

OVERVIEW:

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COURTS



Partners For

Progress

THERAPEUTIC COURTS

"Drug courts are an effective and cost efficient way to help non-violent drug offenders commit to a rigorous drug treatment program in lieu of prison. By leveraging the coercive power of the criminal justice system, drug courts can alter the behavior of non-violent, low-level drug offenders through a combination of judicial supervision, case management, mandatory drug testing, and treatment to ensure abstinence from drugs, and escalating sanctions."

President George W. Bush

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL¹:

- Currently 1,387 programs; 946 in operation, 441 in the planning stage.
- Over 70% who have entered a program have either successfully completed or are currently participating.
- DOJ estimates recidivism of 16.4% for drug court graduates in the 1st year after graduation, and 27.5% two years after graduation.
- Typical cost per offender: therapeutic court program is between \$2,500 and \$4,000 annually vs. incarceration costs, which range between \$20,000 and \$50,000.
- Typical participant has at least a 15-year history of drug/alcohol use.
- About 2/3 of probationers characterized as alcohol or drug-involved offenders.
- Coerced patients tend to stay in treatment longer.
- Beyond a 90-day threshold, treatment outcomes improved in direct relationship to the length of time spend in treatment, with one year generally found to be the minimum effective duration of treatment.

ALASKA:

Existing therapeutic court programs:

- Anchorage Drug Court (Felony)
- Anchorage DUI Court (Felony)
- Anchorage Family Care Court (Civil)
- Anchorage Mental Health Court (Misdemeanor)
- Anchorage Wellness Court (Misdemeanor)
- Bethel Therapeutic Court (Misdemeanor & Felony)
- Juneau Wellness Court (Misdemeanor)²

Planning or considering a therapeutic court program:

- Fairbanks
- Kenai
- Ketchikan
- Stebins (Tribal Wellness Court)

¹ Facts obtained from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals 2002 "National Drug Court Month" Field Kit.

² Juneau is presently considering a transition from a post-sentencing model to the more traditional pre-sentencing model.

Drug Courts Today ¹

- **946 Drug Courts in Operation**
 - 547 Adult Drug Courts
 - 245 Juvenile Drug Courts
 - 59 Family Drug Courts
 - 14 Combination Drug Courts

- **441 Drug Courts in Planning Process**
 - 317 Adult Drug Courts
 - 119 Juvenile Drug Courts
 - 74 Family Drug Courts
 - 2 Combination

- **300,000+ Adults, 12,500 Juveniles Enrolled in Drug Courts to Date**
 - 73,000 Adult, 4,000 Juvenile Graduates
 - 70% Retention Rate
 - 75% Previously Incarcerated
 - 1000 Drug Free Babies Born
 - 3,500 Parents who Regained Custody of Children
 - 4,500 Re-engaged in Child Support Payments
 - 73% Retained or Obtained Employment

¹ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Cleannghouse and Technical Assistance Project, November 2002.

Drug Court Research Shows ²

Drug courts provide more comprehensive and closer supervision of the drug-using offender than other forms of community supervision

Drug use and criminal behavior are substantially reduced while clients are participating in drug court.

Criminal behavior is lower after program participation, especially for graduates.

Drug courts generate cost savings, at least in the short term, from reduced jail/prison use, reduced criminality and lower criminal justice system costs. \$10 savings for every \$1 spent on drug court.

Drug courts have been quite successful in bridging the gap between the court and the treatment/public health systems and spurring greater cooperation among the various agencies and personnel within the criminal justice system, as well as between the criminal justice system and the community.

² National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. Columbia University, June 1998.

ALASKA ALMANAC OF ALCOHOLISM AND JAIL

Alaskan crime associated with alcohol - 80%

Rate at which alcohol kills Alaskans - twice the U.S. rate

Deaths in Alaska that are alcohol-related - 11%

Annual cost of alcohol abuse in Alaska - \$246,000,000

Money the State spent in 2001 to incarcerate - \$144,000,000

Percentage jailed for felony DUI who reoffend after jail - 75%

Chances a repeat offender will reoffend- more after jail than before

"Revolving door" cases in Anchorage District Court - 66%

"Revolving door" cases involving alcoholism - 80%

(Primary source: Economic Costs of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse in Alaska, Phase Two, prepared for the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, DHSS, November, 2001)

SUMMARY

For many offenders the real solution is to
"get the alcohol out of the alcoholic."

For them institutional jail is an expensive temporary fix.

Two effective, but underused alternatives:

- 1) HOUSE ARREST WITH ELECTRONIC MONITORING
- 2) WELLNESS COURT

"Do the right thing, not just the tough thing." Fred Dyson, State Legislator

ANCHORAGE WELLNESS COURT FACTS

ANCHORAGE WELLNESS COURT TREATMENT PLAN

Wellness Court participants must:

- **Get an alcoholism assessment**
- **Enter treatment with an alcoholism counselor**
- **Take naltrexone, a medication that stops cravings for alcohol**
- **Appear frequently before the Wellness Court Judge for compliance hearings**
- **Attend a support group for people taking naltrexone (Nalgroup®)**
- **Attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings**
- **Attend Moral Reconciliation Therapy® (a cognitive behavioral training addressing moral reasoning, decision making and faulty, irrational beliefs in addicts)**
- **Work/Attend school**
- **Be monitored for continued sobriety**
- **Maintain sobriety for 18 months**

ANCHORAGE WELLNESS COURT STATISTICS

Outcomes	2001¹	2002¹	2003²	Cumulative
Participants	34	45	42	68
Graduates	8	4	7	19
Retention	85%	76%	————	80.5%
Recidivism³	2	1	————	25%
Jail Days⁴	17,000	19,000	————	36,000
Lifetime Jail Costs⁵	\$1,938,000	\$2,166,000	————	\$4,104,000

¹ Calendar year.

² Calendar year.

³ As at February 21, 2003.

⁴ As at December 31, 2002 (i.e. two years after graduation for 2001 participants, and first year after graduation for 2002 participants.)

⁵ Total group based on incarceration history before Wellness Court and since 1982, rounded to the nearest thousand days.

⁶ For the group based on incarceration history before Wellness Court and based on DOC 2002 jail cost of \$114 per day.



Better results for less money

Type of Jail	Cost per Day	Cost per Year	Long Term Sobriety?
Institutional Jail	\$114	\$42,000	No
Halfway House	\$62	\$23,000	No
Electronic Monitoring Wellness Jail	\$30	\$11,000	YES

Provided by *Partners for Progress*
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STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

2002

Source
CSHCB 2002 (A)

Legislative
Resolve No.
55



Supporting increased use of the house arrest program electronic monitoring with sobriety monitoring as a means of preventing crime and reducing the high costs of imprisonment in Alaska

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS a recent study shows that 12 percent of arrests and 11 percent of incarcerations in Alaska are attributed to alcohol and other drug abuse, and

WHEREAS, among this population, treating alcoholism and other drug addiction also prevents future criminal offenses, and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the legislature established the house arrest program/electronic monitoring (HAP/EM) and authorized the commissioner of corrections to designate prisoners to serve their terms of imprisonment or temporary commitment by 24 hour electronic monitoring and supervision at their residences or other places selected by the commissioner under AS 33 30 065, and

WHEREAS HAP/EM protects the public by restricting offenders' freedom and movement through 24 hour electronic monitoring and supervision, yet improves the

likelihood that the offender can function productively in society through employment, care of family, and education, and

WHEREAS offenders on HAP/EM are required to pay all or some of the costs of the program, thus saving the state from paying the costs of imprisonment, and

WHEREAS HAP/EM now uses a new technology for sobriety monitoring of alcohol abusing offenders, a computerized device that tests offenders for sobriety and transmits the blood-alcohol reading by telephone, and

WHEREAS offenders on the HAP/EM program who are also in the Anchorage district court's wellness court are required to take the prescription medicine Naltrexone to quell the craving for alcohol and are required to participate in a state-approved alcoholism treatment program; and

WHEREAS the experience of the Anchorage district court wellness court shows that, with a combination of intensive monitoring, treatment, and anti-craving medication, alcohol and other drug abusing defendants can attain and maintain total abstinence from alcohol and other drugs and avoid further criminal violations; and

WHEREAS the Department of Corrections could create a program for alcohol and other drug abusing offenders incorporating the primary elements of the Anchorage wellness court program--monitoring, treatment, and medication--regardless of whether the offenders were enrolled in a therapeutic court; and

