participants had completed the program, the program has been enhanced to include a phase structure with clear benchmarks to better determine program outcome evaluations. Referral to the newly designed program will start in 2010.

# FAMILY TREATMENT COURT - S.T.E.P. (Striding Toward Excellent Parenting) .....

Honorable Daniel Stahnke Presiding

- ▶ **Started January 2006**
- ▶ **23 Total Graduates through 2009**
- ▶ **Court held Mondays at 2:45 p.m.  
Family Law Annex, Courtroom 1  
601 W Evergreen, Suite 102, Vancouver WA**

Active Caseload December 31, 2009	17
Opted In	15
Graduated	6
Drug-free Babies Born	0
Opted Out	2
Terminated	1
Active Caseload January 1, 2009	13
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	81
Value of Hours (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	\$13,200

▶ The Family Treatment Court in Clark County went through some significant changes in 2009. In September 2008, the judicial officer that was presiding over Family Treatment Court, Scott Collier, was appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire as Judge to Superior Court. As a result, in March 2009, Superior Court Commissioner Daniel Stahnke took over as the Family Treatment Court presiding officer.

Later in 2009, spearheaded by key stakeholders in the Family Treatment Court, the Office of Public Defense, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) – Children’s Administration, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Parent Partner Program; the Attorney General’s Office along with current Family Treatment Court Participants and Alumni, the Family Treatment Court decided to re-shape what the program looked like. This was spearheaded by the desire to make the program a resource plentiful program that provided substance abusing parents a platform for recovery and the ability to reunify with their children and families. As a result, the following are highlights of the following policy changes were adapted in July, 2009:

- Family Treatment Court was renamed through a contest by one of its current participants, the STEP Program (Striding Towards Excellent Parenting).

# FTC Continued .....

- All participants, at the time of opt-in, receive resource binders, allowing them to have access to educational, vocational, housing and many other resource information.
- Case management services were increased by their treatment provider to allow for a more tailored, individualized care.
- Each participant is matched up with a Parent Partner, who serves as a trained volunteer mentor, while the participant goes through the STEP program.
- DSHS moved from having social workers that were part-time assigned to the STEP Program, to having dedicated STEP Social Workers.

Additionally, jail would no longer be used as a sanctioned response to a participant's behavior and Program fees were reduced from \$300.00 to \$100.00, with the participant having the ability to get credit towards those fees by engaging in positive behavior, such as mentoring another program participant or planning a pro-social / sober activity.



## ▶ **FTC ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



In the Clark County Therapeutic Courts, we are extremely proud of the Alumni of our programs and the amazing things that they are doing in the community to give back. FTC spotlighted Maureen Olivier in a Newsletter issue. Maureen is a 2007 graduate of Family Treatment Court and since that time, she has been a one-women force of good in the community.

Maureen is the proud mother of two children and two step-children. Maureen graduated with honors, Phi Theta Kappa, from Clark College. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Sociology and Women's Studies at Washington State University—Vancouver and is on the President's list.

As a volunteer in the community Maureen is a Parent Partner with the Division of Children and Family Services. She volunteers with the Vancouver YWCA, New Life Mission Possible, and other faith based organizations. Additionally, she serves as a member of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Maureen was a key note alumni speaker at 2009 Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference. Maureen shared her story of success in sobriety and reunification and all she has done in the community to over 200 professionals in the Therapeutic Court field from Washington and Oregon. Most recently, Maureen is employed by Lifeline Connections, a Vancouver-based substance abuse treatment agency, as the Community Outreach Associate. Her most recent task has been to co-facilitate the opening of a new 16 bed residential facility at Lifeline which opened February 1, 2010.

# JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT .....

Honorable James Rulli Presiding

- ▶ Started June 2007
- ▶ 7 Total Graduates through 2009
- ▶ Court held Fridays at 3:00 p.m.  
 Juvenile Justice Center, Courtroom 2  
 500 W 11th St., Vancouver WA



New JRC logo created by a JRC graduate

Active Caseload December 31, 2009	45
Opted In	47
Graduated	5
Opted Out	*8
Terminated	2
Active Caseload January 1, 2009	25
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	270
Value of Hours (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	\$43,999
*Originally reported as 0	

## ▶ JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT: Breaking Barriers from Within



On August 29, 2009, 16 of the youth that participate in the Juvenile Recovery Court program got to spend a full day experiencing treatment activities different than they are used to. The youth, along with Lifeline counselors and court staff, joined Paul Haack, the facilitator of the ropes course at the Vancouver Skills Center. The youth worked on positive teamwork, problem-solving skills, and pro-social teamwork. Without a doubt, a good time was had by all involved, staff and youth alike.



