



a model for success

A REPORT ON NEW JERSEY'S ADULT DRUG COURTS

letter from a new jersey drug court graduate

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to express my gratitude for being accepted into the Drug Court Program. I entered in Drug Court on May 2005. I am going on 4 years clean and sober. I just wanted to let you know how important this program is.

I had gotten high from the age of 12 year old to 40 year old. Today I live without the use of drugs and alcohol because of Drug Court. Let me explain. Drug Court gave me the opportunity to change my life. First by entering a rehab and then going to a half way house, where I learned first how to deal with my feelings without the use of drugs and then how to obtain employment and save money to obtain an apartment.

Since in Drug Court I have achieved getting custody of my 4 year old son back, maintaining employment for 3 years and a beautiful apartment, I also got my drivers license back.

At first I thought wow this is a tough program, however, I do see the importance of the toughness, and in the beginning of this process you really need that close watch on you. I am so grateful for that. If I had just took my sentence and went to prison when released I would have gone right back out there and continued to do the same thing. So you see Drug Court is saving a lot of lives I know because it saved mine.

I now want to take the time to thank the judge and all of the Drug Court team because they work so hard trying to help people with addictions. I cannot express the importance of keeping Drug Court going. It is the best thing that ever happened to me.

Thank you for your time in this important matter,

Respectfully,
Drug Court Client Paula R.

Stuart Rabner
CHIEF JUSTICE

Judge Glenn A. Grant
ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE COURTS

Robert W. Smith
DIRECTOR, TRIAL COURT SERVICES

Joseph J. Barraco
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL PRACTICE
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I. a better approach to drug-related crime

This report tells the dramatic story of the accomplishments of Adult Drug Courts in the State of New Jersey over the past ten years. Drug Courts have transformed the lives of thousands of drug-addicted offenders by providing them with treatment rather than incarceration, intensive supervision, incentives to remake their lives rather than punishment that drives them into even darker lives of crime. Drug Courts have measurably enhanced public safety in New Jersey, because the data show that an offender who goes through Drug Court is far less likely to offend again than one who goes to prison. Additionally, Drug Courts have saved New Jersey taxpayers millions of dollars, because it is far cheaper to keep a person in Drug Court than to keep in prison.

New Jersey is proud to provide this report because we believe that other jurisdictions around the country can benefit from the Drug Court programs that we have developed and the lessons we have learned from our model that has proven so successful in New Jersey.

More than 60 years ago, the New Jersey Courts were restructured to eliminate an inefficient system of overlapping and conflicting jurisdictions, where special interests too often prevailed over timely justice. The court system was transformed to a streamlined, statewide system (See Appendix A). The modern Judiciary reduced case backlogs, implemented best practices for court management and developed a management structure that seeks continuous improvement in the delivery of justice. As it has for the past 60 years, the court system will continue to find ways to accommodate the changing needs of the public during the current economic crisis and well into the future.

The Drug Courts are a reflection of the changing needs of the public. The societal cost of drug-driven crime and the cost of incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders have risen dramatically. The epidemic of drug-driven crime presents the New Jersey Judiciary with an opportunity to ameliorate the problem by utilizing the court to foster recovery among offenders who are otherwise likely to cycle in and out of the system.

The Drug Courts are also a reflection of the changing role of the courts in the area of therapeutic jurisprudence, where judges act as post-adjudication change agents by leading this multi-disciplinary team of professionals. In the past 30 years, courts in New Jersey have focused primarily on the offenses rather than the offenders under a process set forth in our criminal code. Judicial interaction existed primarily with the offenders' attorney and post-adjudication involvement was limited to violation of probation hearings and other post-conviction legal matters. The reality of drug-driven crime - the prevalence, the pervasiveness and the universally destructive nature of this problem - has created a need for the courts to change the way they do business. One of the factors that contribute to positive treatment outcomes is treatment attendance and length of involvement in treatment. Those under legal pressure to participate in treatment remain longer, thus

improving the individual's chances of a positive outcome¹. The ability of Drug Court to “hold” defendants in treatment, with close supervision and immediate sanctions, was considered a solution to the revolving door of drugs, crime and incarceration.

Research has illustrated that coercive treatment is equal to, and in some cases more effective, than voluntary treatment². Research also has documented, through a study of the early Drug Courts, that judges are viewed as an important influence on participant behavior³. New Jersey has long focused on diverting nonviolent “felony-level” or indictable offenders from prison and jail through the adult Drug Court program. Research⁴ has shown that these high-risk offenders do “appreciably better under judicial supervision.”

what is drug court?

The New Jersey Adult Drug Court Program is an alternative to incarceration for drug dependent offenders. Instead of imprisoning offenders, the Drug Court offers a voluntary, therapeutic program designed to break the cycle of addiction and crime by addressing the underlying cause of repeated criminal behavior.

Drug Courts are a highly specialized team process that functions within the existing Superior Court structure to address nonviolent drug related cases. They are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals. Within a cooperative courtroom atmosphere, the judge heads a team of court staff, attorneys, probation officers, substance abuse evaluators, and treatment counselors all working in concert to support and monitor a participant's recovery. Drug Court programs are rigorous, requiring intensive supervision based on frequent drug testing and court appearances.

