

FY19 Henu Community Wellness Court Annual Report

The Henu Community Wellness Court (HCWC) is a joint Tribal-State jurisdiction court located in Kenai, Alaska that serves moderate to high risk felony offenders with a history of substance use. HCWC uses intensive supervision and treatment, along with Dena'ina cultural practices and services to provide a program that focuses on the whole person. Status hearings occur every Friday at 2:30 PM at the . HCWC team members communicate via e-mail throughout the week and attend a pre-meet every Friday prior to Court. Administrative meetings are held monthly. At the beginning of FY 2019, the team consisted of:

Judges: Judge Anna Moran (State Superior Court), Judge Susan Wells (Kenaitze Tribal Court); Judge Jennifer Wells (State Superior Court - backup), Judge Evelyn Huf (Kenaitze Tribal Court – backup)

State Court Project Coordinator: Terri Telkamp

Kenaitze Tribal Court Administrative Clerk: Audrey Strickland

Treatment Representatives: Stephanie Haasis, LPC, Patsy Marston, CDCI, Ron Pettersen CDCI, Kelly Ping (MRT Facilitator), Julie Dravis, LPC, Kim Rogers, Margene Andrews

Kenaitze Probation Officer: Adina Johnson, Matt Oakley

State District Attorney: Scot Leaders

State Public Defense counsel: Joe Montague, William Taylor

Ts'ilq'u Circle – Curt Shuey, Martina Georges

State Probation Officer – James Howard

By the end of FY 2019, the team consisted of:

Judges: Judge Jennifer Wells (State Superior Court), Judge Susan Wells (Kenaitze Tribal Court); Judge Moran and Judge Joanis (State Superior Court - backups), Judge Evelyn Huf (Kenaitze Tribal Court – backup)

State Court Project Coordinator: Shera Burg

Kenaitze Tribal Court Administrative Clerk: Audrey Strickland

Treatment Representatives: Stephanie Haasis, LPC, Joseph Cannava, LPC, Patsy Marston, CDCI, Ron Pettersen CDCI, Kelly Ping (MRT Facilitator), Patricia Kelleher, LPC, Fridrik Gundmundsson, LCSW

Kenaitze Probation Officer: Joseph Green

State District Attorney: Scot Leaders

State Public Defense counsel: Elizabeth Leduc

Ts'ilq'u Circle – Curt Shuey, Martina Georges

State Probation Officer – James Howard

HCWC turnover is addressed as soon as possible. The HCWC team works on making sure back-ups are in place and that all essential duties are covered. Team member retention is a priority.

HCWC occurs across 4 phases that represent trust, belonging, living well, and restoration. Throughout the program, participants build trust within themselves and with others. They learn basic life skills and leave the Court with more knowledge, self-confidence, and connections than they had prior to coming into the Court. HCWC has established an alumni group that serves as a place of connection for participants and Henu alumni. A Court alumnus has been chosen to lead this group and he now has sense of purpose and leadership skills to bolster his peer facilitation style. Partners for Progress has provided him with the support needed for success.