▶ **Juvenile Recovery Court Awarded the Department of Commerce Grant**

In July, 2009 the Juvenile Recovery Court received a grant from the Department of Commerce. This grant allowed the Juvenile Recovery Court to enhance the services provided to the youth and families in the Juvenile Recovery Court program. This grant allowed the Juvenile Recovery Court to become a more resource rich program, providing strength-based services that helped the participants work through difficulties they may be experiencing.



The following are highlights from the grant:

The Juvenile Recovery Court was able to hire a Resource Coordinator. This position was filled by Anna Lookingbill. The Resource Coordinator position was established as a school liaison and employment specialist. Ms. Lookingbill joins the Recovery Court team from ESD 112, where she worked helping at risk youth with their educational needs.

Additionally, the Juvenile Recovery Court was able to fund the hire of a Family Therapist. This position was filled by Colette Giovanniello, LMFT. This position was integral to the Therapeutic success of the youth. Hiring a family therapist addressed the identified system limitation in the 2008 Strategic Plan for Washington State Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Services developed by the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA), now known as Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR). “Family involvement in treatment is a key to successful outcomes.” (p 17)

Additional funding was also received for Emergency Funds, Pro-Social Activities, and Juvenile Detention Staff.

Washington State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services. (2008). *Improving the Statewide Adolescent Treatment System of Care: Strategic Plan*. Olympia, WA.

**JRC Youth Get A Taste of Dave's Killer Bread**



Dave Dahl, of Dave's Killer Bread, came to share his story with the youth from JRC of going from a life of drugs and crime, to a life as a successful entrepreneur in his family's health bread company. Dave brought with him his bread and "Sinamon" rolls for the youth to eat. The video of his journey and story were appreciated by everyone.



**▶ A MOTHER EXPRESSES HER GRATITUDE**

Dear JRC committee.

I wanted to thank the JRC staff for all they do for our kids. As intense as this last 1 1/2 years have been, we are so blessed that (our child) has been part of this program. Because of yourself, Judge Rulli, John, Jarrod, Brad and the rest of this incredibly dedicated and talented team, JRC works. This program gave (our child) back the structure and environment that he desperately needed in order to mature in a natural way. I believe it has also provided him the tools he needs to make better choices for himself in the future.

We can't thank you enough for all you've done for our family. There's joy again!!!! Every success story is a one more milestone, and we're so blessed to have had (our child) on this side of the story.





# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THERAPEUTIC COURT...

Honorable James Swanger Presiding

- ▶ Started April 2008
- ▶ 1 Graduate through 2009
- ▶ Court held Mondays at 2:00 p.m.  
Main Courthouse, Courtroom G-2, Ground Floor  
1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

Active Caseload December 31, 2009	29
Opted In	16
Graduated	1
Drug-free Babies Born	1
Opted Out	6
Terminated	6
Active Caseload January 1, 2009	17
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	68
Value of Hours (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	\$11,081



Domestic Violence Therapeutic Court (DVTC) is a 15 month minimum District Court Therapeutic Specialty Court program that monitors offenders suffering from a substance abuse and/or co-occurring disorder and facing eligible nonviolent misdemeanor offenses. Quite similar to the SAC program, the added component in this court is completing a year long Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment alongside substance abuse treatment. The goal of this court is to assist offenders in identifying the abusive behaviors and to offer treatment services to break both cycles of addiction and power and control. This program started in April 2008 with the help of the sales tax legislation.

The Court has been in the process of obtaining a contract with local DV perpetrator treatment providers to help reduce further financial barriers to our participants success!

