



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

District Court
Therapeutic Specialty Courts
2015 Year End Summary Report



INTRODUCTION.....

In 2015, Clark County District Court had three active Therapeutic Specialty Courts (TSC): the Substance Abuse Court, Veterans Court, and the Mental Health Court. TSC uses 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.

TSC is funded in part, 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. 2015 marks the 15th year District Court has had TSC programs.

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 2015 activity of the programs. I 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 I 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.



Shane Wolf
District Court TSC Coordinator

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE COURT.....

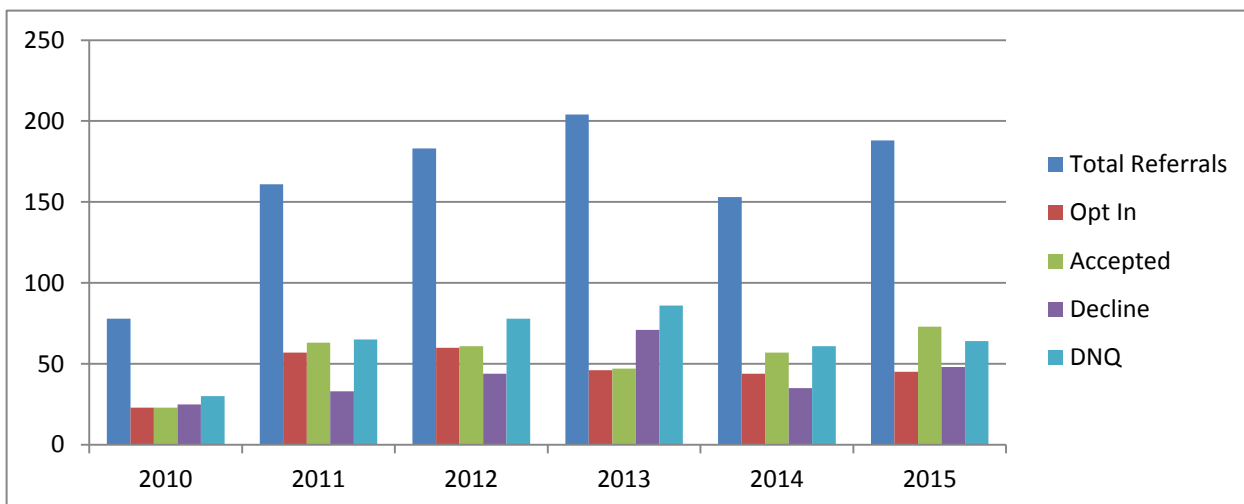
Honorable Kelli Osler Presiding

- Started April 1999
- 182 Total Graduates through 2015
- Court held Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Main Courthouse, Courtroom 2-3, Second Floor
1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

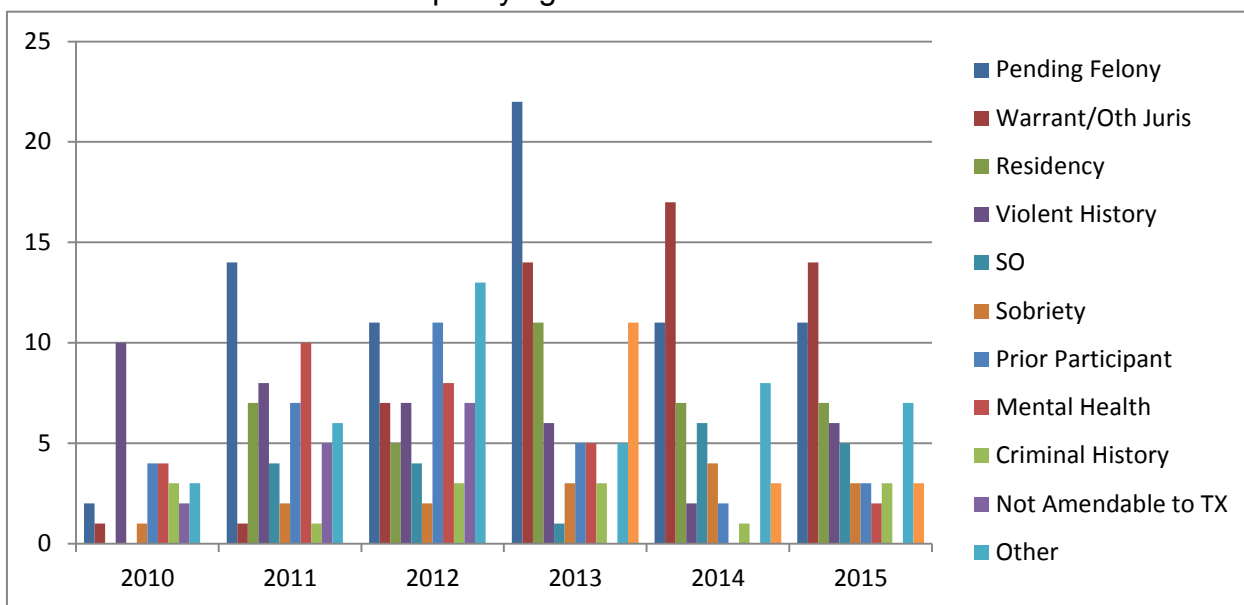
Active Caseload December 31 st 2014	42
Opt In	45
Graduated	14
Opt Out	3
Terminated	31
Referrals to Program	188
Referrals Accepted	76
Referrals where Client Declined	48
Referrals with Disqualifier	64
59% Accepted Referrals Opt Into Program	
5 year Recidivism Rate for Graduates is 24.5%	