WHEREAS HAP/EM is available in Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Juneau, and Ketchikan, but is not used to capacity;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Governor to direct the Department of Corrections, the Department of Law, and the Alaska Court System, and urges attorneys who prosecute and defend alcohol and other drug abusing offenders and Alaska judges, to work together to

(1) expand the use of the house arrest program/electronic monitoring (HAP/EM) as a condition of bail, in the manner pioneered by the Department of Corrections and the Anchorage district court wellness court program;

(2) expand the use of HAP/EM as a means of serving terms of imprisonment or temporary commitment for offenders who are in or have completed a therapeutic court program;

(3) develop programs specifically for alcohol and other drug abusing offenders, modeled on the combination of sobriety monitoring, treatment, and anti-craving medication that is employed in the Anchorage district court's wellness court program;

(4) publicize the availability of these programs through seminars and educational outreach

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jim Duncan, Commissioner, Department of Administration, the Honorable Jay Livey, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, the Honorable Margaret Pugh, Commissioner, Department of Corrections, the Honorable Bruce M. Botelho, Alaska Attorney General, Stephanie J. Cole, Administrative Director, Alaska Court System, and to Mann Long, President of the Alaska Bar Association



U.S. Department of Justice

8

Office of Justice Programs

National Institute of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20531

Janet Mc Cabe
Chair, Partners for Progress
1326 K Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Janet
Dear Ms. McCabe:

I'm pleased to inform you that your project has been selected for an outcome evaluation under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Discretionary Grant Program. The selection process was rigorous and tried to find the most structured and "evaluatable" among the eighty candidates. Only a handful of the projects met the strict criteria that we applied. We feel that the evaluation will benefit your program but that it will also add to our fundamental understanding of other programs similar to yours.

As for next steps, the National Institute of Justice will soon be soliciting the evaluations on its home page (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij) and hopes that one or more research teams will compete for each evaluation. We have posted a March 31 deadline for the submission of proposals and anticipate making awards some four months later. Researchers will be able to read an electronic version of the evaluability assessment that I've enclosed. While that assessment answers many questions, interested evaluators may still have several more. Please take the time to answer their inquiries fully so they can propose the best possible evaluation designs.

We expect that evaluators will propose a wide range of measures of program activity and client characteristics for the evaluation. We have asked them to hone in on what we believe are some of the key outcome concerns for a Wellness Court: relapse, rearrest, family reintegration where feasible, and performance of steady work. We are also asking evaluators to study whether the court helps avert future system costs for the clients and whether the various components of your program are transferrable to other communities. If you think that other issues are also important to you, you should communicate them to prospective evaluators when they call.

Thanks again for your cooperation during our assessment process. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (202) 307-2953. I look forward to a successful relationship.

Sincerely,

Edwin W. Zedlewski
Senior Science Advisor
Office of Research and Evaluation



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PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

The MISSION

To assist alcoholics and alcoholic misdemeanants in making the changes needed to achieve a better life.

The MEANS

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Partners for Progress receives public and private grants and contributions. To accomplish its mission, Partners For Progress develops collaborative partnerships with existing organizations.

The PROGRAM

The Partners for Progress program currently includes four components focused on alcoholics and alcoholic misdemeanants. These are 1) the Anchorage Wellness Court at the District Court level, 2) Courthouse Information Services, 3) the Center for Therapeutic Justice, and 4) a new program providing scholarships for medicine and treatment to extend the benefits of the Wellness Court system to alcoholics outside the court system.

1. **Wellness Court** seeks to check the downward cycle of repeat alcoholic misdemeanants by combining the coercive power of the court with assistance and services which offer program participants a clear and workable pathway to a better life. This process involves the participants in a way that builds a lasting sense of responsibility.

During 1999 Partners for Progress assisted Judge James N. Wanamaker in starting the Wellness Court as a pilot project. Built on the "drug court" model, Anchorage's Wellness Court focuses on repeat alcoholic misdemeanants. For defendants who choose to enter the program, treatment incorporates new drugs that quell the craving for alcohol without causing sickness. In September 2000, Partners for Progress received a start-up grant from the U.S. Department of Justice that has been used in cooperation with the Municipal Prosecutor's office to identify candidates for Wellness Court, to monitor compliance, and to coordinate with sources of treatment and other needed assistance.

2. **Courthouse Information Services** provides defendants in the Nesbett Courthouse with information to help them gain access to useful community services and successfully fulfill the terms of their court order. Initially funded by a grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust, the program has been developed cooperatively with the Area Court Administrator, Third Judicial District.

3. **The Center for Therapeutic Justice** was established within Partners For Progress to extend therapeutic justice programs throughout Alaska. Funded by a start-up grant from the Department of Justice, the Center works to expand and support a wide variety of therapeutic justice programs in Alaskan communities.

4. **The Naltrexone Scholarship Program** - Responding to interest generated by the success of the Wellness Court, Partners For Progress has initiated a comparable program for alcoholics outside the Court System. The program combines medically prescribed pharmaceutical therapy with structured cognitive behavioral treatment. Partners For Progress continues to seek individual and corporate donations to increase scholarship opportunities.

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January 21, 2003

Cited: 19 Alaska L. Rev. 1

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THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE IN ALASKA'S COURTS

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- A. The Development of Therapeutic Justice as a Concept
- B. Therapeutic Justice in Action: Drug Courts
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II. THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE: LEGAL ISSUES

- A. Constitutional Issues
- B. Confidentiality
- C. Peremptory Challenges to Judges

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FOOTNOTES



This Article discusses the concept of therapeutic justice as it is currently progressing in the Alaska court system. The Article begins with a discussion of the origins of therapeutic justice as a theory and continues to explore therapeutic justice in Alaska in various contexts, including drug courts and mental health courts. The Article also discusses constitutional implications for therapeutic justice, such as due process and confidentiality concerns. While the Article notes that the novelty of therapeutic justice in the legal system means that more research must be done to determine its efficacy, it concludes that these innovative courts can be a cost-effective, recidivism-reducing approach to criminal justice.

I. THERAPEUTIC COURTS IN ALASKA: HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT STRUCTURES



Wellness Court . . . Anchorage Felony Drug Court . . . Mental Health Court . . . Therapeutic Justice Courts. Practitioners in Alaska courts and observers of the justice system have heard these terms used frequently during the past few years but have had no comprehensive source of information about what they do and why they exist. Underlying these new projects is a growing change in the justice system's response to the difficult problems presented by defendants whose substance abuse or mental disabilities appear to be related inextricably to repeated criminal behavior. Justice professionals describe this approach as "therapeutic justice." The purposes of this Article are to describe the theoretical underpinnings of this new approach, to inform practitioners about the operating and planned projects and to provide a foundation for

the discussion and resolution of the legal issues created by these responses to defendants' problems.

A. The Development of Therapeutic Justice as a Concept

Both Roscoe Pound and Oliver Wendell Holmes were early proponents of the concepts that shape therapeutic jurisprudence.¹ Pound described a traditional system that was "'formalistic,' 'logical,' and 'mechanical,' and placed great emphasis on the process of finding the 'right' law or legal principal [sic] and applying it to the current problem."² He then said that the law "must look to the relationship between itself and the social effects it creates."³ Holmes is cited as a forefather of therapeutic jurisprudence for his often-quoted statement that begins, "The life of the law has not been logic," and then continues on to say that many factors other than logic go into decisions about governing.⁴

More recently, as the term "therapeutic justice" began to be used,⁵ it has been defined as "the use of social science to study the extent to which a legal rule or practice promotes the psychological and physical well-being of the people it affects."⁶ Legal theorists have used "therapeutic justice" to "illuminate how laws and legal processes may in fact support or undermine the public policy reasons for instituting those laws and legal processes."⁷ Now, laws and legal processes are beginning to be employed specifically for what are perceived as therapeutic purposes.

Lawyers, judges, and the law itself "all function therapeutically or antitherapeutically irrespective of whether the laws and legal actors take these consequences into account."⁸ Another definition of therapeutic jurisprudence espoused by Bruce Winick focuses on "the law's healing potential" and describes it as "a mental health approach to law . . . consistent with other important legal values" that can "reshape law and legal processes in ways that can improve the psychological functioning and emotional well-being of those affected."⁹ Winick argues that the therapeutic effects of new procedures apply not only to defendants or participants in therapeutic court projects, but also to the professionals creating and using the courts. He suggests that therapeutic effects occur in tort cases as well as criminal or domestic cases if the participants use the principles.¹⁰ A recent series of articles in the *Seattle University Law Review* explores the application of therapeutic justice principles in the appellate courts, with one author noting that "[a]ppellate judges are becoming more interested in alternatives to the 'argument culture'; they are increasingly interested in enabling the parties to create solutions to complex problems in addition to declaring rights and naming winners and losers."¹¹

The following chart clarifies the similarities and differences between therapeutic justice and two other concepts: restorative and retributive justice.

