



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

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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. I am very excited to let you all know that we are currently in the process of transitioning from DCCM Data System to DIMS for all our Therapeutic Court Data. The next report that you will receive will look quite a bit different. Our "go live" date for this transition is August first. Currently we are working on getting our Mental Health Court Team and Drug Court Team's trained in how to use the new system. The new system should significantly cut down the use of paper documents and eventually eliminate the need for hard copy files all together.

During the first quarter of the year, we posted numerous flyers and posters around the courthouses and probation offices as well as in the county jail. As a result, during the second quarter, we have seen a significant increase in the number of phone calls from defendants and family members inquiring about the Therapeutic Court Programs. When phone calls are received, it creates an opportunity for us to reach out to defense counsel if the defendant appears to be eligible. If the defense counsel believes that the Therapeutic Courts are in the best interest of the client, they would then make the referral. We have created a templated letter that we are sending out to defense attorney's when we find someone that the team is interested in screening for the program. The letter indicates that they appear to be eligible, and that the team would like the opportunity to screen the defendant for the program if the defendant is interested. We also attach a copy of the referral to make the process as easy as possible. We will be keeping track of letters sent out and responses received for data purposes to see if this has any statistically significant impact on the referrals to our programs.

During the second quarter we have completed several educational presentations throughout Yakima. Our goal is to provide education about what the Therapeutic Court programs are, what clients go through, what the expectations are, eligibility criteria and referral process. Additionally, we want the community to know who we are, what we do, and why. We want to create more opportunities for public service providers to recognize when a person is needing help and create more awareness of our program so that when a person does face eligible charges, they are aware of Drug Court or Mental Health Court. With this goal in mind, we have presented information and education to the Department of Assigned Counsel, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and Department of Corrections (2nd Avenue location).

During the third quarter we plan to continue building community relationships while we work to continue to transition into our new data system (DIMS) and scan our old paper records into electronic records and destroy the paper versions. We will be continuing community presentations, currently we have two more presentations scheduled for local Department of Corrections offices and will be looking to connect with the Department of Children Youth & Family Services. Additionally, we are working to revise the core documents that our programs use to align with current language, standards, program rules and requirements. We will also be working to revise and update the Mental Health Court and Drug Court handbooks and developing a policy and procedures guide for both courts. The documents, handbooks, and policies and procedures will likely extend longer than the third quarter.

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

Sincerely,

Bobbie Burrill
Therapeutic Court Coordinator
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