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. We promote 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 four-phased structure to monitor and motivate offender behavior change. The program has been in existence for 15 years.

SAC Referral Trends 2010-2015



SAC Disqualifying Factor Breakdowns 2010-2015



Above are reports that were generated to show the referral history in SAC from 2010-2015. Referrals have grown since 2010 with the highest referral rate of 204 in 2013 and lowest of 78 in 2010. There was a decline in referrals in 2014 which is explained with a change in the TSC coordinator position mid-year. There was a decline in “approved” clients for the program in 2013. This is in due to SAC being a recipient of a BJA grant that placed an emphasis on completing a risk/needs assessment on each referral and targeting high risk/high needs clients. 2013-2015 consistently opted into the program between 44-46 clients.

VETERANS COURT.....

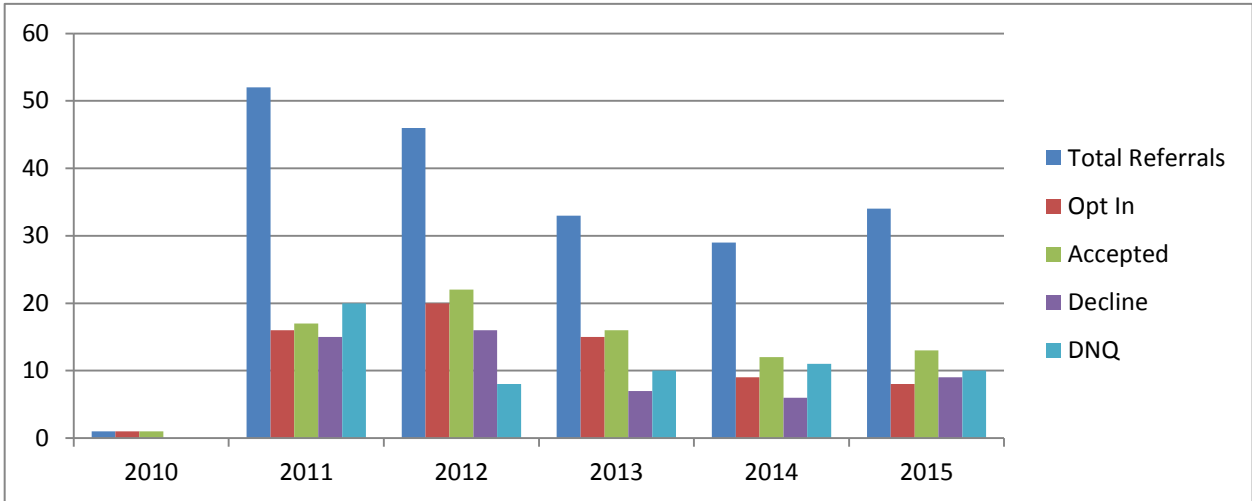
Honorable Vern Schreiber Presiding

- Started April 2011
- 33 Total Graduates through 2015
- Court held Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.
Main Courthouse, Courtroom G-3, Ground Floor
1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