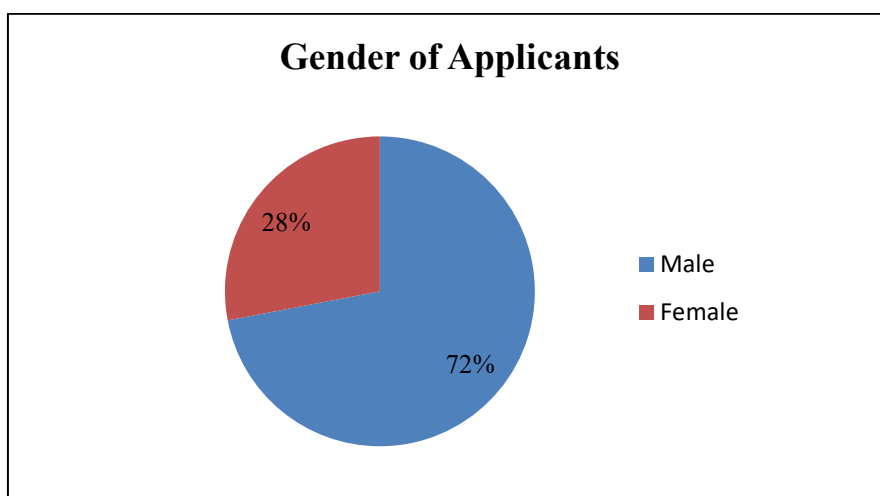
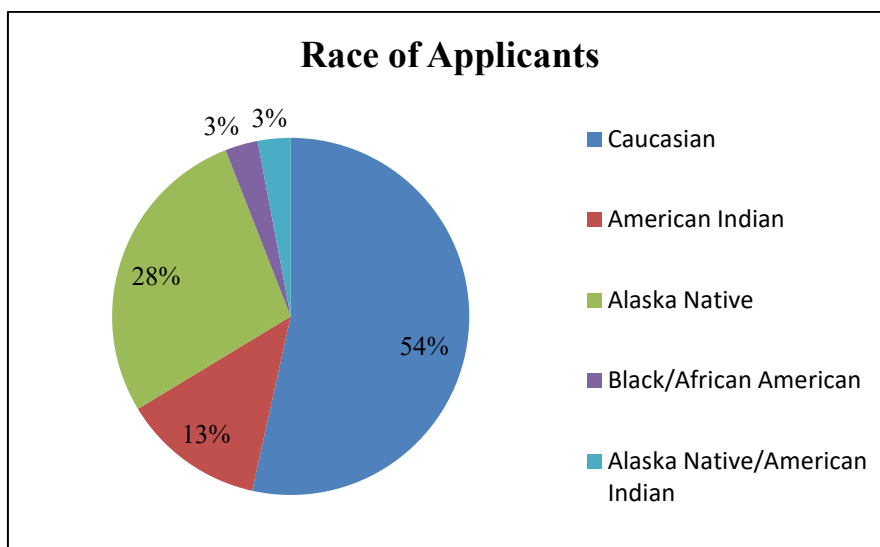
The Kenaitze Indian Tribe provides participants with housing or helps finance housing when possible along with Partners for Progress. All participants receive assistance with finding safe housing before they enter the program so that they can start HCWC in a sober and secure situation. Participants are encouraged to make connections with each other through mentorship and comradery.

By the end of FY 2019, the Court had 7 participants with 3 pending participants ready to enter the program. HCWC expects to be at or exceed 50% capacity by the first quarter of FY 2020. The maximum capacity is 20 participants. HCWC has been functional since 2017 and has 6 graduates. 1 participant was administratively

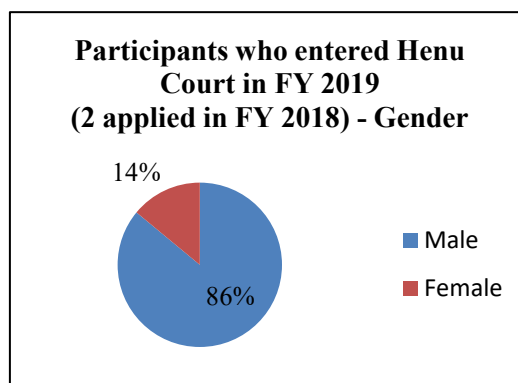
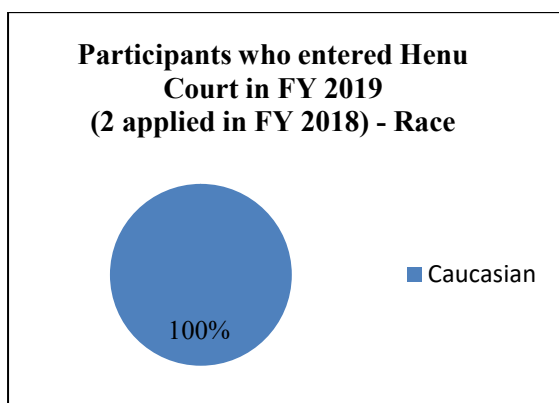
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discharged in FY 2019. The HCWC Project Coordinator (PC) was hired in October 2019. The PC's goal at that point was to devise ways to build up the Court's capacity since the Court was successfully graduating 6 participants in FY 2019.