# LOW INTENSIVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COURT .....

Honorable John P. Hagensen Presiding

▶ Started July 2008, Ended June 2009

▶ 8 Total Graduates through 2009

Active Caseload December 31, 2009	0
Opted In	3
Graduated	8
Drug-free Babies Born	0
Opted Out	2
Terminated	6
Active Caseload January 1, 2009	13
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	7
Value of Hours (Bureau of Labor Statistics)	\$1,141



Low Intensity Substance Abuse Court (LISAC) was a Clark County District Court six month minimum program that offered eligible participants the chance to enter treatment services for substance abuse driven behaviors and have their current sentence suspended if s/he successfully completes the program. Due to the increase in probation violations for failure to comply with treatment conditions, and the main reason reported by offenders being they could not afford to engage or retain in treatment services, Clark County District Court designed a program to overcome a financial barrier for eligible participants.

As mentioned previously, the Board of County Commissioners had to make some difficult budget decisions in 2009. Due to the lower program participants than originally anticipated and the need to reduce services, District Court agreed to eliminate this specialty court and allow the remaining participants to finish treatment through the remainder of the year.

# PROGRAM EVALUATION .....



All of Clark County's Therapeutic Specialty Courts are currently undergoing a comprehensive program-wide, independent evaluation by Dr. Clay Mosher and Dr. Laurie Drapela from Washington State University - Vancouver. This evaluation is being funded through the 1/10 of 1% sales tax initiative that helps fund the Therapeutic Specialty Courts. Although this evaluation will be fully complete in 2010, the preliminary reports are extremely promising.



Positive community impacts such as increased employment and decreased emergency room admits were indicated for both graduates and persons terminated or opted-out from the Drug Court and the Substance Abuse Court, in the September 2009 preliminary report. (Mosher, Drapela, & Mahon-Haft, September, 2002)

Mosher, C., Drapela, L., & Mahon-Haft, T. (September, 2002). *Preliminary Report: Evaluation of Clark County Sales Tax Revenue for Chemical Dependency, Mental Health, and Therapeutic Courts*. Washington State University Vancouver.

# 10th ANNIVERSARY and NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH .....



Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts celebrated an exciting milestone which occurred in May, 2009; Clark County celebrated ten years of operations of Drug Courts and Therapeutic Specialty Courts in both Superior and District Courts.

To help celebrate, the Board of County Commissioners held a proclamation signifying May as Drug Court month in Clark County, in accordance with the Nationwide declaration of May as National Drug Court Month. The proclamation was heard in the Clark County Board of County Commissioners' Hearing Room on the 6th floor of the Public Services Center, May 12, 2009. Along with May being National Drug Court Month, on May 15, 2009, Clark County celebrated and participated in National Drug Court Graduation Day at Esther Short Park in downtown Vancouver. The Clark County Therapeutic Courts celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Therapeutic Courts by highlighting each of our Therapeutic Specialty Courts and holding a public graduation ceremony. The public was invited to celebrate with the Clark County Therapeutic Courts and witness, first hand, the success of the programs and the personal journeys of our participants.

Throughout the month of April, 2009, each of our seven Therapeutic Specialty Courts encouraged its participants to partake in an artistic contest. We asked all of our participants to demonstrate through words, songs, drawings, picture, painting, or other artwork how their lives have changed since entering a therapeutic specialty court program. Also important to note, 2009 year marked twenty years of the existence and evolutions of Drug Courts and Therapeutic Specialty Courts nationwide, beginning in 1989 in Miami—Dade County, Florida, by former Attorney General Janet Reno.



Judge Melnick presented Glenn Olson, Deputy County Administrator, with a "Thank You" for his support of all our Therapeutic Specialty Courts' programs.

# TSC HIGHLIGHTS .....

## ▶ 2009 Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference

This following article was featured in the Winter 2009, National Association of Drug Court Professionals Magazine, *All Rise*:



The 2009 Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals (WSADCP) conference was a resounding success. With 200 people in attendance from both Washington and Oregon, it was one of the largest conferences to date. This year's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: *What Works*, blended the best of local, state and national information on what is working in Therapeutic Courts across the board.