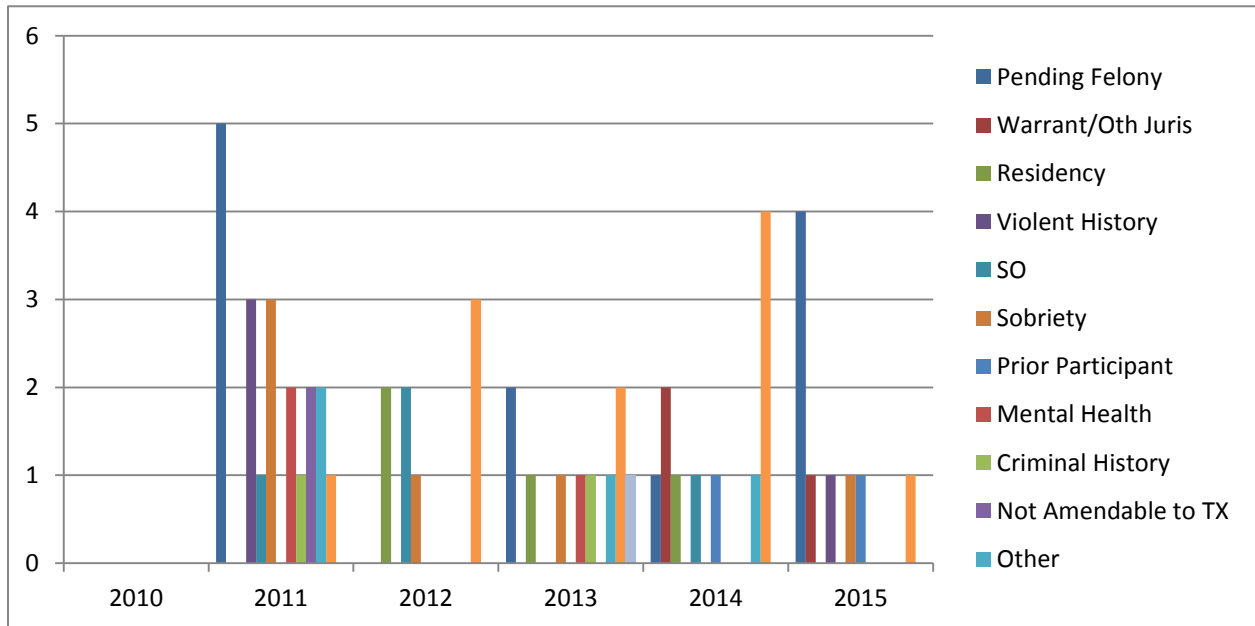
Active Caseload December 31 st 2014	15
Opt In	8
Graduated	8
Opt Out	0
Terminated	0
Deceased	0
Referrals to Program	34
Referrals Accepted	15
Referrals where Client Declined	9
Referrals with Disqualifier	10
53% Accepted Referrals Opt Into Program	
5 year Recidivism Rate for Graduates is 20%	

The Veterans Therapeutic Court is an alternative treatment and sentencing option for veteran defendants suffering from an underlying substance abuse and/or co-occurring mental illness and facing misdemeanor criminal charges. Veterans are identified early through specialized screening tools and must voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed by a team of court staff, probation and law enforcement officers, veteran peer mentors, veteran resource professionals, and treatment professionals. The program is a minimum of one year in length. Because each branch of the military has its own culture, its own language, code of conduct, rules, regulations, norms, ranks, 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. Another component of the program is pairing a veteran mentor with a veteran court participant to provide additional support and camaraderie through the program.

Veterans Court Referral Trends 2010-2015



Veterans Court Disqualifying Factor Breakdowns 2010-2015



Above are reports that were generated to show the referral history in Veterans Court from 2010-2015. Referrals have grown since 2010 when the program started with the highest referral rate of 52 in 2011 and lowest of 1 in 2010. Referrals for Veterans Court have declined from 2012-2013 due to the decriminalization of marijuana at the end of 2012. Referrals have remained consistent from 2013-2015 with an average of 32 per year with 2015 receiving the most at 34. 23.5% of those referred opted into the program. Another reason for referrals being down is that overall District Court filings are currently down due to the shortage of Sheriff deputy's on patrol to respond to calls.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT.....

