

# CSC Courts Programs



*Coordinated teamwork which integrates the judicial process with helping community resources...*

- ➔ *Diverting people from prison*
- ➔ *Mandating treatment for offenders with substance abuse problems and mental illness*
- ➔ *Helping people overcome addictions*
- ➔ *Building more productive lives*

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## Community Service Council (CSC) leads community research, planning, and action addressing critical community needs

**CSC's court related services help coordinate judicial and community resources to prevent and reduce impaired driving, substance abuse, and mental illness**



The Community Service Council (CSC) has convened a number of community planning processes to develop strategies for preventing underage drinking and reducing fatalities and injuries from alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes.



The initial study group's recommendations led to the creation of CSC's award-winning **Youthful Drunk Driving Program (YDD)** and **CRASHs Court (Courts Raising Awareness of Students in High Schools)**, which began in 1994 and 1999, respectively. In the years since then, more than 50,000 high school



YOUTHFUL DRUNK DRIVING PROGRAM

students in school systems throughout Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma have attended CRASHs Court sessions and more than 4,000 young offenders have benefited from the YDD Program.

Subsequent planning and action led by CSC resulted in Tulsa's enhancement of **the largest Drug Court in Oklahoma**; development of **the state's first specialized DUI Court**; and most recently, establishment of a **Criminal Mental Health Court**.

Together, these therapeutic problem solving courts coordinate Tulsa's judicial process with law enforcement, treatment, housing, education, employment, and other community resources—most often resulting in changed more productive lives and lower incarceration rates. These valued partnerships make success possible.

The Courts Programs are part of the Community Service Council's larger **prevention agenda** focused on strengthening people's ability to care for themselves and their families.

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## Tulsa's new Criminal Mental Health Court leads to treatment, not incarceration for offenders with mental illness

"Study after study shows that huge numbers of inmates suffer from mental illnesses, substance abuse, or both. Any offender who can be helped to conquer these problems is one less burden on the taxpayers. It's also the humane and civilized thing to do." (*Tulsa World* editorial, December 30, 2006)

In mid-2007 Tulsa launched a specialized mental health court. Mental health courts are often called "problem solving courts." Their goal is to divert eligible nonviolent offenders who have serious mental health disorders into treatment rather than incarceration, helping them function in society and preventing them from having encounters with the criminal justice system because of behavior caused by their mental illness.

Those with violent offenses such as murder, robbery and rape are not eligible. Participation is voluntary. Defendants must enter a plea of guilty and must appear regularly before a judge who ensures that requirements regarding counseling, medication, treatment, and supervision are being met. Participating defendants are represented by attorneys to safeguard their rights. Jail is a last-resort sanction for non-compliance.

# Therapeutic problem solving courts are impacting individuals, families, and our community

## Drug and DUI courts: the right approach

Oklahoma has one of America's highest per-capita incarceration rates and spends a large part of its annual budget on prisons. In many Oklahoma counties, the highest percentages of incarcerations are for drug and DUI charges.



In Tulsa, specialized DUI and drug courts have been created as reasonable, viable alternatives to incarceration for carefully screened non-violent offenders. Instead of going to prison, many have recovered from addictions and turned their lives around—resulting in major lifelong benefits for them, their families, and the community.

Drug courts represent the coordinated efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health, social service and treatment communities to actively and forcefully intervene and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction and crime. As an alternative to less effective interventions, drug courts quickly identify substance abusing offenders and place them under strict court monitoring and community supervision, coupled with long-term treatment services.

In this blending of systems, the drug court participant undergoes an intense regimen of substance abuse and mental health treatment, case management, drug testing, and probation supervision while reporting to regularly scheduled status hearings before a judge with specialized expertise in the drug court model. No other justice intervention brings to bear such an intensive response with such dramatic results. “We know that drug courts outperform virtually all other strategies that have been attempted for drug-involved offenders,” according to researcher Doug Marlowe.

How does it work? Participants in DUI and Drug Courts enter treatment. They are assigned to group treatment meetings, support meetings, and one-on-one counseling sessions. They receive regular case reviews and intensive supervision. They have curfews and random drug and alcohol monitoring. They are required to find and maintain employment and to obtain a GED if they do not have a high school education.