[*pg 4]

Chart

[*pg 5]

Therapeutic justice emphasizes the need to address the root causes of a specific offender's criminality, to treat the offender to remove the problems and to return the offender to the community as a responsible citizen. Restorative justice emphasizes repair of the relationships between the victim, community and offender.¹² Retributive justice, the model on which much of the United States' criminal justice system is based, emphasizes fairness and punishment as more important values than rehabilitation or other interests. Each model seeks to express community condemnation in order to protect public safety and deter or

dissuade the specific offender and others from similar behavior in the future.¹³

B. Therapeutic Justice in Action: Drug Courts

The principles of therapeutic justice and drug courts developed independently. Drug courts grew out of efforts to respond to increasing caseloads in the 1980s that included large numbers of substance-abusing offenders.¹⁴ One group has said: "The mission of drug courts is to stop the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and related criminal activity."¹⁵ Therapeutic jurisprudence principles appeared to establish a "jurisprudential theory" that provided the answers to why and how drug treatment courts worked on a theoretical level.¹⁶

Practitioners quickly applied the same therapeutic jurisprudence concepts and the structures developed in drug courts to courts that dealt with persons with mental disabilities, family problems and domestic violence issues.¹⁷ These courts often are referred to as "problem-solving courts."¹⁸ Although this Article focuses on the broader concept of therapeutic justice and its application in many arenas, much of the available literature and evaluation is associated with drug courts. The resulting predominance of drug courts in the discussion does not imply that the usefulness of therapeutic justice concepts is limited to drug courts. As the Article demonstrates, these concepts have been applied in the mental health courts in Anchorage and elsewhere, and other literature shows their application in additional contexts.

An administrative order from Chief Judge Gerald Weatherington in Miami in 1989 created what appears to have been the first drug treatment court.¹⁹ The drug court concept has been applied in the context of drug and alcohol addictions, drunk driving cases,²⁰ domestic violence and child in need of aid and family cases.²¹ Drug courts operate under the basic "understanding that substance abuse is a chronic, progressive, relapsing disorder *that can be successfully treated.*"²²

Mentally disabled offenders appearing in mental health courts that use a structure similar to that of drug courts find themselves in rather different circumstances. Mental disabilities usually are chronic, but rarely are curable in the sense that an addiction might be.²³ However, mental disabilities often can be managed with appropriate medication and structure. The hope is that the activities of the mental health court will respond to "the need for appropriate treatment in an environment conducive to wellness and not punishment, as well as the continuing necessity to insure the protection of the public."²⁴ Some studies show that substance abuse and mental health problems tend to coexist, such that individuals with a substance abuse problem are substantially more likely to have a mental health problem and vice versa.²⁵ As a commentator has recently noted, "Given the biopsychosocial nature of drug addiction, '[t]he traditional adversarial system of justice, designed to solve legal disputes, is ineffective at addressing . . . [drug] abuse.'"²⁶

Other specialized courts that differ from the therapeutic justice courts have been created or proposed in the past two decades. Some courts have focused on case management approaches, seeking to handle large numbers of cases or certain types of cases more effectively. For example, some courts that handle children's cases or domestic violence cases have concluded that having all related cases -- divorce, child custody, child in need of aid, protective orders and criminal cases involving one or more of the same parties -- before one judge would improve the judge's ability to make decisions about each case's disposition.²⁷ An important difference between many of these specialized courts and the therapeutic courts discussed in this Article is that the specialized courts decide which cases are subject to the court's authority rather than allowing the defendants to choose whether they will participate in, or "opt-in," to the project. Even in courts where the issue is not the offender's addiction or medical condition, the court's

monitoring and the opportunity to look at underlying addictions or substance abuse can be valuable adjuncts to judicial sanctions.²⁸

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Drug Court Programs requires that a drug court comply with ten "key components" before it can receive federal funding.²⁹ These ten components are (1) the integration of substance abuse treatment with justice system case processing; (2) use of a non-adversarial approach where the prosecution and defense promote public safety while protecting the right of the accused to due process; (3) early identification and prompt placement of eligible participants; (4) access to a continuum of treatment, rehabilitation, and related services; (5) frequent testing for alcohol and illicit drugs; (6) a coordinated strategy among judge, prosecution, defense and treatment providers to govern offender compliance; (7) ongoing judicial interaction with each participant; (8) monitoring and evaluation to measure achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness; (9) continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective planning, implementation and operation; and (10) partnerships with public agencies and community-based organizations to generate local support and enhance drug court effectiveness.

C. Therapeutic Courts: Assets and Liabilities

The benefits and costs of therapeutic courts have been extensively discussed.³⁰ Some of the discussion remains theoretical because few courts have existed long enough to perform meaningful longitudinal evaluations, and many of the evaluations that have been performed have been limited in scope.³¹ Nevertheless, policymakers and justice system professionals have identified a wide range of benefits and concerns based on their experiences.

1. *The Views of Judges and Court Administrators.* Judges and court administrators differ strongly in their beliefs about the benefits of the therapeutic justice approach. Proponents of therapeutic justice courts believe that the therapeutic justice model has reduced recidivism and increased the chances that defendants can return to their communities as productive individuals.³² Judges are willing to see a defendant repeatedly in a structured setting for months if they believe that in the end they will not see that defendant back before them for sentencing on repeated offenses. One judge commented: "[F]or a long time, my claim to fame was that I arraigned 200 cases in one session. That's ridiculous."³³ New York State Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye notes: "In many of today's cases, the traditional approach yields unsatisfying results Every legal right of the litigants is protected, all procedures followed, yet we aren't making a dent in the underlying problem."³⁴ Some judges see the situation as particularly troublesome for misdemeanor offenders who receive at best minimal supervision and often little or no treatment.³⁵

One of the strongest expressions of support has come from the Conference of Chief Justices ("CCJ") and the Conference of State Court Administrators ("COSCA"). In an August 2000 joint resolution, CCJ and COSCA declared that "well-functioning drug courts represent the best practice of these [therapeutic justice] principles and methods."³⁶ The American Bar Association ("ABA") also has supported drug courts and therapeutic justice approaches, noting that "studies indicate that between seventy to eighty percent of all persons [pg 10] arrested for crimes have either an alcohol or illegal drug abuse problem."³⁷ The ABA adds that "[t]he human and political success of therapeutic justice is too great to ignore."³⁸

Some court administrators and other judges express concerns that the therapeutic courts will be of limited benefit to a few defendants while consuming scarce resources at a rapid rate.³⁹ In the short term, the projects require extra time to (1) facilitate the frequent meetings among the professionals and court staff involved in each case, (2) hold regular hearings and (3) administer the network of services, sanctions and incentives required to make the therapeutic process work. Project funding often does not include resources

to pay for the increased clerical burden on the courts or for the additional administrative time needed for judges to oversee the court's operations.⁴⁰ Other justice system professionals are equally concerned about the lack of resources for the added work involved in each therapeutic justice project case.⁴¹

[*pg 11]

Other concerns include worries that therapeutic courts may be coercive, may become more paternalistic and repressive than the existing system⁴² and may be "net-widening," *i.e.*, they may impose harsher penalties or expectations on relatively less serious offenders rather than targeting more serious offenders.⁴³ Some also believe that drug courts may end up serving private interests rather than meeting the community's needs.⁴⁴

Perhaps the most serious concern is that courts will be unable to apply therapeutic justice concepts to more than a select few defendants. In a climate where all courts struggle for resources to address their caseloads' demands, resource-intensive therapeutic processes appear out of reach for most cases. Therapeutic courts typically serve only a fraction of potentially eligible defendants.⁴⁵ Estimates for the Anchorage Felony Drug Court suggest that, at best, it would have resources for about twenty percent of potentially eligible clients.⁴⁶ The early estimate of the number of eligible clients that could be served was cut from fifty to ten when the treatment providers gave a more detailed analysis of the cost of serving drug court participants at the level expected by the terms of the federal grant.⁴⁷ Observers looking [*pg 12] at similar situations in other jurisdictions believe that drug court procedures eventually may become abbreviated and perfunctory if they "go to scale" to serve a majority of the defendants with substance abuse problems.⁴⁸ Under such a system, defendants will lose the benefits of individualized attention and therapeutic justice approaches will devolve into *pro forma* applications that would be no more effective than the court procedures they replaced.⁴⁹