Honorable John Hagensen Presiding

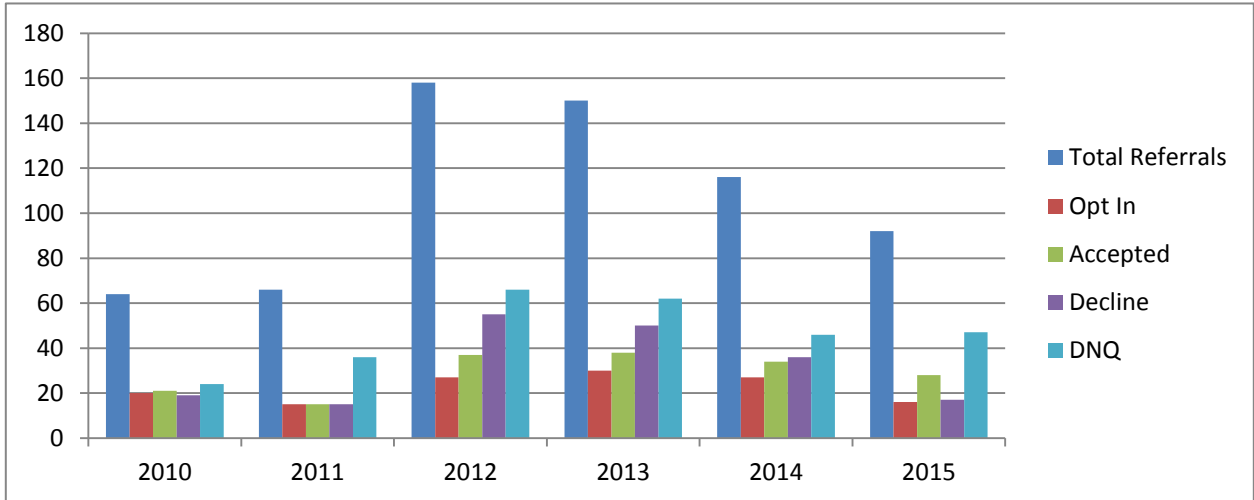
- Started April 2000
- 334 Total Graduates through 2015
- Court held Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.
Main Courthouse, Courtroom 2-5, Second Floor
1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

Active Caseload December 31 st 2014	33
Opt In	16
Graduated	9
Opt Out	0
Terminated	8
Deceased	0
Referrals to Program	82
Referrals Accepted	28
Referrals where Client Declined	17
Referrals with Disqualifier	47
57% Accepted Referrals Opt Into Program	
5 year Recidivism Rate for Graduates is 20.2%	

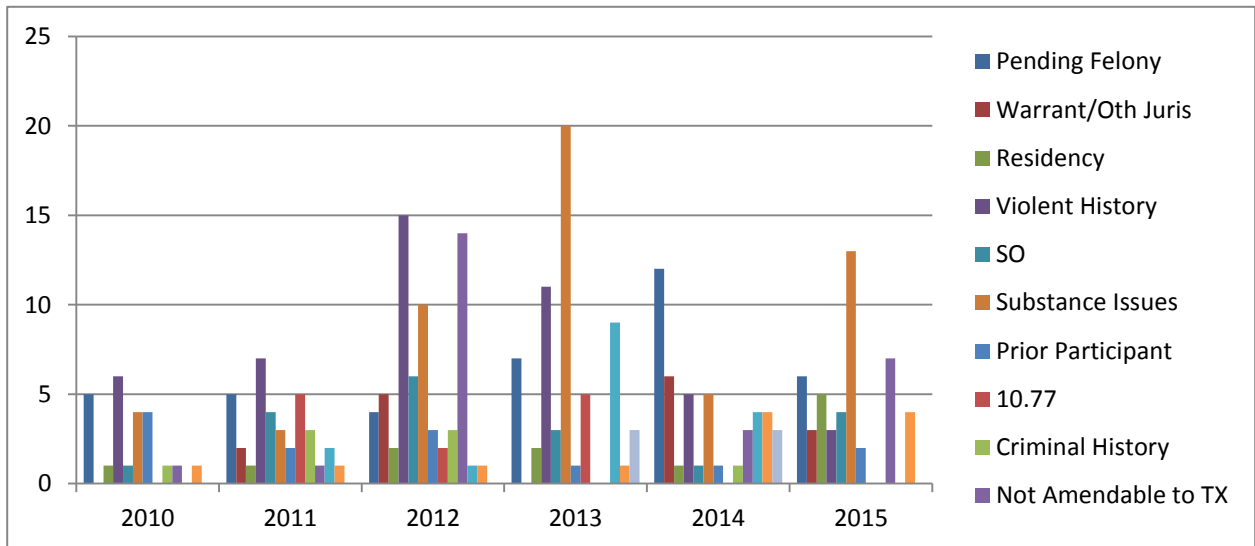
Mental Health Court (MHC) is a Clark County District Court Therapeutic Specialty Court program that offers eligible participants the chance to enter an alternative treatment and sentencing alternative program for defendants with a serious and persistent mental illness that are facing misdemeanor criminal charges. The team is a collaboration of mental health treatment agencies, probation and law enforcement agencies, a court coordinator, and traditional court staff.