In New Jersey, the Drug Court process begins with a legal review of the offender's current and prior offenses and a clinical assessment of his or her substance abuse history. Offenders who meet eligibility criteria and are found to be drug and/or alcohol dependent are placed in the Drug Court program and referred to a treatment level of care that meets their clinical need. Over several years, the individual receives substance abuse treatment, intensive probation supervision, frequent and random drug testing and may be referred to a variety of ancillary service providers. A unique element of the Drug Court program is that offenders must appear in court regularly, even weekly and report to the Drug Court judge on their compliance with program requirements. The personal intervention of the judge in the offenders' lives is a major factor in the success of Drug Courts.

As a result of this multifaceted approach to crime and addiction, participants in Drug Court have a

1 National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute of Health, US Dept. of Human Services. September, 2007. “Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations: A Research-Based Guide.

2 Farabee, C. “Efficacy of coercion in substance abuse treatment,” *Relapse and Recovery in Addictions*, pp 208-227 (2001).

3 National Institute of Justice, “Drug Courts: The Second Decade,” June 2006.

4 Marlowe, D. “Are Judicial Status Hearings Key Component of Drug Court? Six and twelve month outcomes,” *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 79 (2005).

far lower recidivism rate than offenders who are incarcerated in state prisons. Drug offenders released from prisons were tracked for three years after their release. The Department of Corrections reported in 2001 a 54 percent rate of re-arrest and a 43 percent rate of re-conviction. In comparison, statistics show that three years after graduation, 16 percent of Drug Court graduates have been arrested for an indictable offense and 8 percent were re-convicted.

That success rate is due in large measure to the fact that Drug Court partnerships develop comprehensive and tightly structured regimens of treatment and recovery services. What is different in Drug Courts compared to the usual criminal justice system process is the continuing oversight and personal involvement of the Drug Court judge in the treatment process. By closely monitoring participants, the court actively supports the recovery process and reacts swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants cannot comply with the program. Together, the Drug Court judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officers and treatment professionals maintain a critical balance of authority, supervision, support, and encouragement.

II. how the drug courts expanded in new jersey

In 1996, Camden and Essex counties received federal implementation grants from the Office of Justice Programs, Drug Courts Program Office, for what are known as traditional Drug Courts. Union and Passaic counties received funding from the same source in 1998. These federally funded grant programs targeted nonviolent substance abusing defendants who were convicted in Superior Court of a drug-driven offense or a violation of probation. The substance abuse treatment services provided to these participants were determined by clinical assessment with no requirement for mandatory inpatient treatment.

In 1997, the Administrative Office of the Courts, in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Policy and Planning, the Attorney General's Office, the Division of Addiction Services, and the Department of Corrections began a plan for a Drug Court Initiative using state and federal funds. In 1997, Camden, Mercer and Passaic counties started Drug Courts for prison-bound defendants under this initiative. In 1999, similar programs began in Essex and Union counties. Inpatient treatment services were purchased through Department of Corrections funding, since program participants would have otherwise been incarcerated in a state-run prison. The target population was offenders eligible for sentencing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:35-14 ("Special Probation"). This special probation statute outlined the specific eligibility criteria for program admission and required all participants to remain in a residential treatment program for a minimum of six months.

After a review of the data provided by the pilot Drug Court programs, the Conference of Criminal Presiding Judges, in May 2000, recommended that Drug Courts be established as a "Best Practice" in the

Criminal Division⁵. In order to assure equal access, the presiding judges recommended that the Drug Court caseload consist of prison-bound and other cases in order to reach the population most in need of intervention. Among other desirable social benefits, the Drug Courts were viewed as an effort to ameliorate the problem of minority over-representation in the state's prisons. The percentage of minority offenders in the pilot Drug Court programs, defendants who otherwise would have gone to prison was 76 percent.

In June 2000, the Judicial Council, New Jersey's council of top managing judges from around the state, adopted Drug Courts as a "Best Practice" in the Criminal Division and called for a comprehensive statewide implementation plan. A proposal entitled "*DRUG COURTS: A PLAN FOR STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION*" was developed in December 2000. After garnering support from the legislative and executive branches, legislation was enacted in September 2001 to begin implementation of the statewide plan. (See Appendix B for a list of major Drug Court legislation.)

Funding to complete the statewide project was not available in the Judiciary's budget for a number of years following the partial implementation of the program. As a result, not every county had an operating Drug Court. The Judiciary continued to advocate for funding to complete the statewide project by arguing that failure to do so could be seen as a violation of the principles of equal protection under the law because a nonviolent, drug-dependent offender in a county with a Drug Court could enroll in the program, while a similarly situated offender in a county without the program most likely would be sentenced to a state prison term. That argument, along with the local and national data confirming that the Drug Courts are a cost-effective alternative to incarceration for drug-dependant offenders, proved persuasive and funding to implement Drug Courts in the five remaining areas of the state was provided in the Judiciary's 2005 budget.

⁵ "Report of the Conference of Criminal Presiding Judges to the Judicial Council, May 2000.