A former state Senator concluded, “There are people going to prison who can be safely treated and turned into productive citizens who work and support their families... We can stem the tide with cooperation from the district attorneys and judges who can take a deep breath and say ‘this person is salvageable.’”

## Drug and DUI courts save money, as well as lives

Drug courts are a good investment. By diverting people from prison, Tulsa County Drug/DUI Courts have saved \$10,598,590 since 1996. A RAND study demonstrated a savings of \$10 for every \$1 spent.

It costs \$16,482 to send someone to prison for a year but only \$2,325 to put them in drug court for the same length of time, according to a 2001-03 study by the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center. Participants are required to pay for portions of their treatment and for their lab costs for drug testing. During the program, defendants are able to work and pay taxes—instead of being supported in prison by tax dollars.

Completion rates are high: 81.6% complete the program. In 2007, 229 people participated in DUI Court and 702 in Drug Court.

Retention rates are high: 71.2% for Drug Court and 78.5% for DUI Court (ODMHSAS, 2007).

Recidivism rates are low: Drug Court graduates are 63% less likely than successful probationers and 131% less likely than released inmates to be re-arrested (ODMHSAS, May 2006).

In Tulsa, a third of the drug participants do not have a high school diploma or GED upon entry. By the end of the program, 80% have earned a GED.

“The bottom line is that felony offenders who might otherwise be behind bars, are finishing drug/DUI programs and are coming out of the program with more skills and education and greater coping mechanisms. Because they are better equipped to handle life and jobs, graduates have a better chance of staying clean and sober than those who were sent to prison, who usually do not receive the treatment and training they need to reintegrate into the community.” (Julie DelCour, editorial writer, *Tulsa World*)

## CSC Courts Programs have earned Tulsa local and national recognition

### ***The 2008 Liberty Bell Award***

Rose Ewing, Drug Court/DUI Court Administrator, accepted the 2008 Liberty Bell Award in May during Tulsa County Bar Association Law Week. "Community Service Council received this award for its commitment to improving the legal system and enhancing courts that ensure freedom for many citizens of Tulsa from the bonds of addiction and mental illness. The award is given to a person or agency providing outstanding support to the legal community." (*Commerce and Legal News*, May 9, 2008)



*CSC Courts Programs staff, colleagues and friends celebrate receiving the Liberty Bell Award.*

*Left photo, front row: Ericka Jeffords, Rose Ewing, Avery Chambers. Back row: Mark Kirk, Judy Phillips, Laura Schiewe, Michelle Roberts.*

*Right photo, front row: Stephanie Jacoby, Rose Ewing, Britany Kaiserback. Center row: Ericka Jeffords, Judy Phillips, Avery Chambers, Tyler Kirk. Back row: Mark Kirk, Laura Schiewe, Michelle Roberts.*

### ***The National DWI Court Leadership Award***

The Community Service Council congratulates Judge Sarah Day Smith. She received the first annual National DWI Court Leadership Award at the National Drug Court Conference in St. Louis on May 29, 2008. Judge Smith was recognized for her exemplary leadership in the field since convening Oklahoma's first DUI Court in Tulsa in 2001. She also has headed the Drug Court since 2000.

ODMHSAS Commissioner Terri White writes, "Judge Smith's enthusiasm and perseverance made this court possible by assuaging public concerns and reassuring the community that a specialized DUI Court would be a safe alternative to prison... Tulsa County's DUI Court under Judge Smith's leadership has become a model court program in Oklahoma. In 2007, Oklahoma County implemented a specialized DUI Court, modeling many of the components after Tulsa's successful DUI Court." Chief Public Defender Pete Silva says, "She has guided and coordinated the team's work diligently and skillfully. She epitomizes the leadership, dedication, compassion, and vigor that is essential to a viable and effective DWI Court."

