From: Cima, Deborah  
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 12:41 PM  
To: Sherman-Young, Robin  
Subject: Cost savings to the County per participant/agency  

Several months ago the AOC partnered with NPC Research to conduct a cost analysis for drug court programs. To date, 30 programs throughout the state have participated in the cost analysis study. Our county submitted data on three drug court programs; San Bernardino, Joshua Tree and Redlands.

The following is an analysis of the costs to the county departments in regards to processing drug court clients through court compared to a similar defendant/charges not going through a drug court program.

This analysis is on the Central San Bernardino drug court program. Our programs throughout the county do not vary in significantly in terms of court appearances, charges, treatment, etc., therefore, San Bernardino is a good baseline example for all the drug court programs in the county.

To determine the ‘cost’ of an agency, we entered the following information: (based on information provided by Yvonne Pritchard)

Superior Court Indirect rate or overhead %
Superior Court Budget Expenditures
Total costs for all Judge’s and Commissioners. On bench
Drug Court Judge’s salary and benefits/amount if time spent on an individual drug court case including case conferencing, bench time, graduations and community outreach
Salary and benefits of court clerk
Salary and benefits of Coordinator
Salary and Benefits of the Bailiff

The same information was collected for each agency involved: Public Defender, District Attorney, Probation, Law Enforcement, Sheriff’s Dept.

PROGRAM COSTS PER AGENCY
San Bernardino Central Drug Court Average Cost per Person by Agency
Agency: Superior Court
Avg. Cost per Drug Court Participant $1,229
Avg. Cost per Traditional Court Offender $1,686
Difference (Net Investment) $457.00 cost savings per participant. If you multiply this by 450 (average number of drug court participants throughout the county on any given week) $457.00 x 450 = $205,650.
These costs included the costs of the clerk, bench officer, Coordinator and bailiff

Agency: District Attorney
Avg. cost per drug court participant $139
Avg. Cost per Traditional Court Offender $345 - $206
Difference (Net Investment) $206 cost savings per participant. If you multiply this by 450 (average number of drug court participants throughout the county on any given week) $206 x 450 = $92,700.

Agency: Public Defender
Avg. cost per drug court participant $79
Avg. Cost per Traditional Court Offender $686
Difference (Net Investment) $607.00 cost savings per participant. If you multiply this by 450 (average number of drug court participants throughout the county on any given week) $607 x 450 = $273,150

Agency:  Probation
Avg. cost per drug court participant $531
Avg. Cost per Traditional Court Offender $3,276
Difference (Net Investment) $2,745.00 cost savings per participant. If you multiply this by 450 (average number of drug court participants throughout the county on any given week) $2,745.00 x 450 = $123,525

Agency:  Law Enforcement
Avg. cost per drug court participant $283
Avg. Cost per Traditional Court Offender $4,906
Difference (Net Investment) $4,623.00 cost savings per participant. If you multiply this by 450 (average number of drug court participants throughout the county on any given week) $4,623 x 450 = $208,035

I did not include treatment costs as treatment is funded through State dollars

Total*
Avg. cost per drug court participant $5,744
Avg. Cost per Traditional Court Offender $12,623
$6,879** cost savings per drug court participant x 450 = $309,555.00 overall savings to the County of San Bernardino

* Totals in this row may not equal the totals in the costs by transaction table due to rounding. ** Jail sanctions and residential treatment costs were not included for Average Cost per Drug Court participant, so the difference with the Average Cost per Traditional Court Offender is smaller than what is shown here.