2. *The Views of Defendants.* One stated purpose of therapeutic justice projects is to provide defendants with the structure, resources and incentives to end their addictions or help them resolve the problems that prevent them from leading satisfying and productive lives. Some defendants in therapeutic projects participate because they share the belief that rehabilitation is possible. Other defendants may participate because they believe that the projects are a less onerous choice than incarceration.⁵⁰

Proponents of therapeutic justice cite substantial evidence that coercing treatment through structures such as drug courts may result in better outcomes.⁵¹ Evidence suggests that people in coerced or mandated treatment (as distinct from voluntary treatment) are more likely to complete the treatment. Completion of treatment is critical to significant reduction in the likelihood of relapse.⁵²

Conversely, defendants may assess the difficulties of therapeutic justice projects and decide that incarceration is preferable. They may believe that they would fail in any case and would prefer to serve time in custody and be done with it. Some do not believe that they have a problem that needs treatment or that is amenable to the treatment offered, and they may decline to participate on those [*pg 13] grounds.⁵³ Additionally, defense attorneys perceive incarceration as less damaging for some defendants than participation in programs in which the defendant can be repeatedly incarcerated for violations of program guidelines.⁵⁴

3. *The Views of Prosecutors.* Prosecutors who favor drug courts tend to believe that their role is to "represent[] the community's interest in public order."⁵⁵ Other prosecutors question that "broader vision"⁵⁶

and suggest instead that the goal of the criminal justice system is for prosecutors to "put bad guys in jail"⁵⁷ by winning individual cases. Supporters of the therapeutic approach suggest that prosecutors working in therapeutic courts are as zealous as those working in regular courts, but more accountable. One prosecutor noted that "unless I take a broader view of what it is to be zealous, I'll lose an opportunity to reduce crime."⁵⁸ Another added, "I think retribution is more moral if there are earlier opportunities in the person's involvement with the criminal justice system to make another choice -- to appeal to that person's higher self."⁵⁹

Some prosecutors may object to specific ways of administering therapeutic justice programs. For example, many oppose pre-plea programs that preserve defendants' options for going back to trial. "[A]s time passes I am in a weaker position as to my case and my expenditure of resources."⁶⁰ For this reason, many prosecutors insist on a plea from the defendant as a condition of entry into a therapeutic justice project. Other prosecutors perceive therapeutic justice's collaborative, non-adversarial approach as incompatible with "the public safety -- and punishment-oriented goals of the prosecution[.]"⁶¹ They may reserve use of this approach for specific types of defendants and consider it inappropriate for others.⁶²

4. Other Justice System Perspectives. Departments of Corrections and the public have responded favorably to therapeutic justice projects in their current form and scope. They favor the projects' potential for reducing incarceration costs and for successfully treating addictions.⁶³ Alaska's legislature has strongly supported the concept, creating two new therapeutic justice projects by statute in 2001 and funding two existing projects.⁶⁴ The new projects will work with repeat Driving While Intoxicated ("DWI" or "DUI") defendants in the Anchorage superior court and with other offenders with alcohol-related problems in the Bethel superior court.

Many treatment providers also are supportive, although some individuals believe that the process may be too coercive and that coerced treatment does not work.⁶⁵ Thorny confidentiality issues may arise with therapeutic justice projects because the projects require agencies to share and discuss information that is otherwise protected by complex confidentiality laws and regulations. Another concern is the change in the role of treatment providers from serving "exclusively as the gatekeepers to treatment, as they have been accustomed to doing," to having "[c]ourts . . . decide who will be sent to treatment and when treatment can be terminated for poor performance."⁶⁶

D. Effectiveness of Therapeutic Courts

The concepts of therapeutic justice have come to the forefront at a time when policymakers and the public are calling for greater accountability in public expenditures. Simultaneously, academics have developed increasingly sophisticated tools and methods for evaluation. Therapeutic justice projects, with their stated purpose of stopping "the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and related criminal activity,"⁶⁷ have come under scrutiny from their inception as a result of these trends.

Although fewer than one hundred evaluations of therapeutic courts have been published in the last ten years, many are underway.⁶⁸ A number of preliminary or partial evaluations have been completed and researchers have considered the effectiveness of many of the separate components of drug courts, particularly the use of monitoring and supervision, completion of treatment programs and use of coerced treatment.⁶⁹

1. Treatment of Addiction/Disease. Various researchers have demonstrated that treatment, if completed, reduces recidivism.⁷⁰ Partial completion of treatment often appears to be better than no treatment in

reducing recidivism, but length of time in treatment generally predicts the addict's post-treatment success.⁷¹ Other studies have shown that some types of treatment correlate more significantly with reduced recidivism than others. Cognitive therapies that focus on objective changes in offenders' thinking and behavior appear significantly more effective than individual counseling and other types of therapies.⁷² Treatment providers may use several approaches in a treatment plan, offering cognitive programs [pg 16] with individual counseling, group and family counseling, after-care and other services needed by an individual offender.⁷³

Other components of drug or therapeutic courts also have proven effective when used separately or outside the context of the therapeutic court. In a Washington, D.C. study, monitoring and closely supervising offenders on probation, by itself reduced the incidence of positive drug tests.⁷⁴ A Florida program uses intensive supervision of probationers for DWI offenders, rather than a drug court model, and has shown significant reduction in recidivism.⁷⁵

The combination of these separate effective elements into therapeutic justice courts has proven successful in many, though not all, instances. Published research shows that many drug courts have reduced recidivism during their existence.⁷⁶ However, a few projects have not been able to demonstrate that the drug court population [pg 17] fared any better in terms of post-program recidivism rates than the control or comparison groups.⁷⁷

2. Recidivism. Researchers have conducted very few follow-up evaluations analyzing re-arrest rates and experiences of participants and controls in drug court programs over the months or years after completion of the program.⁷⁸ The difficulties posed by long-term evaluations include the added costs of more evaluations, the problem of finding former participants and control group subjects and the management of confidentiality issues. Since most drug court programs are relatively new, insufficient time has elapsed to make realistic follow-up evaluations possible.⁷⁹ A similar situation exists for mental health courts and other therapeutic justice projects.⁸⁰ As this Article will discuss, none of Alaska's therapeutic justice projects has been evaluated as of yet. However, the Alaska Court System has asked the Alaska Judicial Council to evaluate all five of the formalized projects discussed in this Article.⁸¹

E. Costs of Therapeutic Justice

Therapeutic justice projects are resource intensive. Even the projects that have functioned for some period of time without outside funding have managed only by using substantial time volunteered by judges, attorneys and other persons and organizations in the community. For example, both the Wellness Court and the Mental Health Court in Anchorage functioned for a number of months without grant funding or other outside support. The Mental Health Court used University of Alaska-Anchorage interns for some staff support. Other than the interns, the judges, treatment providers and attorneys involved in these projects contributed all of the time [pg 18] needed to plan and bring the courts into operation. The resources needed for therapeutic justice projects include added time for judges, attorneys and clerical staff, increased treatment resources, increased monitoring and drug testing of defendants, and expenses (in most programs) for case managers and coordinators. Because these costs are often listed in a single document, such as an application for grant funds or legislative support, opponents of drug courts find it easy to suggest that they consume extraordinary resources for the number of participants.⁸²

A more realistic analysis would compare the costs for a drug court to the costs of incarcerating the same defendant for at least a year (the typical length of many drug court programs) and the costs of releasing the defendant untreated (the typical situation for most defendants).⁸³ In Alaska, the cost for an Anchorage

Felony Drug Court participant is estimated at \$16,950 annually, as compared to the cost of more than \$40,000 per year for incarceration.⁸⁴ One observer suggests that because many of the defendants are repeat offenders⁸⁵ who face presumptive sentences of two years or more, the actual costs of incarceration usually would be double the \$40,000.⁸⁶ The cost of incarceration does not include any of the costs associated with investigating the crimes charged, the costs of court processing (clerical and judge time, prosecution and defense costs) or costs of pretrial incarceration or pre-sentence report preparation for felony defendants. The cost for the Anchorage Felony Drug Court does include some attorney time, but neither judge time nor clerical time for any of the participants.⁸⁷

Depending on the program, defendants bear some of the costs. The Wellness Court, for example, particularly emphasizes the need for defendants to become economically self-sufficient and pay part or most of their monitoring and treatment costs.⁸⁸ Some Wellness Court participants are supervised on an electronic monitoring program that typically costs \$12 to \$15 per day.⁸⁹ Participants also must pay the cost of Naltrexone⁹⁰ (about \$70 to \$150 per month⁹¹) and some or all of the treatment costs. In other therapeutic projects, the expectation is that most participants will be indigent and unable to pay some or all of the costs of participation.⁹² Some projects expect that Medicaid or private insurers may help with costs that are beyond the defendants' means.