NJ Adult Drug Courts: 15 Vicinage Implementation Timeline

	Federal Grant via Office of Justice Programs	State Administered Grant via Drug Court Steering Committee	
Camden	1996	1997	Phase One: Transfer Pilot Drug Courts to State Funding when Grants Expire 2002
Essex	1996	1999	
Mercer	n/a	1997	
Passaic	1998	1997	
Union	1998	1999	
 			Phase Two: Implement 5 new Vicinage Drug Courts in last quarter of FY02
Bergen			4/1/2002
Monmouth			4/1/2002
Morris/Sussex			4/1/2002
Ocean			4/1/2002
Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem			4/1/2002
 			Phase Three: Implement 5 new Vicinage Drug Courts in FY05
Atlantic/Cape May			9/1/2004
Burlington			9/1/2004
Hudson			9/1/2004
Middlesex			9/1/2004
Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren			9/1/2004

III. statewide implementation project - building on success

Three Phase Statewide Implementation Project

The legislation enacted in September 2001 enabled the five pilot Drug Courts in Camden, Essex, Mercer, Passaic and Union vicinages to move to state funding after their grant funding expired.

On April 1, 2002, programs began in the vicinages of Bergen, Monmouth, Morris/Sussex, Cumberland/ Gloucester/Salem and Ocean.

On September 1, 2004, programs began in the vicinages of Atlantic/ Cape May, Burlington, Hudson, Hunterdon/ Somerset/Warren and Middlesex, completing the statewide implementation.



On July 22, 2002, the “Manual for Operation for Adult Drug Courts in New Jersey” was approved by the Judicial Council and promulgated by the administrative director of the court’s Directive # 2-02, after review and approval by all stakeholder agencies including the Division of Addiction Services, Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender and County Prosecutors Association. The manual establishes standardized, statewide program eligibility criteria to ensure equal treatment throughout New Jersey and offers guidance on the structure of program phases and on the roles of team members. The manual also includes copies of standardized forms.

As the Drug Court program grew statewide, so did the need to establish policies and procedures to transfer cases from one county to another.

Offenders who are placed on traditional probation supervision in one of New Jersey's 21 counties, but reside in another county, can have their cases transferred so that probation officers in the county of residence can provide "courtesy supervision," but the responsibility for that probationer rests with the probation division in the county of sentence. If any post-sentence court action is required after an offender is sentenced to a term of traditional probation supervision, that matter is heard by the original sentencing judge, whenever possible.

Rather than operating under a system of courtesy supervision between counties, it was deemed critical to the goal of providing equal access throughout the state to establish a uniform procedure to transfer all case-related responsibilities and judicial authority to the Drug Court in the county of residence. After review and approval of all stakeholder agencies, the "Adult Drug Court Transfer Policy" was approved by the Judicial Council in June 2004 and replaced the original section on transfers in the manual⁶.

IV. legislative and executive branch support - crucial for success

Legislation that allocated state funding of the adult Drug Court program was passed by both houses of the Legislature in June 2001 (See Appendix B). On September 6, 2001, Acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco signed L. 2001, C. 243 that resulted in the creation of six Superior Court judgeships and state appropriations for staff necessary to begin statewide implementation. Although the treatment funding was appropriated to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the legislation provided that the Division of Addiction Services procure the treatment services. The pilot Drug Courts had used state and federal grant funds to contract directly with local treatment provider agencies. This contracting process was onerous for the local courts and increasingly viewed as a service not within the mission of the Judiciary. The Judiciary began discussions with the Division of Addiction Services to assume the management of this process. A "Cooperative Agreement" between the Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts and the Division of Addiction Services (DAS) was signed to provide licensed substance abuse treatment services for the local Drug Court programs.

Since 2001, the adult Drug Courts have been supported by a special purpose allocation included in the governor's annual budget.

The New Jersey Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing⁷ reviewed the adult Drug Court program and issued a report in April 2007 entitled, "New Jersey's Drug Courts, Special Probation and Proposal for Reform." The commission was chaired by a retired Superior Court judge and included membership from the Supreme Court, the Legislature, the New Jersey Bar Association, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Corrections and the County Prosecutors Association. The commission recommended amending the "Special Probation" statute to increase eligibility to Drug Court and provide greater flexibility for the Drug Courts as follows:

⁶ Drug Court Manual and Transfer Policy can be found at www.njcourtsonline.com

⁷ NJ Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing: <http://sentencing.nj.gov>

1. The requirement for a mandatory six-month residential treatment was amended to permit judges to waive this provision to permit clinically based treatment referrals.
2. The bar to offenders with two or more prior convictions was amended to permit greater flexibility in admissions.
3. The requirement that each offender remain under supervision for a full five years was amended to permit judges to grant early discharges for those who made exemplary progress in the program.

The statute was amended to reflect those recommendations on August 1, 2008.

In April 2006 then-Gov. Jon Corzine established the New Jersey Commission on Government Efficiency and Reform (GEAR) to review governmental operations and make recommendations on efficiencies. The GEAR Task Force Subcommittee on Sentencing and Corrections conducted a review of the Drug Court program. The task force found that money could be saved by expanding Drug Courts. Their recommendation to expand the Drug Court admissions by one-third was adopted, effective August 1, 2008, and the Judiciary received an appropriation in that fiscal year to expand enrollment as recommended.