HCWC received 39 applications in FY 2019. This is up from 35 applications in FY 2018. Below are the applicant profiles for race and gender:

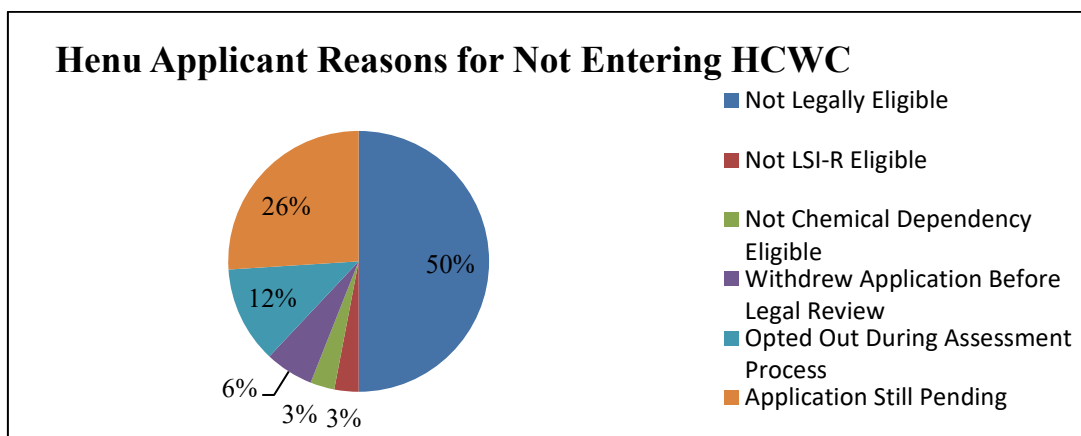


HCWC accepted 7 new participants into the program in FY 2019. Below are the gender and race profiles for applicants accepted into HCWC in FY 2019:

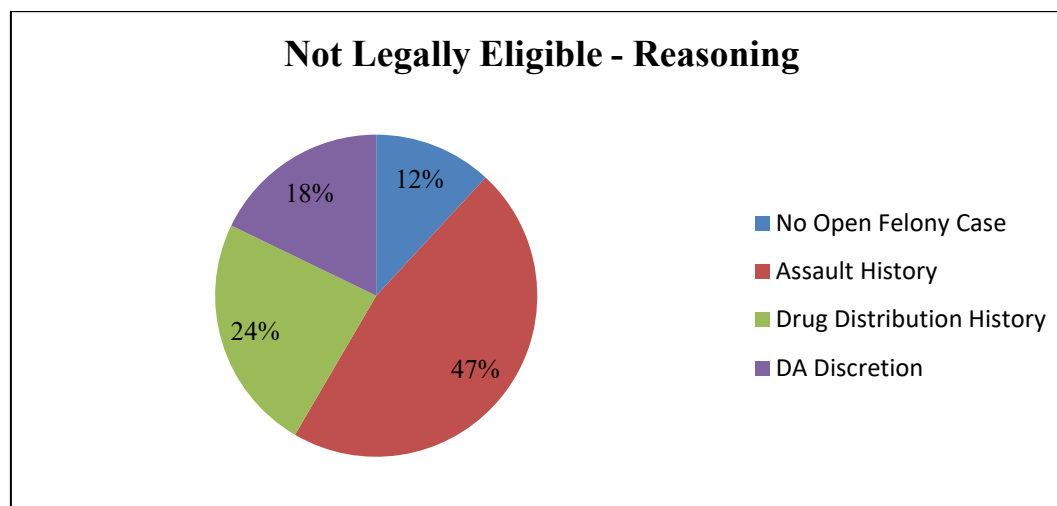


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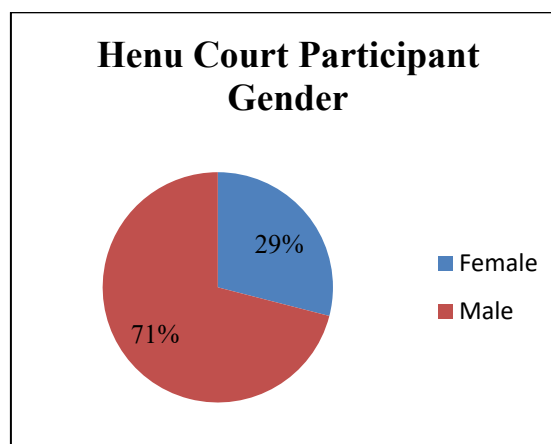
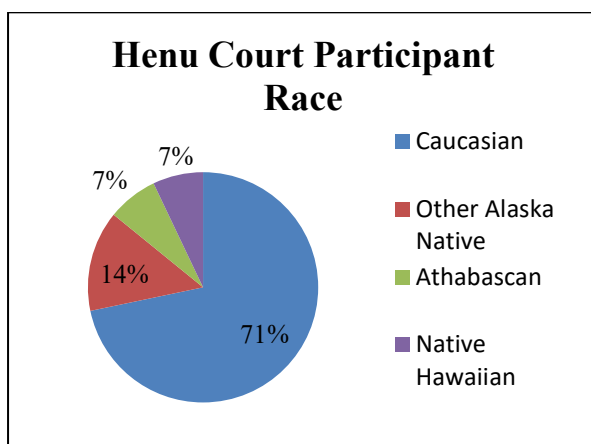
31 of HCWC applicants did not become participants for the following reasons:



For those HCWC applicants that were not legally eligible, the reasoning is listed below:



The total number of HCWC participants throughout FY 2019 was 14. The gender and racial makeup of all HCWC participants during FY 2019:

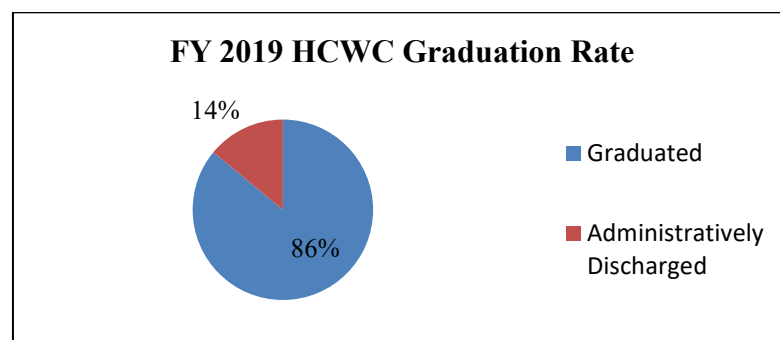


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Goal 1: To enhance public safety, reduce recidivism/re-arrest and incarceration rates by reducing criminal behavior/recidivism among participating offenders.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe provides behavioral health services for all HCWC participants, as well as, case management, testing, and some housing and meals. Court is held every Friday with State Judge, Jennifer Wells and Chief Tribal Judge, Susan Wells. The Court team ensures that all judges have back-ups available so that no Court disruption occurs and the participants receive consistent contact with the Court. HCWC provides participants with weekly contact with the Kenaitze Probation Officer (PO) for case management and substance use testing services. The PO offers a central point of contact for all participants during their interactions with the Court. All HCWC participants receive intensive supervision, receive assessments based on the best drug court practices, and referrals to community programs and resources.

HCWC currently exceeds their goal objective of 70% for participant graduation within 3 years of their start date:



As of the end of FY 2019, HCWC graduates have a 0% recidivism rate.

Goal 2: To reduce the costs associated with re-arrest, criminal case processing, and incarceration of HCWC participants

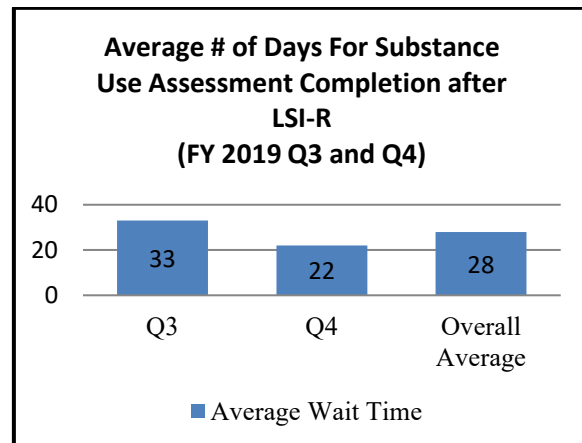
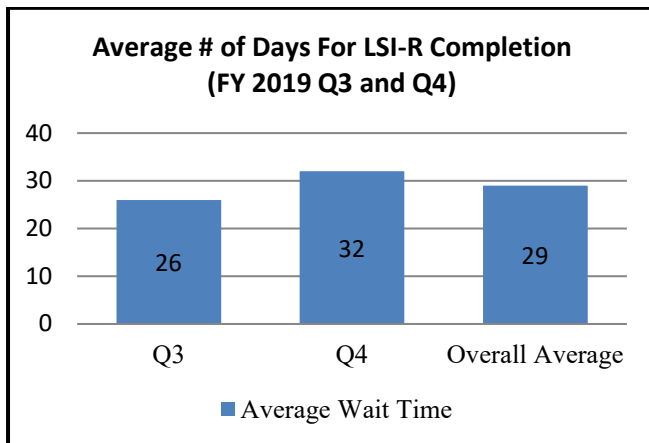
HCWC utilization rate at the end of FY 2019 was 35%. Utilization rates were under 50% throughout the year. In December 2018, the Project Coordinator instituted a case flagging system and 17% of applications received were generated through this process since that date. 5 of these applications are still pending in HCWC with one signing a Rule 11 in FY 2020 Q1. Jail beds were utilized for 19 days for HCWC in FY 2019 due to participant sanctions. That is down 82% from FY 2018. Law enforcement was only used for transporting participants and during sanctioned jail time. There were only 2 other contacts with law enforcement during FY 2019 and no arrests were made.