These differences in practices highlight different philosophies underlying similar projects. Proponents of having defendants pay argue that even if some defendants cannot participate due to very limited resources, those defendants who can should participate. Others contend that requiring any payment unfairly limits the program to those who have the economic resources to participate.

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F. The Development of Therapeutic Courts in Alaska

1. *Introduction.* Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice Dana Fabe led off her 2001 State of the Judiciary address to the legislature with a discussion of therapeutic court projects:

There are three touchstones by which we can measure Alaska's justice system as it enters the new millennium and I would like to address them today. They are Innovation, Collaboration, and Improved Access to the Justice System The face of justice is changing in response to new challenges and needs. In the criminal law arena, traditional justice approaches have produced some disappointing results, with repeat offenders who cycle through the criminal justice system Courts nationwide have been trying new approaches. One example is the therapeutic court model.⁹³

Chief Justice Fabe's comments suggest that the court system sees therapeutic justice projects as an important innovation among those with which it is working.

As the term "therapeutic" is used in Alaska today, it suggests an approach to justice system problems that involves structured relationships among the court, attorneys and treatment providers. The Chief Justice summarized Alaska's approach to therapeutic justice as follows:

[a]n individualized plan is developed for a defendant, which usually includes drug or alcohol testing, treatment, and such other requirements as attaining a GED, finding and maintaining a job, and making restitution. Defendants are closely monitored and must come to court often, before the same judge. That judge becomes familiar with the defendant, and imposes

immediate jail-time for non-compliance with the plan's requirements, while providing positive reinforcement when a defendant lives up to the plan's expectations.⁹⁴

The following sections describe the existing and planned therapeutic justice projects in the state.⁹⁵

[*pg 21]

2. Anchorage Mental Health Court (Court Coordinated Resources Project)

a. *History of Treatment of the Mentally Ill in Alaska.* Pressure from a number of sources - including de-institutionalization of mentally ill persons, the rise in the homeless population, prison overcrowding and continual criminal recidivism by mentally ill persons - provided incentives for the development of a mental health court for low-level offenders in Anchorage. The court has been operating since mid-1998.

Before statehood, the territory of Alaska had no mental health services available to mentally ill persons. Individuals experiencing mental difficulties were removed from their homes by the federal government and sent to reside in an institution in Portland, Oregon.⁹⁶ At statehood, the responsibility for providing mental health services was transferred to the new state government, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust was established. The Trust received one million acres of prime land to fund development of a comprehensive integrated mental health program. Beginning at statehood, the State provided continuous and increasing mental health services to its citizens. However, in 1982 a class action suit was brought against the State by citizens who required mental health services not available in Alaska, and who objected to Alaska's management and re-designation of the trust lands.⁹⁷ The plaintiff class prevailed, and the Trust was reconstituted in 1994 with one million acres and \$200 million. Since that time, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority has managed the Trust to ensure the development of a comprehensive integrated mental health program for use by Trust beneficiaries.⁹⁸

As part of its comprehensive program, Alaska has a single psychiatric institution, the Alaska Psychiatric Institute ("API"), located in Anchorage. Built in the early 1960s,⁹⁹ API has followed the trend of mental institutions in the United States to downsize, shifting patients to community-based treatment services through a process known as "de-institutionalization." The movement away from institutionalizing mentally ill persons took hold in the United States in the 1960s in response to several issues. State-run mental health institutions tended to be old, expensive to operate, overcrowded and impersonal. The majority provided custodial care but little if any treatment. To lessen operating expenses and improve patient care, state and federal officials began to develop and support programs designed to transfer responsibility for mental health care from state-run institutions to community-based facilities. They believed that community-based services could provide earlier detection and individualized care, and could minimize the use of hospitalization for less severely disabled patients.¹⁰⁰

As it progressed, the de-institutionalization movement diverted large numbers of seriously mentally ill people away from institutions and into communities. However, under-funding prevented the alternate system of community-based services from effectively filling its anticipated role. Increasing numbers of persons no longer housed in institutions eventually committed offenses directly related to the offenders' untreated mental disabilities.¹⁰¹ Without community-based outpatient services to respond to the mental health issues, most of the offenders were incarcerated, often for minor offenses for which other offenders might be released.

b. *The Mentally Ill and Disabled in Alaska's Jails and Prisons.* By 1998, American prisons and jails held 238,000 mentally ill offenders, comprising sixteen percent of state prison and jail inmates and seven

percent of federal inmates.¹⁰² This percentage was higher in Alaska than in the rest of the country. According to one study, as the end of the century approached, nearly one-third of Alaska prison and jail inmates suffered from mental illness or disability. The Alaska Department of Corrections had become the State's largest institutional supplier of mental health services, serving many more mentally disabled adults than API.¹⁰³ As in the rest of the country, Alaska's mental health system experienced deinstitutionalization between 1979 and 1999. API downsized from 225 [pg 23] beds to seventy-nine beds.¹⁰⁴ The facility intended to continue this trend by downsizing to fifty-four beds.¹⁰⁵

c. Development of the Anchorage Mental Health Court. In July 1998 the state Department of Corrections, with the cooperation of the legal community, treatment providers, the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, established the Jail Alternative Services Program ("JAS") as a pilot program to provide community mental health services placement for misdemeanor inmates.¹⁰⁶ At about the same time, Judge Stephanie Rhoades and a committee of court staff, attorneys, treatment providers, corrections personnel and other individuals created the Court Coordinated Resources Project ("CRP") to identify mentally ill persons entering the criminal justice system for misdemeanor offenses and to divert them to community-based treatment.¹⁰⁷

Offenders participating in both JAS and CRP have their court cases assigned to the mental health court project, which monitors offenders' compliance with their specific treatment programs. Both projects accept individuals being prosecuted by either the State or municipal prosecutors' offices and individuals who may be defended by a state public defender, the Office of Public Advocacy, municipal contract defense attorneys or private attorneys. The two district court judges [the Honorable Stephanie Rhoades and the Honorable John Lohff, who were initially assigned to preside over the mental health court] remain responsible for the project at this time.¹⁰⁸

While participants in both programs report to the mental health court, the target populations and the institutional history of the programs differ. A grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority established JAS as a three-year pilot program in the Department of Corrections. The program is intended to reach incarcerated persons who have specified mental conditions (e.g., psychosis or organic brain injury). The program serves up to forty participants at any one time, with five of those slots reserved for organically-impaired individuals.¹⁰⁹ Program funds support the work of a case coordinator who identifies, coordinates and links mentally ill misdemeanor offenders with community services. This individual also monitors offenders' compliance with their conditions of release.¹¹⁰

The non-jail court-based program (CRP) initially worked with existing court resources, volunteered services of the two judges, university students, municipal and state prosecutors and defense attorneys.¹¹¹ CRP tries to reach misdemeanor offenders who have been diagnosed with, or who show indications of, any mental impairment, a broader set of criteria than that used by JAS.¹¹² Individuals may be referred to CRP whether or not they are currently in custody and whether they are first-time or repeat offenders. Any number of offenders may participate in the program at a given time.¹¹³ Virtually anyone involved with the offender (e.g., attorney, prosecutor, judge, law enforcement officer, jail staff, family member or mental health worker) may make the initial referral to the mental health court. CRP clients include mentally disturbed individuals who do not qualify for the JAS program, either because they are not incarcerated or because they do not meet the specific JAS diagnosis requirements.¹¹⁴ CRP also handles persons who qualify for JAS but who are excluded from that program for lack of space. Mental health referral services in CRP (which are provided in JAS by the case coordinator) initially were developed primarily by defense attorneys or by treatment providers in the case of offenders with existing connections to providers. Municipal prosecutors provide some monitoring services for CRP clients that are similar to but more

limited than those performed by the case coordinator for JAS clients.¹¹⁵

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In 2000, the Mental Health Trust Authority ("MHTA") funded CRP to hire a project manager and case coordinator.¹¹⁶ The project manager coordinates the CRP work, including administrative duties and community outreach activities. The case coordinator coordinates treatment referrals and monitors client compliance and progress.¹¹⁷ In some ways, the addition of these positions has made CRP more similar to JAS. Because CRP continues to serve a more diverse population than JAS, and still does not limit the number of participants it serves, it continues to struggle with issues that do not affect JAS.¹¹⁸