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. The judge employs the use of a graduated system of sanctions and incentives within a four-phased structure to monitor and motivate offender behavior change. The program has been in existence for 15 years.

Mental Health Court Referral Trends 2010-2015



Mental Health Court Disqualifying Factor Breakdowns 2010-2015



Above are reports that were generated to show the referral history in MHC from 2010-2015. Referrals have grown since 2010 with the highest referral rate of 158 in 2012 and lowest of 64 in 2010. There has been a decline in referrals since 2012 which can be explained by a change in court coordinator in 2012 and then again two court coordinator changes in 2014. MHC is experiencing a rise in clients referred with substance abuse issues. These referrals are then transferred to SAC to meet their co-occurring needs. A probation officer completes a risk/needs assessment and clinicians present at staffing, both provide additional information and feedback on the clients. This can explain why 2015 averaged accepting 30.4% of referrals which is second highest acceptance with 32.8% in 2010. We are encouraged the momentum in 2015 will lead to growing the program in 2016.

TSC LAUNCHES FACEBOOK PAGE.....

District Court Therapeutic Specialty Courts launched a Facebook page in September 2015 as a way to connect with our clients and the community about the exciting events occurring in the programs. The goal is to help keep our clients, the courts, probation, and community informed about what is happening in the programs and providing stories of success. The TSC Facebook page serves as a tool for clients to access the forms we use in the program along with updates on community recovery events. The page serves as a place of inspiration as we highlight graduates of the program and do “shout outs” for clients that are successful. We also wanted to be a voice to the community on specialized courts serving the needs of a population that tends to have the media only focus on the negative side of criminal justice. This page represents the positive efforts being made to make a difference in the community by District Court and Probation. We encourage all to “like” the page and read about the successes we have had as a program throughout 2015.



Follow and Like Us:

<https://www.facebook.com/clarkcountytsc>

TSC YEAR IN REVIEW.....

As I look back at 2015, I realize Therapeutic Courts accomplished a lot of amazing things. The TSC programs traveled a lot this year. Grant funding was secured through Washington Traffic Safety Commission to send 5 SAC team members to a one-day training in Phoenix, AZ to learn ways to enhance DUI courts. 4 TSC team members attended the National Drug Court Conference in Washington DC in July followed up with 5 SAC team members attending the Traffic Safety DUI Conference in SeaTac in October. TSC was also able to pay for 7 MHC team members and 3 probation officers to attend the Washington State Behavioral Healthcare Conference at the downtown Vancouver Hilton in June. These trainings allow the TSC teams to increase their knowledge about the best way to work with this population.

We secured funding for a full-time probation officer for Mental Health Court, a huge accomplishment. This allowed us to sustain the BJA grant funded PO position by providing screening and a risk/needs assessment to all clients being referred to the programs to targeted high risk/high needs clients. Another huge milestone was launching the TSC Facebook page in September to improve communication with the participants and community. If you have not checked it out or liked us yet, go to <https://www.facebook.com/clarkcountytsc> . We also updated the TSC Contracts and TSC return to court forms to make them strength based. We also were fortunate to have an amazing intern, Rachael Marler, that brought a positive work ethic to the programs and a true enjoyment in helping others be successful. 2015 ended with the annual TSC Holiday Party that was held on December 17th at St. Luke's Church. Over 200 participants and their families were in attendance to enjoy food, fellowship, and Santa.

2015 brought great memories, but I am most thankful for the wonderful staff that stepped into the roles they were given and led with a positive attitude. A special thank you goes to all the TSC team members and the community agencies we partner with. I am grateful to be involved in a community where an emphasis is placed on recovery and changing lives. I want to leave on a final thought from Albert Einstein: "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." The mistakes we made in 2015 are the building blocks to the changes we have the opportunity to make in 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. J.", is positioned at the bottom right of the page.

COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION.....

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