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FACT SHEET

Updated July 2017

Collaborative Justice Courts

Collaborative justice courts, also known as problem-solving courts, promote accountability by combining judicial supervision with rigorously monitored rehabilitation services and treatment in lieu of detention. Collaborative courts have a dedicated calendar and judge for specific types of offenders (e.g., mental health courts for offenders with mental illness, drug courts for offenders with substance abuse issues). Collaborative justice principles include a multidisciplinary, nonadversarial team approach with involvement from the court, attorneys, law enforcement, and community treatment and service agencies to address offenders' complex social and behavioral problems. Collaborative courts follow a model based on the Ten Key Components of Drug Courts, however, each court operates in a slightly different way with varying eligibility criteria, requirements, length, types of sanctions and incentives, services provided, and graduation criteria.

Types and Numbers of Collaborative Justice Courts in California

The number of these courts has increased substantially since creation of the Judicial Council's Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee in 2000. Most drug court caseloads average between 75 and 100 participants per court, depending on court type; however, caseload sizes vary across different case types and jurisdictions. Collaborative courts focus on high risk/high needs cases and utilize evidence-based practices. California currently has more than 420 collaborative courts in all but three small jurisdictions, with many jurisdictions having four or more court types. The most numerous types of collaborative courts include adult drug courts (85), juvenile drug courts (32), dependency drug courts (39), adult mental health courts (44), juvenile mental health courts (12), homeless courts (13), domestic violence courts (14), and peer/youth courts (73). Newer courts, such as veterans' courts (34), DUI courts (16), reentry courts (20), elder courts (3), and community courts (12), are less common but are growing. Also growing in response to increased awareness about human trafficking in California are girls' courts/boys' courts/CSEC courts. The balance of collaborative courts includes dual diagnosis courts, family law drug courts, truancy courts, prop 36 courts, and unique courts, as well as veterans' stand-down programs.

For more information: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-collabjustice.ht>