The Anchorage Mental Health Court serves four distinct groups of mentally impaired individuals: (1) JAS participants, whose case management may be performed by the JAS case coordinator or a treatment service provider; (2) clients not receiving mental health treatment when they are referred to the court, who receive case management services from the CRP case coordinator; (3) clients receiving treatment when they are referred and who continue to be served by a case manager in a community service program; and (4) clients not receiving treatment when they are referred, but who are beyond the number able to be serviced by the CRP case coordinator and who primarily receive case management services from a defense attorney. Any of the non-JAS groups may include persons who are eligible for JAS but are not receiving JAS services for various reasons.

d. Features of the Program. Anchorage's mental health court works to address the individual causes of each participant's behavior and to provide non-jail therapeutic treatment to assist them with functioning acceptably in society. Based on the drug court model, the project uses a team approach to select defendants who can benefit from the program while not posing an undue risk to other members of society.¹¹⁹ The court refers the selected offenders to treatment programs, monitors their progress through the programs and imposes sanctions on, or offers incentives to, the participants based on their progress.¹²⁰

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However, the program departs significantly from the drug court model. Unlike participants in drug court, not all mental health court participants follow similar treatment regimens. Participants in drug courts tend to arrive in the justice system with a similar problem, a drug addiction, while participants in mental health courts may suffer from widely different maladies and have very different treatment needs. Drug courts usually set a specified period of abstinence, attainable through a phased program, as a goal for participants. They set benchmarks along a path to successful program completion and schedule "graduation" from the program. Success in a mental health treatment program usually cannot be so clearly stated or measured.¹²¹ Because mental health court clients generally are chronically ill with little likelihood of being "cured," the goal of the mental health court focuses less on a bright line change in participants' behavior than on improving participants' quality of life. Mental health court goals include improving the ability of clients to function in society, reducing the clients' number of criminal offenses and reducing the need for institutional mental services.¹²²

A typical mental health court case begins with the referral of a defendant who either has a mental health diagnosis or who shows symptoms of a mental disability. Defendants are referred to the court by individuals such as police, magistrates, judges, attorneys, family, friends, treatment service providers and Department of Corrections staff.¹²³ In addition, the CRP project manager scrutinizes all district court arraignment lists for names of defendants familiar to the court and refers those cases to CRP.¹²⁴ Once a

defendant is referred to mental health court, the court attempts to have all the defendant's outstanding cases consolidated under the mental health court judge.

The court schedules mental health court hearings one afternoon each week. Judges assigned to the project carry a typical caseload as well as their mental health caseload. If it appears at the first hearing that a defendant may not be competent to decide whether to participate in the program, the judge (each judge has received special training in the recognition and handling of mental health problems) refers the defendant to a psychiatrist for evaluation. If necessary, the court schedules a competency hearing.¹²⁵

At the initial hearing or the first hearing following a determination of competency, the court explains the mental health court process to the defendant. The defendant must voluntarily opt-in, with the advice of counsel and in cooperation with the prosecutor. Opting-in generally involves entering a guilty or no contest plea and agreeing to treatment in exchange for suspended jail time. The pleas usually are Rule 11¹²⁶ negotiated pleas. Defendants may pursue pretrial motions before opting-in. Those who choose not to opt-in go to trial before a district court judge who may or may not be one of the mental health court judges. If found guilty, defendants may be referred to one of the mental health court judges for sentencing.¹²⁷

After a defendant opts-in to the mental health court, a treatment plan is developed by the JAS or CRP case coordinator, a defendant's existing treatment provider or the defense attorney, working with community mental health service providers. When the plan satisfies the mental health court judge, the defendant is sentenced. Typical sentences include three to five years of probation, with conditions that incorporate the mandated treatment plan and suspended jail time. The suspended portion of the sentence provides an incentive for completion of treatment.¹²⁸

Defendants appear regularly in court after sentencing, on a schedule specific to each case. The judge may see defendants weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or at even longer intervals, depending on the other supervision available and the participant's case plan. The case coordinator monitors the participant's treatment progress, living situation and compliance with probation conditions and reports to the court at the scheduled hearings.¹²⁹ The lack of probation supervision for misdemeanor offenders in Alaska places all of the monitoring responsibility on other parties.¹³⁰ If the participant does not have a JAS or CRP case coordinator, the court and the prosecutor receive reports directly from the treatment providers.¹³¹ Prosecutors, particularly the Anchorage municipal prosecutors, maintain some monitoring responsibility for the defendants in CRP.

A participant's treatment plan may be modified to account for incidents of non-compliance and to ensure that the participant's needs are met. For non-compliance, the judges can impose sanctions, ranging from counseling or admonitions by the judge, to imposition of jail time. In cases of severe repeated violations, the prosecutor may petition to revoke probation. The final step for defendants who fail to comply with their treatment plan or who choose to "opt out" of the program is revocation of probation and imposition of the suspended sentence, with credit for any jail time served while in the program.¹³²

An unusual aspect of the mental health court that distinguishes it from the typical drug court model is the fact that a defendant already in the CRP program may be arrested on a new offense and yet choose not to have the matter handled in mental health court. This may happen if a mental health court participant is arrested on an evening or weekend when the mental health court judge is not available. If the participant is facing a brief sentence, he or she may choose to plead guilty to time served or agree to a short sentence rather than wait for a mental health court hearing.¹³³ In most drug courts, substantial efforts are made to ensure that the drug court judge supervising a given participant handles all new arrests and court-related matters. Participants do not have a choice in the matter. This is part of the agreement that participants

make when they enter the program.

e. Results/evaluations. The MHTA grants for both JAS and CRP fund independent evaluations of the programs.¹³⁴ Early results for JAS, the only program evaluated to date, are encouraging. Of 243 diagnostically eligible persons referred, fifty-four defendants participated in the program. The length of time in the program for the fifty-four clients ranged from 3 weeks to 2 years, with a mean stay of 12 months. The most common reasons for non-participation included the defendant having been sentenced, released or bailed before the opt-in hearing.¹³⁵ About three-quarters of the referrals and participants were male. Ages ranged from twenty to seventy-two, with a mean of thirty-four years. Caucasians made up a plurality of participants (39%), with significant numbers of Alaska Natives (26%), African-Americans (20%) and American Indians (11%).¹³⁶

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The JAS evaluation compared participants' behavior while in the program with their behavior in the twelve months preceding their admission.¹³⁷ On average, JAS clients experienced fewer and shorter admissions to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute. Thirty-seven percent of participants had at least one admission during the program, compared with fifty percent in the preceding twelve months, and the average length of stay dropped from 12.9 days to 12.4 days.¹³⁸ They also experienced fewer arrests (1.4 arrests per participant during the program versus 3.4 during the preceding twelve months) and shorter jail stays per arrest (22.6 days versus 30.2 days).¹³⁹ Participants' housing situations markedly improved during program participation as well.¹⁴⁰

The CRP program does not yet have outcome data. Reported demographic information shows that including the fifty-four JAS participants, the mental health court saw 249 persons between July of 1998 and June of 2000. Males constituted about three-quarters of the population. Ages ranged from eighteen to eighty-six, with a mean age of thirty-eight. The CRP population had more Caucasians, over sixty percent. Seventeen percent of the CRP population were Alaska Native, eleven percent African American and eight percent American Indian.¹⁴¹ Further evaluation of JAS, as well as an evaluation of CRP, is ongoing.¹⁴²

3. Anchorage Wellness Court

a. Development of the Anchorage Wellness Court. Inspired in part by the success of the Anchorage mental health court¹⁴³ and in part by the success of other judges using Naltrexone to treat alcohol-addicted offenders,¹⁴⁴ Anchorage District Court Judge James Wanamaker developed the Anchorage Wellness Court. According to the Byrne Grant application for the Wellness Court, Anchorage district court judges estimated that at least two-thirds of the misdemeanor cases they handled involved repeat offenders who had [pg 30] either violated their probation conditions or committed new offenses.¹⁴⁵ Up to eighty or ninety percent of these repeat offenders had drug or alcohol problems (primarily alcohol problems).¹⁴⁶

A major distinguishing feature of the Wellness Court has been the use of Naltrexone, pioneered by the Butte County, California DUI court.¹⁴⁷ The Wellness Court was made available to alcoholic offenders, primarily repeat drunk driving offenders, who were willing to make a commitment to use Naltrexone.¹⁴⁸ The Wellness Court, as initially conceived, generally required defendants to have an alcohol addiction assessment and to go to a state-approved treatment provider for treatment supplementing the use of Naltrexone. In addition, defendants agreed to comply with various conditions, such as holding a steady job or becoming economically self-sufficient, attending support groups and being monitored for substance use.