V. modes of entry into drug court

Offenders may be eligible for sentencing in Drug Court⁸ either because they fall within the eligibility criteria set forth in the “Special Probation” statute or because they may otherwise be eligible under other sections of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice.

A. Sentencing Pursuant to “Special Probation” (Track 1)

Any person who is ineligible for probation due to a conviction for a crime that is subject to a presumption of incarceration or a mandatory minimum period of parole ineligibility⁹ may be sentenced to a term of special probation in accordance with this statute. Offenders sentenced pursuant to this statute are required to be placed on special probation for a term of five years. If the court finds that the person has made exemplary progress in the course of treatment, the court may grant early discharge from a term of special probation under certain specified provisions.

The person placed on special probation is required to be committed to the custody of a residential treatment facility licensed and approved by the DAS in the Department of Human Services for a minimum of six months, however the court may suspend imposition of all or any portion of the term of commitment to a residential treatment facility. In addition to the requirements of the statute, the Drug Court program requires

⁸ *State v. Meyer*, 188 N.J. 345 (2007).

⁹ On 1/6/10 legislation was enacted that provided judges with the discretion to waive the mandatory minimum period of parole ineligibility for those convicted in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7, the school zone statute.

that upon successful completion of the required initial treatment program, the person shall continue in aftercare treatment. Participation is also conditioned on any other requirements set forth by the court such as intensive supervision by a probation officer, mandatory drug testing and regular appearances before the Drug Court judge. The details of a participant's program requirements beyond those mandated by statutory requirements are determined by the Drug Court team based on that offender's individual circumstances, treatment needs, relapse history and potential, progress in treatment, support system, educational and vocational needs, medical and psychological issues and other factors that the team considers relevant.

B. Sentencing Pursuant to Other Provisions of the Code of Criminal Justice (Track 2)

Substance abusing, nonviolent offenders who are not subject to a presumption of incarceration or requirement for a mandatory parole ineligibility term are eligible for Drug Court disposition under the general sentencing provisions of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice. This includes both prison-bound and non-prison-bound offenders.

An offender is eligible for sentencing¹⁰ into Drug Court if:

- a. the person has a drug or alcohol dependence, as determined by a diagnostic assessment, and substance abuse treatment and monitoring is likely to benefit the person; and
- b. the person has not been previously convicted or adjudicated delinquent for, and does not have a pending charge of murder, aggravated manslaughter, manslaughter, robbery, kidnapping, aggravated assault, aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault, or a similar crime; and
- c. the person did not possess a firearm at the time of the present offense and has no history of possession of a firearm during an offense; and
- d. no danger to the community is likely to result from the person being placed on probation.

The level of treatment suitable for an offender applying for admission into Drug Court is clinically determined using American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria. The individual can be placed in Drug Court if a suitable treatment facility can be identified and is willing and able to provide appropriate treatment services. Treatment programs must be licensed and approved by the Department of Human Services, DAS¹¹.

An offender who violates probation is eligible for consideration for admission into Drug Court. Similarly, an individual who is terminated from the Pretrial Intervention Program and who is legally and clinically appropriate is eligible for consideration for admission into Drug Court. A person charged with a violation of probation, based on a new offense, also may be eligible for admission consideration.

¹⁰ The terms of a sentence imposed in this context also apply to persons being sentenced for violations of probation.

¹¹ See DAS website of a list of licensed and approved treatment providers. www.state.nj.us/humanservices/das

An offender sentenced to Drug Court is placed on probation for a term not to exceed five years. The length of Drug Court supervision is left to the discretion of the Drug Court judge, but most are sentenced to a three- to five-year probation term. Although a participant sentenced to Drug Court may be eligible for early discharge at the court's discretion, judges carefully consider the ability of that individual to sustain recovery and have positive life progress outside the supervision and support of the program. As with offenders eligible for Drug Court under Track 1, participation under Track 2 is conditioned on requirements set forth by the court, such as intensive supervision by a probation officer, drug testing and regular appearances before the Drug Court judge.

