

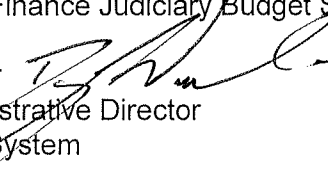
MEMORANDUM

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

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TO: Representative Andy Josephson
Chair, House Finance Judiciary Budget Subcommittee

FROM: Doug Wooliver 
Deputy Administrative Director
Alaska Court System

DATE: March 12, 2019

RE: Questions from March 11th Subcommittee Meeting

This memo addresses questions raised during the Monday, March 11, 2019 House Finance Judiciary Budget Subcommittee. Please let me know if you would like additional information.

Do the therapeutic courts help pay for housing for therapeutic court participants?

Yes. In the therapeutic court budget are funds that help provide housing, generally for one to three months, for indigent participants in the substance abuse courts who need safe and sober housing. Although some funds go to other forms of temporary assistance, the court spends about \$250,000 per year on temporary housing benefits. During any given quarter the court is assisting 60-70 participants with housing needs.

Additionally, and outside of the therapeutic court budget, the Mental Health Trust Authority provides \$190,500 for indigent participant needs for the participants in our mental health and family courts. Much of that money is for help with housing.

Finally, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation provides rent subsidies for certain transitional housing in Anchorage through the Special Needs Housing Grant and the Basic Housing Assistance Program. During the first two quarters of FY 19 therapeutic court participants received approximately \$30,300 in subsidized rent through these programs.

What is the recidivism rate for therapeutic court graduates?

In 2012 the Alaska Judicial Council studied the recidivism rate for therapeutic courts, and published the following summary of their findings:

Any participation by felons in a therapeutic court program appeared to be beneficial; all participants had lower rearrest and reconviction rates than comparison offenders. Graduates benefitted the most. The rearrest rate for felon graduates was about one-third lower than the comparison group, and the reconviction rate was about one-half that of the comparison offenders.

Misdemeanant success depended on graduation. The rearrest and reconviction rates for graduates were about one-third lower than those of the comparison offenders. Non-graduate misdemeanants had substantially higher rearrest and reconviction rates than comparison offenders, but the rearrest and reconviction rates for graduates and non-graduates combined were about the same as the rates for the comparison offenders.

The following charts show the details.

Table 1 Rearrests and reconvictions during first year after release, misdemeanants in therapeutic courts				
	Graduates and non-graduates combined	Graduates	Non-graduates	Comparison Misdemeanants
Rearrests	36%	23%	51%	36%
Reconvictions	24%	9%	41%	25%

Table 2 Rearrests and reconvictions during first year after release, felons in therapeutic courts				
	Graduates and non-graduates combined	Graduates	Non-graduates	Comparison Felons
Rearrests	26%	25%	29%	36%
Reconvictions	16%	12%	21%	23%