



SAN FRANCISCO COLLABORATIVE COURTS

Community Justice Center

Mission

The Community Justice Center of the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco responds to the needs of participants and the central city community with a philosophy that CARES –Community, Accountability, Responsiveness, Efficiency, and Support.

The Community Justice Center (CJC), launched in March 2009, is a geographically based Collaborative Court and social service center serving the Tenderloin, Civic Center, Union Square and SOMA neighborhoods of San Francisco.

- The CJC emphasizes defendant accountability through judicial monitoring. Immediate interventions address the primary issues facing defendants, including substance abuse, housing, employment, mental health, and physical health.
- The CJC is a collaboration of the San Francisco Superior Court, Department of Public Health, Office of the District Attorney, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Office, Police Department, Bar Association, Adult Probation Department, Human Services Agency, and numerous partners seeking to improve public safety and the lives of CJC clients and community residents.
- The Community Justice Center is the only community court in California to hear serious case types, including nonviolent felonies and probation revocation cases. The team of legal, clinical and Court professionals work together to address the underlying problems that bring defendants into the justice system.

Program Components

- At the CJC Service Center, co-located with the CJC courtroom, clients can access case management, shelter placement, assistance applying for benefits, on-site support groups, and service linkages to a wide variety of community providers.
- While many defendants are mandated to participate in treatment, the Court encourages community members to make use of CJC resources when they are in need, whether or not they are involved in the criminal justice system.
- The CJC recognizes that neighborhoods, as well as individuals, can be victims of crime. The program provides opportunities for offenders to give back by performing service hours in the community where they offended.
- The CJC has an open-door policy and invites all community members to provide feedback through the existing CJC Advisory Board meetings. Please check the Superior Court's [website](http://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org/collaborativecourts)¹ or [blog](http://www.sfcollaborativejustice.blogspot.com)² for upcoming meeting dates.

¹ www.sfsuperiorcourt.org/collaborativecourts

² www.sfcollaborativejustice.blogspot.com

Target Population

- Most CJC clients are single, African American males. The average age is 39.
- The majority of CJC clients are homeless (38%) or marginally housed (41%).
- Over 50 percent of incoming clients are assessed as substance dependent. Cocaine and alcohol are the most commonly assessed drugs of abuse.
- Less than 10 percent of CJC clients are employed at intake, and 46 percent have no legal source of income.

Accomplishments

Case & Defendant Volume

The Community Justice Center (CJC) has heard nearly **10,000 cases** involving roughly **6,000 defendants** since March 2009.

Over **2,500 San Franciscans** have been assessed for clinical services at the Community Justice Center. Roughly one quarter of clinical clients are also on the CJC/Adult Probation Department caseload.

Case Type

On average, the CJC hears more than 100 cases per day. Among incoming cases, 27 percent are misdemeanors and 73 percent are felonies. Most misdemeanor cases are theft and drug paraphernalia related. Nearly 90 percent of felony cases are drug related.

Case Processing

The time between misdemeanor citation and first appearance is one week, compared to traditional case processing of 45 days at the Hall of Justice.

Appearance Rate

The appearance rate at CJC is 79 percent in 2013 to date.

Community Service

Since August 2011, 266 CJC clients have completed over 9,100 hours of community service, a value of more than \$95,000 (based on the minimum wage: \$10.55).



Superior Court of California
County of San Francisco



City and County of San Francisco

December, 2013