The event was emceed by Judge J. Westley St. Clair, the Drug Court Diversion Judge of Seattle's King County. The first Keynote Speaker was Washington State Attorney General, Rob McKenna. His speech was such a powerful case for why Drug Courts are imperative to Washington State, that it had the second keynote speaker, General Barry McCaffrey, commenting on how Atty. Gen. McKenna's speech was one of the most powerful discussions of why Drug Courts are needed he had ever heard by a state official. Gen. McCaffrey opened up the discussion by talking about Drug Courts at the national level. The morning concluded with national expert, Dr. Douglas Marlowe, discussing *The Verdict Is In*. Adult Drug Courts are proven effective beyond a reasonable doubt. The afternoon featured breakouts on numerous topics; Understanding Trauma in Juvenile and Adult Criminal Justice Populations; Drug Court Sustainability; Starting a Drug Court Foundation; DUI Courts; Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative; Statewide Coordinator Collaboration; Ethics in Drug Court; Medication Assisted Treatment in Drug Court; Risk and Need; and Program Evaluation.

Finegood, B. (Winter, 2009). *What Works: WSADCP Holds 12th Annual Conference. All Rise: National Association of Drug Court Professionals*, p.8.



Left: Gen. Barry McCaffrey, Retired



Right: Rob McKenna, Washington Attorney General (R)

▶ **District Court Partners with the 78th Street Community Garden**

Last Spring, District Court’s Specialty Courts entered their name into a lottery system to obtain a community garden plot at the 78th St. Community Garden. Our “name” was drawn randomly and we were able to be one of the first gardeners to use this new site. Our court participants maintained this garden throughout the year and produced a variety of herbs, fruits and vegetables. Not only did this give a more nurturing and therapeutic outlet for our clients, but many of our clients were able to relate their gardening experience to their own recovery. Other clients talked about how beneficial the garden plot was to bring their children and teach them that we can eat off the land.



We look forward to another bountiful season!

**GARDEN ESSAY**

Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

I was given the opportunity to tend to the community garden. There was a small variation of plants such as tomatoes, squash, mint, and corn. When I first started doing the assignment, I thought to myself, “What a joke!” There was hardly anything to do, or so I thought.

It was after a couple of days that I thought about how much this garden was like myself in that nobody was taking care of it but it still needed to be done and I was currently responsible for it. I started to think that, like that garden, the Substance Abuse Court is there for me to help us nurture and grow only if we put the time and effort into what we do. If nobody cares for the garden, how do things grow? If nobody cares about the addict we are headed in the same direction as the garden would be if no one tended to it. Nothing grows overnight.

At times I’ve wished to be done with the SAC program and treatment, but I’ve realized that the support I’ve been given, similar to the plants that I’ve been tending, we have grown. With the proper attention, we both shall continue to grow! I really didn’t think that I would have gotten anything out of watering and weeding a garden, but I was wrong. When I first started SAC, I didn’t think I’d get anything out of that as well, and I was wrong about that too!

By SAC participant, David

# MORE TSC HIGHLIGHTS .....

## ▶ Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts Participate in *Hands Across The Bridge*

September 2009 was National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. Each year, on Memorial Day to highlight Recovery Month, two events are held at Esther Short Park, Oxfest and Hands Across the Bridge. Oxfest is the festival in support of Oxford Houses, the supportive, recovery-based transitional housing in Southwest Washington. *Hands Across the Bridge* brings people in recovery and those that support recovery from Oregon and Washington together as they join hands to span the I-5 bridge. The event starts at Esther Short Park and is open to the public. Thomas Breitenbauch, 2009's Washington *Hands Across the Bridge* Coordinator and a Clark County Drug Court graduate, was asked to write about what *Hands Across the Bridge* means to him. The Following is what he wrote:



### *What is Hands Across the Bridge?*

In first walking into a planning committee meeting of *Hands Across the Bridge* in 2004, I had no idea what I was getting into. My good friend, Ken Jennings, had asked for me to help. With what, I had no idea. He originally asked if I wanted some free food; this tactic seems to work well with many of us starving students.

I remember walking into a highly fervent and active crowd as I was taken aside from this spectacle. On my part, there was no comprehension of anything that was transpiring. Yet, I was drawn in by the energy. There was something going on here—something significant and larger than I could begin to understand. Ken graced me with an opportunity to volunteer with safety.

My first experience of the *Hands Across the Bridge* event helped to absolve any uncertainties I may have had towards our supportive community and our leaders. Reaffirmation was very important at this stage of my life as I had so often experienced discrimination. Something inside has always attempted to see beyond my pessimism to the truth of human nature.

