



Homeless Court Programs: Best Practices for the Implementation of a Provider- Centered Model and Tools for the Transition of an Existing Program to a Provider-Centered Model


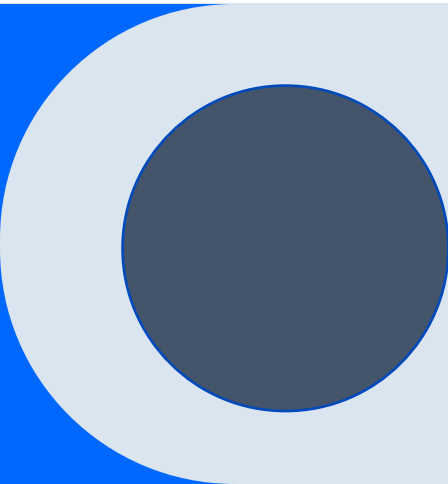
Judge Scott Cooper

Sherin Larijani

Jennifer Nicolalde

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Moderated by: Brooke Weitzman



The Models

Court Driven – Old Model

- Court, District Attorney, and Public Defender sets benchmarks for graduation
- Court review dates required while Defense monitors progress
- Standardized phases and requirements for all participants
- Restrictive eligibility requirements

Provider Driven – Best Practice Pilot Model

- Provider sets benchmarks for successful movement toward stability upon approval of the Provider Steering Committee
- Provider monitors progress
- Flexibility to present to court upon provider sign-off
- Flexibility to enroll cases with a qualified provider involved



Work Group on Homelessness Final Report to the Chief Justice

Link to the Report: https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/hwg_work-group-report.pdf



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 21-147

For business meeting on November 19, 2021

Title

Final Report From the Work Group on Homelessness to the Chief Justice

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Effective Date

November 19, 2021

Recommended by

Work Group on Homelessness

Hon. Louis Mauro, Chair

Hon. Carin Fujisaki, Vice-Chair

Date of Report

October 22, 2021

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Recommendation 2.1. Establish a homeless court program in more counties to reduce barriers to housing stability by clearing fines, fees, warrants, and outstanding cases after treatment and rehabilitation.

Homeless court programs offer treatment and rehabilitation in the community rather than incarceration in jail and allow participants to resolve citations and low-level cases often resulting from conditions of homelessness and poverty. When treatment and rehabilitation are complete, and charges and fines are resolved, barriers to housing and employment are reduced.

To maximize the impact of these programs, the Work Group on Homelessness recommends the following:

1. Courts in more jurisdictions should establish homeless court programs to reduce barriers to housing stability by clearing fines, fees, warrants, and outstanding cases after treatment and rehabilitation.
2. Courts should ensure that their homeless court eligibility criteria are as expansive as feasible and should include cases involving higher-level offenses, when appropriate.



The Stakeholders

Homeless Service Providers

Participants

Prosecutors

Public Defenders

Court

Cities

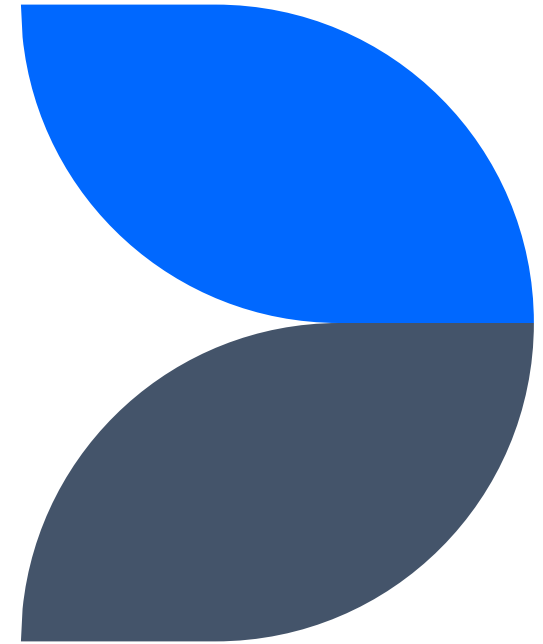
Law Enforcement

Community

Foundation Partnership

The Barriers to Transition

From administration to partners to building trust, the transition comes with challenges.