The program drew from a broad base of supporters, including local non-profit organizations, Partners for Downtown Progress, the Anchorage Downtown Partnership, the municipal prosecutor's office, court administrators, the Alaska and Anchorage Bar Associations and a diverse group of community members, including several former alcoholics.¹⁴⁹ Initially, like the mental health court, Wellness Court operated without any external funding. The program began operating in August 1999 and served twenty defendants in its first year of operation.¹⁵⁰ In 2000, Partners for Downtown Progress received a Byrne Discretionary Grant of \$150,000.¹⁵¹ The grant funds [*pg 31] permitted the hiring of a case coordinator, housed in the municipal attorney's office, who works with forty defendants per year, and a community liaison, who helps participants find suitable housing and community services.¹⁵² The grant also provides "grub stake" funding to help participants meet treatment expenses and purchase materials needed to run the program.¹⁵³

The Byrne Grant funding for Wellness Court expired at the end of 2001.¹⁵⁴ Partners for Downtown Progress asked the state legislature to appropriate funds to continue the program after that date and to fund a Naltrexone court in the Juneau District Court.¹⁵⁵ The legislature thus appropriated \$75,000 for expenses related to the Wellness Court and \$10,000 for the Juneau Naltrexone Court.¹⁵⁶

b. Features of the Program. The grant application for Byrne funding for the Wellness Court describes its target group as individuals who are trapped in a cycle of alcoholism, commission of misdemeanor offenses, time spent in jail and reoffense after release -- but who have the potential to break the cycle.¹⁵⁷ This group is expected to include men and women and to reflect the ethnic diversity of Anchorage's population.¹⁵⁸ However, the Wellness Court population may contain a disproportionate number of Alaska Natives because of the migration of Alaska Natives from isolated communities to Anchorage and the susceptibility of people from small, isolated communities to the stresses of a strange city.¹⁵⁹

The Wellness Court uses many of the key components of drug courts.¹⁶⁰ These include early identification and referral of potential participants; voluntary participation by offenders; frequent appearances by participants before the same judge; timely judicial recognition for progress and sanctions for violations; emphasis on personal responsibility; treatment, including counseling and group support; and case coordination to help participants develop and successfully [*pg 32] complete a case plan.¹⁶¹ Other elements, notably the particular monitoring provisions and the mandated pharmacological intervention, both discussed below, distinguish the Wellness Court from other drug courts.

As with mental health court, referrals to the Wellness Court come from many sources, including prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, private defense attorneys and other judges. Most defendants referred to Wellness Court have misdemeanor DWI charges, either state or municipal. The program tries to consolidate all pending cases involving a Wellness Court participant before the Wellness Court judge and to resolve all cases under the defendant's case plan.¹⁶²

Judge Wanamaker holds Wellness Court hearings one afternoon each week. The judge, attorneys and treatment providers discuss ongoing and potential cases at a meeting held just before defendants and participants appear in court.¹⁶³ The actual court time devoted to Wellness Court hearings is brief -- about three hours each week.

The typical offender accepted into Wellness Court is a repeat drunk driving offender.¹⁶⁴ The court ordinarily does not accept first-time offenders. Evidence suggests that the majority of first time offenders (especially DWI offenders) referred to the Alaska Alcohol Safety Actions Program ("ASAP")¹⁶⁵ do not re-offend regardless of how the courts handle their cases.¹⁶⁶ Also, most first-time offenders do not face

enough potential jail time to motivate them to participate in the program. Wellness Court also accepts defendants with repeat alcohol-related offenses other than DWI.

After a referral to Wellness Court, the defendant appears before the judge for an explanation of the program. If the defendant, with the advice of counsel, decides to "opt-in," the judge requires the defendant to select a state-approved treatment provider for a substance [page 33] abuse assessment and a physician for a determination regarding the appropriateness of Naltrexone.¹⁶⁷ The judge may refer some defendants for mental health evaluations or schedule them for competency hearings. Defendants accepted into the program will plead to charges and have the imposition of their sentences deferred.¹⁶⁸ Most offenders participating in the Wellness Court have municipal misdemeanor charges against them.¹⁶⁹

As with typical drug courts, defendants in Wellness Court develop case plans, with help from a case manager, one or more treatment providers and their attorneys. When the court finally accepts the defendant into the program, the judge approves the case plan and sends the defendant to the chosen treatment provider to begin implementing the plan. Treatment requirements for participants include monitoring for drug and alcohol abuse, a 120-day Naltrexone regimen and participation in Nal Group, a support group for Naltrexone users.¹⁷⁰ Each individualized treatment program may include individual and group counseling, participation in twelve-step groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous ("AA") or Narcotics Anonymous ("NA") and cognitive therapy.¹⁷¹

Monitoring of participants' substance use is an important component of a therapeutic court program focusing on substance abuse. Because the body metabolizes alcohol more rapidly than it does other drugs, typical drug testing systems and schedules are inadequate to detect alcohol use.¹⁷² Wellness Court has addressed this issue through placement conditions built into case plans. Most Wellness Court participants must provide a court-approved third-party custodian, who monitors the participant's use of Naltrexone and abstinence from alcohol. Individuals who cannot find an acceptable third-party custodian or who have relapsed or violated a plan condition, but not so seriously as to be removed from the program, may be required to stay in a Community Residential Center, a residential treatment program or go on house arrest enforced by electronic [page 34] monitoring.¹⁷³ Another form of monitoring defendants in the Wellness Court project involves police officers. An innovative community policing program, initially designed for use with juveniles, trains uniformed patrol officers to supervise Wellness Court probationers. The police officers contact the Wellness Court defendants during random, frequent home visits. The officers can then perform alcohol assessments and otherwise monitor the status of the participants.¹⁷⁴ The Wellness Court also may use technology such as the Sobriator to check for abstinence. This device allows remote monitoring of participants' alcohol levels over telephone lines.¹⁷⁵

Initially, the Wellness Court expected defendants to complete their programs in six months, including a ninety-day regimen of Naltrexone. The current expectation is that a participant will complete the program in eighteen months, including 120 days of Naltrexone. Judge Wanamaker has explained that research demonstrates that longer participation times reduce the incidence of relapse.¹⁷⁶ No significant side effects appear to accompany the longer period of Naltrexone use.¹⁷⁷ Shortly after the program was lengthened, the number of defendants opting-in dropped. More recently, however, defendants were again choosing to opt-in.¹⁷⁸

Because Wellness Court structures each treatment plan individually, it is difficult to generalize about the status of legal charges and the ramifications of "failing" in the program. Typically, participants who do not succeed or who opt out are either sentenced or are brought to trial on their original charges. The court encourages them to maintain their ties with the program and the Nal Group and to speak to future Wellness

Court participants.