Goal 3: Using evidence-based practices, the Henu' Community Wellness Court (HCWC) enhances HCWC participants' well-being and promotes self-sufficiency while they reside in the community and rebuild their lives

All HCWC applicants are assessed for addiction and treatment. HCWC goal objective for assessment wait times are 5 working days from a referral. HCWC is working to meet that objective and will be reviewing the HCWC application process within FY 2020 and developing an action plan for improvement.

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Below are the wait times during FY 2019 Q3 and Q4:



All HCWC participants were actively employed or enrolled in an education program within 12 months of entering HCWC if not discharged before that time. All participants are pursuing a GED or high school diploma, if they do not already have one, within 8 months of entering the court. HCWC had only one administrative discharge in FY 2019.

Goal 4: Conduct outreach and work with the Therapeutic Courts Office and Communications Counsel to inform the public about the benefits of therapeutic courts

HCWC has made 3 presentations within the Kenai/Soldotna area: Wildwood Pre-Trial, Kenai Chamber of Commerce, and the Kenai Peninsula Bar Association. The PC continues to perform outreach through the case flagging system with judges and attorneys who may be unfamiliar with the HCWC program. The PC also makes sure that brochures are displayed in every courtroom in the Kenai Courthouse. The PC also works with the Alaska Therapeutic Courts Coordinator and the Henu Alumni group to plan activities for Drug Court month. In FY 2019, the Henu alumni group held a special activity.

Goal 5: Complete and document an annual team review of the Therapeutic Court's Policies and Procedures, Client Contract and Client Handbook

The HCWC team has spent the past year revising and updating the Henu Participant Handbook and Policies and Procedures. The mission and vision were reviewed and approved. No changes were suggested. This process is still ongoing, but communication is steady and meetings are regularly held. This comprehensive review and update will continue into FY 2020, but a more streamlined process will be developed after this initial review. This is mainly because the Court is still fairly young and there has been some team turnover, so a bigger review was needed this year.

Goal 6: Conduct team trainings needed to assure that best practices are being utilized in the implementation of the therapeutic courts

HCWC team members attend trainings throughout the year and implement best practices through evaluation recommendations. The team also has scheduled NDCI training in January 2020. Each new team member receives an orientation from the PC and NADCP resources are referenced and provided. 8 orientations were given this year. More trainings are expected as the FY 2020 year progresses.

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Media Coverage

Throughout the year HCWC has received media coverage every quarter. Below represents articles written and promoting the Court. The Peninsula Clarion published an article regarding the HCWC graduates on October 20, 2018. To see the article, please follow this link:

<https://www.peninsulaclarion.com/news/henu-community-wellness-court-honors-first-graduates/>

U.S. News and World Report picked up the Peninsula Clarion article on October 27, 2018. To see this article, please follow this link:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alaska/articles/2018-10-27/kenaitzes-wellness-court-has-programs-first-graduates>

The Counting Cord (a Kenaitze Tribal Newsletter) published an article regarding HCWC graduates in their Nov-Dec 2018 issue. To see this article, please follow this link:

https://www.kenaitze.org/wp-content/uploads/Counting_Cord-11-2018-lorez.pdf

The Peninsula Clarion published an article on March 20, 2019 regarding a presentation that HCWC did at the Chamber of Commerce. To see the article, please follow this link:

<https://www.peninsulaclarion.com/news/henu-community-wellness-court-judge-shares-success-stories/>

The Counting Cord (a Kenaitze Tribal Newsletter) published an article regarding former Kenaitze Chief Tribal Court Judge Kimberley Sweet (now a State court Magistrate) and an award she received for helping found the Henu Community Wellness Court May-June 2019 issue. To see this article, please follow this link:

https://www.kenaitze.org/wp-content/uploads/Counting_Cord_5-2019-Lo-rez.pdf