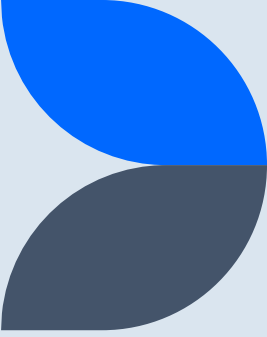


Measures of Success

Initially, the Public Defender acted as the first provider giving case management to initiate the transition.

During the pilot, many individuals were able to graduate the program who had been long term participants.

- Goals for Cost Savings and Efficiency
 - Low cost → Leveraging existing resources.
 - Judicial Economy → Multiple Cases = One Docket = One Touch
 - Dockets auto-generated based on the calendar
 - Warrant Recalls = Less Potential Jail Beds Used and Less Barriers to Housing

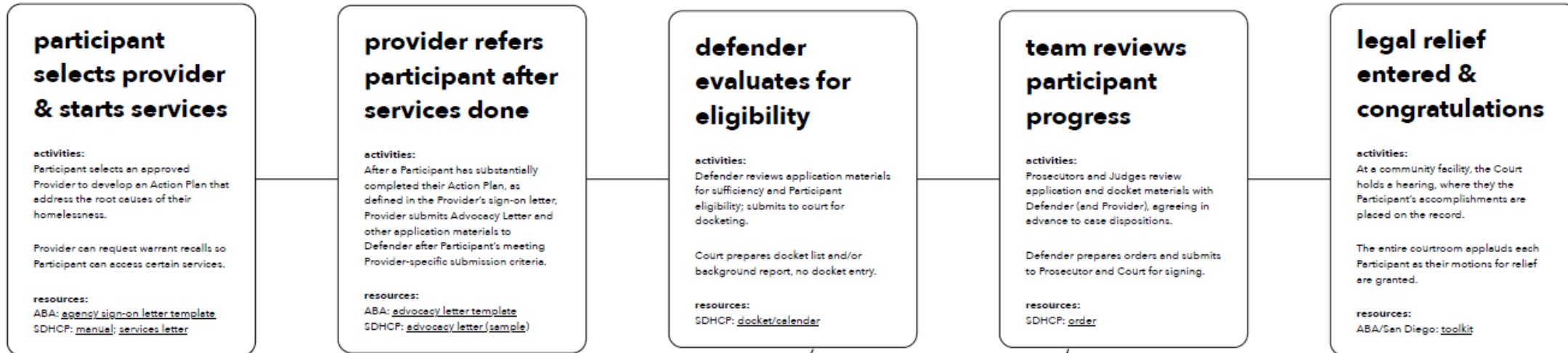


Nuts and Bolts

- Building a Provider Forum
- Handling Warrant Recalls
- Supporting Providers in continued court dates pending program completion
- Receiving the advocacy letter and request for offer
- Team review
- Graduation

homeless court program

how it works



If eligible participant is discovered during an active case

If, during an active case, the Court discovers a participant is eligible for and interested in HCP, the Court continue the matter for 120 days to allow the Participant to engage with a Provider of their choosing.

No HCP action taken

HCP makes no docket action Unless Participant completes program. So if for any reason a person or case does not qualify for relief, the cases is addressed on the previously adjourned docket.