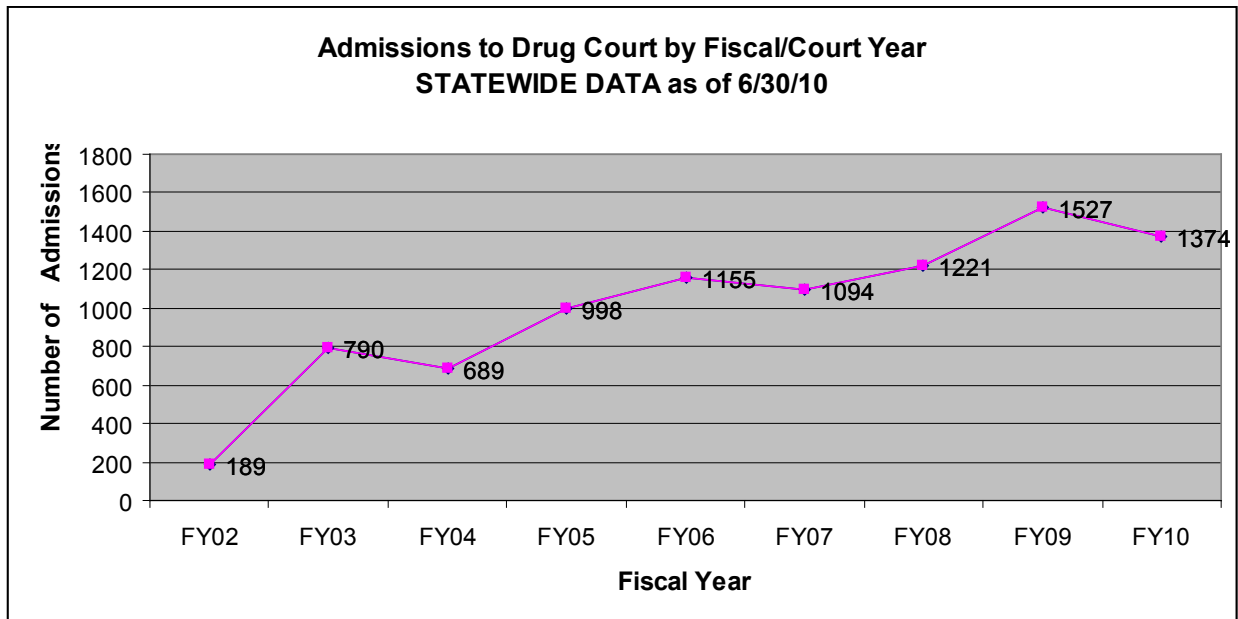
The details of a participant's individualized program plan beyond those mandated by statutory regulations and outlined by the Drug Court Manual are determined by the Drug Court team, based on individual circumstances. Factors that each team considers include:

- treatment needs;
- relapse history/potential;
- progress in treatment;
- support system;
- educational and vocational needs;
- medical/psychological issues; and
- other factors unique to the individual.

VI. measures of achievement in the new jersey drug courts

a. New Admissions

Since full state funding on April 1, 2002 until June 30, 2010, the state's adult Drug Courts enrolled 9,037 participants. Each year the Judiciary establishes new enrollment goals for each county Drug Court. Each year the admission goal had been between 1,200 and 1,300 new participants. The GEAR expansion project increased that goal in FY09 to 1559 new admissions and by the end of FY09 the Drug Courts reached 98 percent of that statewide goal. At the end of FY10, the Drug Courts reached 88 percent of that statewide goal.



b. Program Retention/Graduation Rate

The number of new admissions divided by the number of graduates and active cases is a measure of the rate at which a program retains participants. In New Jersey this measure is calculated cumulatively from the date the statewide program began on April 1, 2002, until present. Therefore, retention is also a measure of the rate at which the Drug Courts graduate participants. Graduates are participants who have successfully completed all four phases of the Drug Court program and who are no longer under probationary supervision. Since April 1, 2002 until June 30, 2010, the rate at which the Drug Courts retain participants is 59 percent.

Other statistical information is provided below.

New Jersey Adult Drug Court Program	
As of 6/30/10	
Number of participants sentenced to Drug Court	9,037
Number of participants administratively discharged:	229
- deceased	49
- term expired	72
- deported	18
- medical reasons	50
- psychiatric reasons	33
- Other	7
Adjusted number of program participants	8,808
Number of current active participants	3,928
Number of program graduates*	1,307
Number of participants terminated from Drug Court	3,255
Number of participants discharged with marginal improvement	98
Number of participants in bench warrant status	246
Number of graduates and active participants divided by the adjusted number of program participants	59%
Number of participants transferred to another county	1,169
* Does not include pilot court graduates	

c. Graduates and Program Successes - How statistics tell a positive story.

The Administrative Office of the Court collects outcome data on all Drug Court graduates. This outcome information involves data collection at the time of sentence to Drug Court and at the time of program discharge. The data collected is a measurement of improvements while in Drug Court in several life areas. The outcome data revealed the following:

- 31 percent of graduates were employed when they entered Drug Court. More than 87 percent were employed at the time of graduation;
- 17 percent of graduates were covered by medical benefits when they entered Drug Court. Fifty-three percent report having medical benefits at the time of graduation;
- Only 12 percent of graduates had a valid driver's license when they entered Drug Court. At the time of graduation, 54 percent had a valid driver's license;
- 26 percent of all Drug Court graduates improved their level of education or vocational/employment skills while participating in the Drug Court program;
- payments made by the first 1,858 Drug Court graduates total \$3.86 million with an average per

participant payment of approximately \$2,078; and

- the lives of 2,058 minor children were improved by their parent's participation in the Drug Court program.