Throughout my transaction with society and in hiding behind my educational endeavors, I seldom revealed my past in fear of judgment. Even beyond any feeling of shame, I believed responses would always present discrimination. I adopted the concept of anonymity to its fullest extent. There I was witness to many of my close friends on the front line, in full self-disclosure. I was in admiration of such certainty and selflessness. At the time, I did not understand the significance of such willingness and the continued impact it would have on other's lives or my own.

At the time, what I was able to connect with was a sense of unity with this massive crowd. This inspiration drove me back to *Hands Across the Bridge* in the years to come. The inspiration was more than holding

# MORE HIGHLIGHTS Continued .....

HANDS continued

hands on the bridge, it was the involvement of the recovering community coming together as one, and our elected officials and other advocates—those who took time out of their lives to support recovery.

Many years later, I've come to realize the significance of being an advocate of recovery and how self-disclosure would strengthen that advocacy. When I discovered that *Hands Across the Bridge* was in peril due to a lack of funds, my friends and I decided to gather volunteers and resources to make this happen, regardless. We had been inspired by this event and had a willingness to go to any lengths. As we reached out to the community for help, we would soon discover how truly supportive our community is. So often people expressed sincerity in supporting our cause; they may realize that all are affected by addiction and therefore, recovery. However, I would like to believe that it is in their true nature to be compassionate to their neighbors.

Most every endeavor left me with a feeling of gratitude and connectedness as those walls of indifference crumbled and fears of judgment abated. I come to realize that most of what I experience as judgment was an attitude of indifference reflected back at me. My confidence provided a presentation that would further inspire others. Then, I would watch others express themselves in confidence and develop a sense of passion for our cause.

I am now aware of the essence of my admiration towards those for whom I first experience at *Hands Across the Bridge* in 2004. To stand on the front line and fight against the stigma of addiction requires one to know their true self. One must have a true sense of identity—one that does not waver in the face of discrimination.

And as the support of our community truly gave me hope, I can experience a new sense of unity. Whether it is holding hands on the bridge, community support, or those much needed recovering programs and elected officials, these demonstrations give hope to our community. They give me hope. They bring about faith in humanity by demonstrating its truth. The true nature of humanity—through unity—is our strongest aspiration. It is this unity that brings about strength, requires integrity, and saves lives.





# MORE HIGHLIGHTS Continued .....

## ▶ Another Successful TSC Holiday Event



Approximately 400 Therapeutic Specialty Court participants and family members attended the 2009 Therapeutic Specialty Courts' Annual Holiday Event.

With collaborative efforts, TSC staff offered all TSC participants and their families a memorable day.

Families enjoyed sub sandwiches, pizzas, chips, pop, cake, ham, veggies, and fruit. Most of which was made possible by private donations and caring businesses in our community such as: local Subway shops, Smokey's and God Father's Pizza, Frito Lay, Corwin Beverage, Ulta, Fred Meyer, CASA, and our own Alumni.

Therapeutic Specialty Court Alumni did a great job generating donations from the community. We also had generous donors who enabled us to purchase additional needed items for the event. Families had the opportunity to have pictures taken with Santa and for Santa to give each child a gift. Additionally, we had a craft corner for the kids.

The Rockaroos generously offered their talents and performed again for the event and did an outstanding job entertaining all of us. It was great to see the kids dancing and having fun.

This event would not have been as successful as it was without the help of all the volunteers, those who: helped pickup food the day of the event, helped setup, served food, checked people in at the front door, Santa and his helpers, and those who stayed late to help clean up. "Thank you" to all who helped make this event a fun time for our clients.



# A VETERANS COURT FOR CLARK COUNTY .....



## VETERANS THERAPEUTIC COURT

Last April, District Court applied and received a scholarship grant from the National Drug Court Planning Initiative and sent a team of eight professionals to a week-long drug court training held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The focus of this training was to begin the planning stages to implement a Veterans Therapeutic Court in our county. The nation is experiencing an increase of veterans in our criminal justice system.