DUI/Drug Court Administrator Rose Ewing notes, "Year after year, Judge Smith educates the Oklahoma legislature on the impact drug courts have on the recovery of the individual and the community... She gives of her time freely to promote the drug and DUI courts because she believes in the power of guiding addicts toward recovery. Daily, she is an inspiration to the hundreds of defendants who have had the fortunate circumstance to be admitted to the Tulsa County Drug or DUI Court... She cheers each person's success and anguishes over the failures."

Former Tulsa District Court Administrator Ann Domin adds, "DUI Court participants look up to her and work hard specifically to please her. During graduation ceremonies, without fail participants mention Judge Smith's firm guidance as a prime reason for their success in the program."



*Colleagues celebrate the award: Rose Ewing, Lawrence Gilbert, Tracey Hooks, Judge Dawn Moody, Judge Sarah Day Smith, Ericka Jeffords, Mark Kirk, Rachel Dewberry, Erin Bixler.*

## DUI and drug courts improve the health and future of babies as well as their parents

Oklahoma incarcerates more women per capita than any other state. A task force found that Oklahoma's 2001 female drug arrest rate was 116% higher than the nationwide rate and had increased by 152% since 1960. Most women sentenced to prison either are serving time for drug crimes or have a history of substance abuse that contributed to ending up in prison on some other charge.

When pregnant women have substance abuse problems, their babies may likely be born with serious and costly conditions, including fetal alcohol syndrome and low birth weight. These children's medical costs over a lifetime can be staggering: up to \$1,400,000 for fetal alcohol syndrome and up to \$400,000 for low birth weight.

Court intervention, combined with substance treatment and services to address their other life problems, can result in drug free mothers and drug free babies whose chances for a positive future are dramatically improved.

In Tulsa, Drug and DUI Court program participants gave birth to fifty-two drug free babies in 2007-2008. The program hosted a festive celebration for these parents and babies on May 23, 2008 at Kanbar Properties, Secure Agent Building.



# Special thanks to our many partners

## who help make the CSC Courts Programs' success possible

### CRASHs Court

Tulsa County Special Judges conducting District Traffic Court in area schools this year at the CRASHs Court Programs: Judge Kyle Haskins and Judge Mark Barcus. Appreciated and essential partners: the 14th Judicial District Court, Sheriff Stanley Glanz and the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office, Tim Harris and the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office, Tulsa County Court Clerk's Office, local defense attorneys, school liaisons, and the integral Victim Impact Speakers.

### YDD Program

Referring courts: primarily Tulsa County District Court and Tulsa Municipal Court; also, municipal courts in Salina, Owasso, Broken Arrow, and Sand Springs. The YDD Program's Advisory board, chaired by Special Judge Millie Otey, includes: court clerks, assistant district attorneys, assistant public defenders, a municipal judge, hospital representatives, and rehabilitation center program staff. Participating agencies whose involvement makes the program successful include: St. Francis Rehabilitation Center, St. John's Bernsen Rehabilitation Center, Kaiser Rehabilitation Center, St. John's Hospital Emergency Room, Tulsa Regional/Oklahoma State University Physicians Hospital Emergency room, Floral Haven Funeral Home, and various Victim Impact Speaker Groups throughout the city. Providing many helpful services in Spanish: YWCA Intercultural Center interpreter Teresa Cox. Also providing excellent support for the YDD Program: Tulsa County District Court, especially Special Judge Millie Otey, Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris, Public Defender Pete Silva, court support staff, and the local defense bar.

### Drug/DUI Court

Valued partners include: Tulsa County District Court, Judge Sarah Day Smith, Judge Dawn Moody, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Tulsa County Sheriff's Office, Tulsa County Court Services, Tulsa County Board of County Commissioners, Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole, and numerous treatment and community agencies.

### Mental Health Court

Working with CSC make this Court's work possible: Tulsa County District Court, Judge Rebecca Nightingale, Judge Carlos Chappelle, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Tulsa County Sheriff's Office, Tulsa County Court Services, Tulsa County Board of County Commissioners, Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole, with Associated Centers for Therapy and Family and Children's Services providing mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

#### CSC Courts Programs

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[www.csctulsa.org/substance%20abuse.htm](http://www.csctulsa.org/substance%20abuse.htm)  
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