Other Outcomes Tracked:

- 186 babies were born drug-free to female participants
- 104 participant parents regained custody of their minor children due to their participation in the adult Drug Court program.

d. Recidivism Data

The rate at which New Jersey Drug Court graduates are re-arrested for a new indictable offense is currently at 16 percent. The rate of reconviction is 8 percent and the rate of incarceration in a state prison is 4 percent. The rate of re-arrest for drug offenders released from prison was reported by the state's Department of Corrections as 54 percent with a re-conviction rate of 43 percent.

e. Cost Savings

According to the Department of Corrections, the annual institutional cost per inmate is approximately \$38,900. The average annual cost for active Drug Court participants is approximately \$11,379. Costs per participant vary depending upon their phase in the program and whether they have completed formal treatment. The first year is generally the most expensive because the participants receive intensive substance-abuse treatment and must report to the Drug Court weekly once they are out of a residential program. Annual costs therefore range from approximately \$25,813 for the most intensive treatment during phase one to approximately \$3,133 during phase four when they remain under probationary supervision pending graduation. Approximately 20 percent of all new participants require the most intensive treatment regimen. Using the most conservative approach, last year the new admissions to Drug Court, who cost the most to treat, cost approximately \$13,000 less than the cost of state prison.

VII. new jersey drug court highlights

- New Jersey was the first state with a population of more than 1 million to have a Drug Court in every county. The statewide program does not just involve a Drug Court in particular cities within each county, but rather a county-wide program for all eligible offenders who appear in Superior Court.
- New Jersey receives the highest level of annual state funding for adult Drug Courts of any state in the nation¹². Many states rely on short-term grant funding.

¹² Huddleston, C.W., Marlowe, D.B., Casebolt, R., May, 2008. "Painting the Current Picture: A National Report Card on Drug Courts and Other

- As a part of the criminal division in a unified court system, the Drug Courts provide offenders with equal access and treatment in all of the state’s 21 counties.
- The New Jersey adult Drug Court program is longer than most other states’ Drug Courts and therefore provides a stronger foundation for participants to sustain long-term recovery.
- The New Jersey Judiciary employs clinicians who provide the Drug Courts with independent substance-abuse screening and assessment to determine clinical suitability for participation in Drug Court.
- In 2008 the New Jersey Judiciary and the New Jersey Drug Court Teams received a “Taking Drug Courts to Scale” award from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

VIII. how we will do even better in the future

Several key elements of the Drug Court program will require attention in the years to come to ensure that New Jersey maintains a quality program.

- It is essential to attempt to identify what elements of Drug Court are the most effective with specific populations of offenders so those elements can be enhanced or amended to maximize positive outcomes.
- Adherence to the original Drug Court model is an issue that concerns Drug Courts nationally and New Jersey is no exception. Budgetary restraints, institutionalization and potential complacency could lead to a dilution over time of the 10 Key Components¹³ of Drug Courts. It is essential for administrators to monitor and support local Drug Court programs to ensure that they are remaining focused on these components.
- Despite the overwhelming support for the NJ Drug Courts from all three branches of government, fiscal support cannot be taken for granted and program administrators will need to continue to justify program funding by regularly reporting Drug Court outcomes.

Problem-Solving Court Programs in the United States, Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Drug Court Institute, Volume II, No.1.

13 Office of Justice Programs, Drug Courts Program Office, “Defining Drug Courts: The Key components.” January 1997.

IX. ten key components of adult drug courts¹⁴

Key Component #1: Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

Key Component #2: Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.

Key Component #4: Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and related treatment and rehabilitation services.

Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.

Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.

Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.

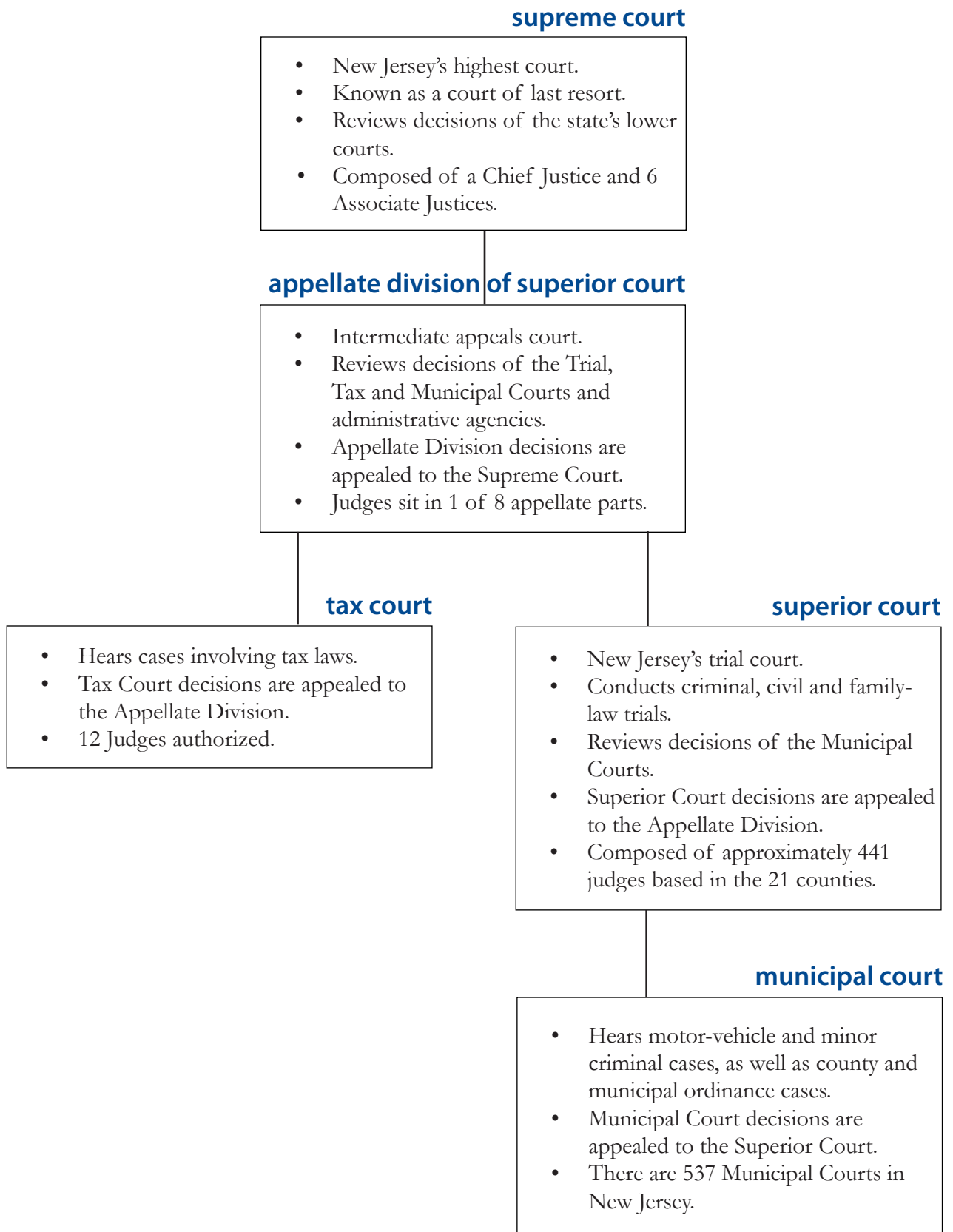
Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court effectiveness.

