



Superior Court of the State of Washington
For the County of Yakima

Yakima County Courthouse
128 North Second St.
Yakima, Washington 98901

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Judge Kevin S. Naught
Judge Elisabeth M. Tutsch
Judge Jeffery B. Swan
Judge Blaine G. Gibson
Judge Jared A. Boswell
Judge Ruth E. Reukauf
Judge Sonia Rodriguez True
Judge Richard H. Bartheld

SUPERIOR COURT COMMISSIONERS

Shane M. Silverthorn
Susan C. Arb
Sonia Rodriguez True

Phone: (509) 574-2710
Fax: (509) 574-2701

To the Human Services Department and the Board of County Commissioners, Attn: Melissa Holm,

The statistics provided in the additional attachment were pulled from our DCCM Data system. The limitation to some of the data is due to the amount of time a participant may be able to stay active in the program. The first year of clear and accurate longitudinal data for therapy court participants comes from 2020. The data from 2020 and 2019 was impacted by the Supreme Courts Blake Decision. Information gathered regarding the participants that were dismissed from the program due to the Blake Decision show that those participants who provided negative UA's for over one year at the time of the dismissal, have not re-offended. Those who had provided positive UAs, had done so within 6 months of their dismissal, and are either currently facing or have been sentenced for new felony criminal charges.

Further data collected from the DCCM system shows that of our most recent graduates (04/2021 – 04/2024) have experienced a 90% improvement in their employment status (10% were identified as disabled or retired); 92% obtained their driver's license prior to graduation (some were ineligible to regain their license); 93% graduated with their GED/High School Diploma (some were identified to have significant learning disabilities and were determined to be unable to obtain their GED during the program time frame).

Since the beginning of this quarter, our program has been focusing on program expansion for both therapy courts. During this quarter, we have updated internal forms and the ability to collect meaningful data. We have improved the therapeutic court website through providing updated information, testimonials from graduates from the program, and improved the referral process so that attorneys can easily access forms and/or submit them online.

We are currently working on proactive community engagement and advertising the therapeutic court program. We have developed posters and flyers that have been placed at the jail, in and around court rooms, attorney offices, and at Department of Corrections buildings. We have prepared presentations to be able to provide to community stakeholders as well.

During our 2nd quarter, we will be providing educational presentations to attorneys, prosecutors, community custody officers, and other stakeholders. Our expectation is that this will increase knowledge and understanding of the therapy courts and will result in an increase in referrals and interest in the program.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Burrill
Therapeutic Court Coordinator
Bobbie.Burrill@co.yakima.wa.us