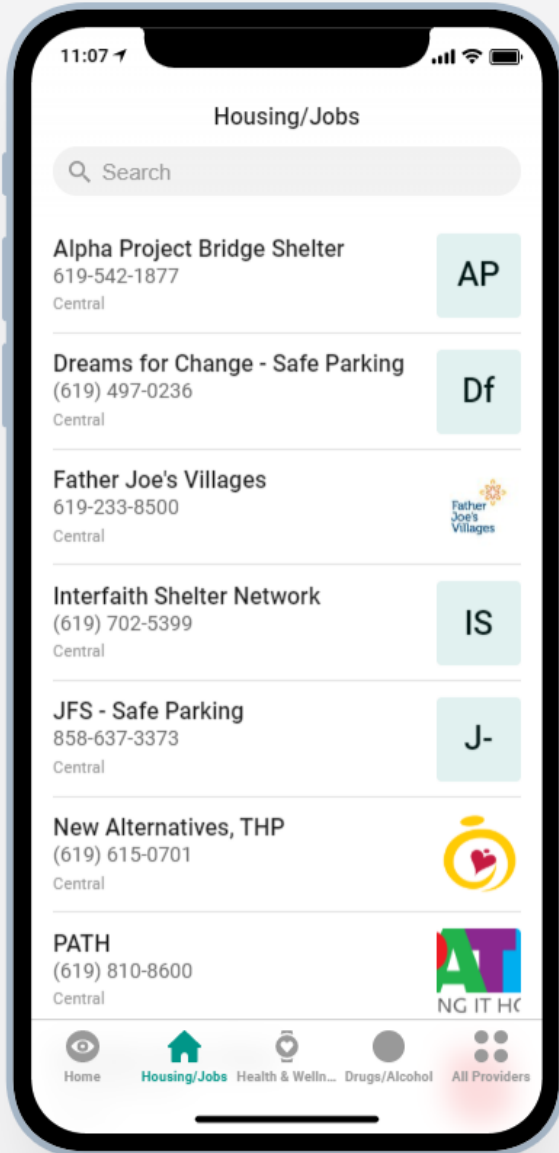
The Homeless Court Toolkit

(A collection of available cloud-based tools to make Homeless Court efficient)

- Homeless Court Provider List / Mobile “App”
 - Free tool, easily accessible by the public, and manageable by the Homeless Court Hub to add new providers or information on the fly.
- Homeless Court Docket/Calendar Management
 - Secure and cloud-based spreadsheets to facilitate communication of the monthly docket/calendar between the Homeless Court Hub, Court Clerk, Prosecutor, and Defense.
- Homeless Court Individual Client Stipulated Order/Docket Automated Creation
 - Secure and cloud-based tool to automatically turn the above monthly spreadsheets into the individual client’s stipulated docket/court orders for each client and the court file.



Client-Initiated & Client-Oriented



Homeless Court
Bringing the law to the streets, the court to the homeless service agencies, and justice for all.

619.717.6101
WWW.BIT.LY/SDHCP



HCP Docket / Calendar Management

21-Central-April														Monthly Statistics			
Cal #	Name	Program	DOB	Case Number	Event	Charge	DIV	CAP	WRT	DMV	Fine Amount	Comments	Offer				
1	Adams, John	MHS, San Diego Center for Change	4/1/99	U829384	AC	PC640(C(1)	KM	X			\$507.00		Dismiss	Total Clients	32		
				U829384	AC	MTDB02	KM	X			\$508.00		Dismiss	Court Active Cases	126	55.51%	
														Court FP's	80	35.24%	
														Parking	21	9.25%	
														Total Cases	227	100.00%	
														Present	0	0.00%	
														977	32	100.00%	
														Off Cal	0	0.00%	
														Case Results			
														Dismiss	147	64.76%	
														PG	0	0.00%	
														Fines Satisfied	80	35.24%	
														NIS	31	13.66%	
														CAPs	189	83.26%	
														Warrants	6	2.64%	
														DMV Holds	10	4.41%	
														Branch Distribution			
														Traffic KM	92	40.53%	
														Central Misdo	11	4.85%	
														SB County	61	26.87%	
														EC County	37	16.30%	
														NC County	5	2.20%	
														Parking	21	9.25%	
														Total Fines Satisfied	\$121,420.37		

- Using secure, free tools, you can:
- Collaborate amongst the Justice Partners in order for the:
 - Court to present results of research on each client
 - Prosecution to make offers
 - HCP Hub to keep real-time statistics

Next Steps For You

Find the key providers in your community

Build your MOU

Connect with City parking authorities who could allow HOC graduates to have “clean plates”

Connect with Matt for resources

Start your pilot today!

Thank you

For questions or technical assistance through the American Bar Association, please contact Matt Wechter at Matthew.Wechter@sdcounty.ca.gov

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