14 IBID.

X. **appendices**

- a. New Jersey Court Structure
- b. Major New Jersey Drug Court Legislation
- c. List of Drug Court Program Contacts

A. new jersey court structure



B. major new jersey drug court legislation

P.L. 2001, c.243 (S-2227) – Sponsors: Senators Matheussen, Bucco, Martin, Turner, Gormley, Zane, Allen and Assemblypersons Geist, Blee, R. Smith, LeFevre, Previte/ Signed into Law by Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco (President of the Senate)

Provided for the statewide expansion of the Drug Court Program in the Superior Court over a two-year period. Created six additional Superior Court judgeships and provided funding to pay for the cost of in-patient and out-patient substance abuse treatment for adult criminal offenders.

FY 2005 Appropriations Act - P.L.2004, c.71 (S-2005) – Statewide Expansion of Drug Courts Sponsors: Senator Bryant and Assemblypersons Greenwald, Payne, Watson Coleman, Wisniewski and Caraballo/Signed into Law by Governor James McGreevy

A total of \$27.196 million was appropriated for drug courts in FY 2006, \$8.2 million more than that appropriated during FY 2005, to allow the Judiciary to continue to expand the drug court program statewide. The Act increased Governor McGreevey's \$21.196 million budget request for drug courts by a total of \$6 million; an addition \$5 million for drug court treatment and an additional \$1 million for drug court operations. The 2005 drug court appropriation was divided into three categories as follows: Drug Court Operations received \$6.780 million, Drug Court Judgeships received \$1.498 million in FY 2006, and Drug Court Treatment/Aftercare received \$18.918. At the time, 10 of the 15 vicinages had operating drug courts

P.L. 2008, c.15 (A-1770) - Sponsors: Assemblypersons Watson Coleman, Wagner, Gusciora, Rodriguez, Johnson, and Fisher and Senators Adler and Turner/Signed into Law by Governor Jon Corzine

Clarified that special probation applies only to offenders who are subject to a presumption of incarceration or a mandatory minimum term. Reduced the restrictions on special probation based upon offenders' past offenses. Clarified that although a person who is sentenced to imprisonment for failing to comply with the terms of special probation is thereafter ineligible for entry into an Intensive Supervision Program, but would not affect the person's eligibility for entry into the Intensive Supervision Program for a subsequent conviction. Authorized judges to allow a person subject to special probation to be sentenced to a nonresidential treatment program administered by a licensed and approved treatment provider under certain circumstances. Permitted the court to grant an early discharge from special probation if the person has made exemplary progress in the course of treatment.

C. list of drug court program contacts

**Administrative Office of the Courts
Criminal Practice Division**

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Criminal Practice Division, Drug Court Unit
Hughes Justice Complex, 7North - PO Box 982
Trenton, NJ 08625-0982

Atlantic County Drug Court

Atlantic/Cape May Criminal Drug Court
Courthouse
4997 Unami Blvd. 2nd floor
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Drug Court Judge: Michael Connor, J.S.C.
Tel# 609-463-8135

DC Coordinator: Celeste Goodson
Tel# 609-909-8113 Fax# 609-909-8246
celeste.goodson@judiciary.state.nj.us

Burlington County Drug Court

Burlington County Criminal Drug Court
50 Rancocas Rd.
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Drug Court Judge: James W. Palmer, J.S.C.
Tel# 609-518-2559