To further give credence to these statistics, a 2006 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration study declared that 1.8 million veterans met criteria for a substance abuse disorder. One in five service members report symptoms of mental disorder and we have an estimated 1.7 million veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Clark County partnered with the Washington Dept. of Veterans Affairs in April 2008 to place an Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration program specialist in our jail. This position works closely with eligible incarcerated veterans to assist in treatment placement and provide additional supportive services for our veteran members of the armed forces. Over the last 20 months, 358 offenders in our local jail have identified themselves as serving in the armed forces at time of booking intake and of those, 219 received services through the WDVA Incarcerated Veterans Program<sup>1</sup>. Eighty-nine percent were substance-abuse or related misdemeanor charges ranging from DUI offenses, drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, assault and/or domestic assault, theft, malicious mischief and disorderly conduct. As we have learned of the increasing number of incarcerated veterans in our local jail, we feel we are inadequately addressing the unique needs of our service members. Because each branch of the military has its own culture, its own language, code of conduct, rules, regulations, norms, rank, stories, legends, rituals and rites we feel we are justified in creating a separate specialized court docket dedicated solely to address the specific needs of our service men and women and forge a stronger relationship with the VA. The current budget has restricted launching a separate docket for veterans.

Clark County District Court is requesting Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program funds in the amount of \$350,000 to implement a Veterans' Therapeutic Court to assist nonviolent misdemeanant offenders who have served in the armed forces of the United States with a coordinated substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment strategy to aide in successful reintegration in our community. By creating a Veterans' Therapeutic Court, the goal is to divert identified veteran offenders into a judicially monitored hybrid drug and mental health court program by offering a

# VETERANS COURT Continued .....

comprehensive system of care which promotes public safety, sobriety and reducing recidivism. With partnerships of state and federal departments of Veterans Affairs and other local veterans' organizations, we will achieve our goals in helping this underserved population get the treatment, education, housing, and ancillary recovery services needed for long-term stability and reallocate resources in order to reduce overall costs within the county's criminal justice system. If selected to receive the grant, the Veterans Therapeutic Court intends to launch in the Fall of 2010.



# THERAPEUTIC SPECIALY COURTS - GRADUATION SCHEDULE .....

## **FAMILY TREATMENT COURT (S.T.E.P.)**

Day: 1st Monday of each month

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Location: Family Law Annex, Courtroom 1

Address: 601 W Evergreen Blvd., Suite 102  
Vancouver, WA 98666

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THERAPEUTIC COURT**

Day: 1st Monday of each month

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Clark County Courthouse  
Dept. 2

Address: 1200 Franklin  
Vancouver WA 98666

## **DRUG COURT**

Day: 3rd Thursday of each month

Time: 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Location: Clark County Courthouse  
3rd Floor, Dept. 8

Address: 1200 Franklin  
Vancouver WA 98666

## **JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT**

Day: Friday (call Brad Finegood, Coordinator,  
for dates)

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Clark County Juvenile Justice Center,  
2nd Floor, Courtroom 2

Address: 500 W 11th St.  
Vancouver WA 98666

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE COURT**

Day: 4th Tuesday of each month

Time: 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Location: Clark County Courthouse  
Dept. 5

Address: 1200 Franklin  
Vancouver WA 98666

## **MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

Day: Typically 4th Wednesday of each month

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Clark County Courthouse  
Dept. 3

Address: 1200 Franklin  
Vancouver WA 98666

# FOR MORE INFORMATION .....

## SUPERIOR COURT THERAPEUTIC SPECIALTY COURTS

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- ▶ **COORDINATOR:** Brad Finegood
- ▶ **PHONE:** 360-397-2304
- ▶ **FAX:** 360-397-759-7874
- ▶ **EMAIL:** brad.finegood@clark.wa.gov
- ▶ **ADDRESS:** Family Law Annex  
601 W Evergreen Blvd  
Suite 102  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000
- ▶ **COURTS:**  
Felony Drug Court  
Family Treatment Court (S.T.E.P.)  
Juvenile Recovery Court

## DISTRICT COURT THERAPEUTIC SPECIALTY COURTS

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- ▶ **COORDINATOR:** Shauna McCloskey
- ▶ **PHONE:** 360-397-2431
- ▶ **FAX:** 360-759-7053
- ▶ **EMAIL:** shauna.mccloskey@clark.wa.gov
- ▶ **ADDRESS:** Clark County Courthouse  
1200 Franklin, PO Box 9806  
Vancouver, WA 98666-8806
- ▶ **COURTS:**  
Substance Abuse Court  
Mental Health Court  
Domestic Violence Therapeutic Court  
DUI Court Emphasis in the above Courts