DC Coordinator: Michelle Consuegra
Tel# 609-518-2559 Fax# 609-518-2639
michelle.consuegra@judiciary.state.nj.us

Bergen County Drug Court

Bergen County Courthouse
10 Main St., Room 150
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Drug Court Judge: Lois Lipton, J.S.C.
Tel# 201-527-2465

DC Coordinator: Barbara Morgan
Tel# 201-527-2405 Fax# 201-371-1108
barbara.morgan@judiciary.state.nj.us

Camden County Drug Court

Camden County Criminal Division
101 S. Fifth St.
Camden, NJ 08103

Drug Court Judge: Thomas A. Brown, Jr., P.J. Cr.
Tel# 856-379-2357

DC Coordinator: Scott Decicco
Tel# 856-379-2200x 3358 Fax# 856-379-2288
scott.decicco@judiciary.state.nj.us

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Drug Court

Gloucester County Criminal Division
Criminal Justice Complex, 1st Floor
Hunter and Euclid Streets
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Drug Court Judge: Jean McMaster, J.S.C.
Tel# 856-853-3501

DC Coordinator: Donald Van Dunk
Tel# 856-853-3510 Fax# 856-853-3759
donald.vandunk@judiciary.state.nj.us

Hudson County Drug Court

Hudson County Administration Building
595 Newark Ave.
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Drug Court Judge: Sheila A. Venable, P.J. Cr.
Tel# 201-795-6668

DC Coordinator: Patricia DellOsso
Tel# 201-795-6882 Fax# 201-217-5334
patricia.delloso@judiciary.state.nj.us

Middlesex County Drug Court

Middlesex County Courthouse
56 Paterson St.
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Drug Court Judge: Lorraine Pullen, J.S.C.
Tel# 732-519-3825

DC Coordinator: Tammy D'Aloia
Tel# 732-565-5057 Fax# 732-565-5031
tammy.d'aloia@judiciary.state.nj.us

Essex County Drug Court

Essex County Veterans Court House
50 W. Market St., Rm 912
Newark, NJ 07102

Drug Court Judge: Ramona A. Santiago, J.S.C.
Tel# 973-693-6504

Acting DC Coordinator: Colin Lochner
Tel# 973-693-6598 Fax# 973-693-5974
colin.lochner@judiciary.state.nj.us

Mercer County Drug Court

Mercer County Courthouse
209 S. Broad St.
P O Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650

Drug Court Judge: Gerald Council, P.J. Cr.
Tel# 609-571-4130

DC Coordinator: Anastasia Jackson
Tel# 609- 571-4067 Fax# 609-571-4049
anastasia.jackson@judiciary.state.nj.us

Monmouth County Drug Court

Monmouth County Courthouse
71 Monument Park
P O Box 1266
Freehold, NJ 07728-1266

Drug Court Judge: Thomas Scully, P.J. Cr.
Tel# 732-677-4168

DC Coordinator: Adri Lieb
Tel# 732-677-4551 Fax# 732-677-4347
adri.lieb@judiciary.state.nj.us

Morris/Sussex County Drug Court

Morris County Courthouse
Washington Street – PO Box 910
Morristown, NJ 07960

Drug Court Judge: Philip J. Maenza, J.S.C. (M)
Tel# 973-656-4144

Drug Court Judge: N. Peter Conforti, J.S.C. (S)
Tel# 973-579-0690

DC Coordinator: Charles Johnson
Tel# 973-326-6997 Fax# 973-326-6977
charles.johnson@judiciary.state.nj.us

Passaic County Drug Court

Passaic County Courthouse
77 Hamilton St. - Criminal Division
Paterson, NJ 07505

Drug Court Judge: Rudolph Filko, J.S.C.
Tel# 973-247-8435

DC Coordinator: Adrien Byrd
Tel# 973-247-8343 Fax# 973-247-8093
adrien.byrd@judiciary.state.nj.us

Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren

Somerset Criminal Case Management
Courthouse- 2nd floor
20 N. Bridge St.
P O Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

Drug Court Judge: Paul W. Armstrong, J.S.C. (S)
Tel# 908-231-7060

Drug Court Judge: Stephen B. Rubin J.S.C. (H)
Tel# 908-237-5947

Drug Court Judge: John J. Coyle J.S.C (W)
Tel# 908-475-6177

DC Coordinator: Lisa Scheidemann
Tel# 908-203-6171 Fax# 908-231-7912
lisa.scheidemann@judiciary.state.nj.us

Ocean County Drug Court

Ocean County Justice Complex
120 Hooper Ave., Room 221
Toms River, NJ 08753

Drug Court Judge: Ronald E. Hoffman, J.S.C.
Tel.# 732-288-7820

DC Coordinator: Carole Haines
Tel# 732-929-2125 Fax# 732-288-7782
carole.haines@judiciary.state.nj.us

Union County Drug Court

Union County Courthouse
2 Broad St., 6th Floor
Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Drug Court Judge: Joseph Donohue, P.J. Cr.
Tel# 908-659-5417

DC Coordinator: Mathew Hagler
Tel# 908-659-4080 Fax# 908-659-4685
mathew.hagler@judiciary.state.nj.us

For Information about Juvenile or Family Drug Courts contact the Family Division

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