Several other Alaska judges have experimented with similar programs involving judge-supervised Naltrexone use for defendants in their courts. These include other Anchorage judges, judges in the Juneau district court and the Tok magistrate. The legislature provided \$10,000 to the National Council on Alcoholism [pg 35] and Drug Dependence to pay for treatment for Juneau defendants in Juneau's Wellness Court.¹⁷⁹

4. Anchorage Felony Drug Court

a. *Development of the Anchorage Felony Drug Court.* Alaska was one of the last states to join the drug court movement of the 1990s. The court system, supported by the State's Department of Corrections, the Department of Law, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Public Defender agency, applied for a Department of Justice Drug Court Program Office ("DCPO") planning grant in 1998.¹⁸⁰ The grant application noted that Anchorage trial courts were "burdened by a large volume of felony offenders known to have been under the influence of illegal drugs at the time of arrest, which allows for the deduction that violent and non-violent crimes are often committed in connection with drug use."¹⁸¹ The application also noted that a majority of both male and female arrestees in Anchorage tested positive for illegal drugs after arrest and that drug and alcohol-related offenses accounted for about one-third of felony filings in Anchorage.¹⁸²

Proponents believed that an Anchorage drug court could improve "recidivism rates, periods of abstinence, and financial self sufficiency" of low-level non-violent felony offenders who committed their offenses "while under the influence of or while in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, or while addicted to drugs and alcohol where there is some nexus between the addiction and the commission of the offense."¹⁸³ These offenders usually received straight probation or probation with jail sentences of less than six months. They typically left the judicial and correctional systems without receiving attention related to their substance abuse issues.¹⁸⁴

The implementation grant application requested \$400,000 in federal funds over two years matched by \$140,000 in state funds for a felony level drug court. Originally the court planned to target all adult felony offenders or felony probation violators with appropriate [pg 36] charges,¹⁸⁵ including both alcohol and illegal drug offenses.¹⁸⁶ The program planned to require felony adjudication in each case (*i.e.*, a "post-plea/suspended sentence" program). The three-phase treatment program for a typical offender would last twelve to eighteen months. Defense counsel would identify possible participants. The state district attorney would screen referred defendants, and a qualified substance abuse treatment provider acting as case manager would assess each defendant. The judge would hold the final approval. Upon successful completion of the program, charges would be dismissed, set aside, reduced, or allowed to stand, according to terms of individual negotiations conducted at the outset of each case. The program expected to serve thirty participants during start-up and to be serving eighty active participants (assuming new funding sources came on line) by the end of its second year.¹⁸⁷

The Alaska grant application included funding for half-time attorney positions in the state district attorney and public defender agencies -- a type of funding that DCPO typically did not grant. According to the judge in charge of the project, DCPO approved the grant because of the level of interest and dedication demonstrated by the participants in the grant process.¹⁸⁸ The fact that Alaska was one of the few remaining states without a drug court might also have influenced the DCPO to approve the atypical grant provision. The grant application did not include federal funding for court system, corrections or treatment

resources, except a salary for a case manager.¹⁸⁹

b. *Implementation of Anchorage Felony Drug Court.* Immediately upon approval of the grant, participants raised concerns about the lack of funding for treatment and the possibility that the program might siphon treatment resources away from already struggling programs.¹⁹⁰ The Department of Corrections ("DOC") offered to staff the case manager position with a DOC probation [pg 37] officer, freeing \$60,000 to fund treatment.¹⁹¹ A "future funding" subcommittee was established to identify the program's future funding needs and to work to secure state funding.¹⁹²

The court was scheduled to take its first defendants in October 2000, but several delays occurred. For example, the process of locating and contracting with a qualified treatment provider did not conclude until March 2001. In March 2001, the court contracted with a single non-profit treatment provider, Akeela, Inc. Due to limited funding, program expectations were scaled back from thirty participants at start-up to only ten.¹⁹³ The court and Akeela agreed that if enough qualified defendants could pay the full cost of treatment, the drug court could serve more participants.¹⁹⁴ Additional delays were caused by discussions between the district attorney and the public defender, lasting until June 21, 2001, about various provisions in the model plea agreement and by discussions that lasted nearly nine months regarding participant drug testing.

On June 21, 2001, about three years after the planning began, the Anchorage felony drug court expected to accept its first participants. However, at that day's hearing no defendants appeared. During the following week, five defendants did opt-in. Judge Stephanie Joannides explained the program to each defendant, referred each for assessment by the treatment provider and scheduled a return date for two weeks later.¹⁹⁵ The treatment provider found one defendant diagnostically inappropriate, and the remaining defendants formally opted-in to the program.¹⁹⁶

The drug court, as implemented, closely resembles the project described in the grant application. It targets low-level felony offenders, requires a felony plea of guilty or no contest and treats defendants in a three-phase program that anticipates graduation in twelve to eighteen months. Prosecutors and defense attorneys decide eligibility,¹⁹⁷ and the treatment provider must favorably assess defendants [pg 38] before they can formally opt-in to the program.¹⁹⁸ Treatment and monitoring includes individual and group counseling, twelve-step programs, self-help activities, random drug testing,¹⁹⁹ payment based on a sliding scale and regular appearances before the drug court judge. The judge retains the option of rewarding positive behaviors with incentives and discouraging negative behaviors with sanctions as outlined in the written plea agreement signed by each participant.²⁰⁰ The drug court plea agreement provides examples of sanctions that include

[w]arnings and admonishment from the Drug court Judge in open court, [c]ommunity work service, [f]ines, [w]ritten assignments, [i]ncreased frequency of court hearings, [i]ncreased counseling sessions and monitoring, submit[ting] to progressive searches, [i]ncreased AA or NA meetings, [m]ore frequent drug testing, [d]enial of advancement to next phase, [d]emotion to an earlier phase, [i]n-patient treatment, [e]scalating periods of confinement in jail, [and] [t]ermination from the program.²⁰¹

Incentives described in the plea agreement range from "[e]ncouragement and praise from the bench, [and] certificates of achievement, [c]eremonies and tokens of progress" to more concrete enticements such as

advancement to the next treatment phase, [r]educed supervision, [d]ecreased frequency of

court appearances, [r]educed fines or fees, [d]ismissal of criminal charges or reduction in the term of [sup>pg 39] probation, [r]educed or suspended incarceration, and [g]raduation.²⁰²

The current program also differs from the grant description in significant ways. Although the court will consider those who have committed a new felony offense, it does not plan to accept many felony probation violators or any offenders whose offense or dependence is solely alcohol-related.²⁰³ The program is also much smaller than envisioned and starts with only ten defendants, rather than thirty or more. Finally, the location, and therefore the role, of the case manager has changed. Instead of being a treatment professional on the staff of the treatment provider, the case manager's role is filled by a probation officer, funded by, and with a background in, corrections. Because the program is just beginning to accept participants, further changes in focus or procedures would not be surprising.

5. Anchorage DUI and Bethel Therapeutic Justice Courts. Alcohol issues, particularly drunk driving, were on the minds of Alaska's legislators during the spring of 2001, the first half of the twenty-second State Legislature. Twenty-seven bills and two resolutions were introduced during the session. Seven bills and both resolutions passed; other bills remained alive, pending the 2002 session. Two of the higher profile bills passed into law reduced the threshold blood alcohol level for driving while intoxicated from 0.10% to 0.08%²⁰⁴ and established pilot therapeutic court projects to handle repeat alcohol- and drug-related offenses.²⁰⁵

The therapeutic court law established new superior court judgeships in the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts to provide staff resources for therapeutic justice projects that would achieve "lasting sobriety of offenders, protection of society from alcohol-related and drug-related crime, prompt payment of restitution to victims of crimes, effective interaction and use of resources among criminal justice and community agencies, and long-term reduction of costs relating to arrest, trial, and incarceration."²⁰⁶ The legislature expressed its intent that these judgeships be located in the city of Anchorage (population 260,000) and the western city of Bethel (population [sup>pg 40] 5,500). The legislature also intended that these therapeutic courts "focus on defendants charged with multiple driving while intoxicated offenses[,] . . . serve as working models for the development of other similar courts in other areas of the state . . . [and] be adapted to fit the available local resources and cultural traditions" of their locales.²⁰⁷ The legislation prescribes detailed attributes of the drug court model to be incorporated into these courts and directs the Alaska court system, Department of Law, Public Defender Agency, Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Social Services and other agencies to cooperate to implement the pilot programs through a "mutually agreed-upon plan."²⁰⁸ The pilot projects are to run for three years, and by July of 2005, the Alaska Judicial Council must report to the legislature about their effectiveness.²⁰⁹

In addition to requiring that these courts possess the attributes typical of the drug court model for defendants (such as emphasis on personal responsibility, frequent appearances before a designated judge and timely recognition of progress and sanctions for relapses), the legislation requires these courts to serve offenders who live in areas of the state without judges, provide for prompt payment of restitution to victims and allow community work service as restoration to the community.²¹⁰ The courts must develop a list of sanctions that the program will use if defendants violate program conditions and must give the list to all defendants who request referral to the court.²¹¹ The legislation also directs the courts to consider pharmaceutical treatment for physical alcohol or drug addiction (specifically referring to Naltrexone) and allows the court to impose house arrest and electronic monitoring on participants.²¹² The prosecutor, defense or judge may refer a defendant to the court, but the State may not consent to a referral until the prosecutor has consulted the victim (if any) of the crime.²¹³ Victims are entitled to periodic reports on the defendant's participation and progress in the program.²¹⁴ As with the Anchorage felony drug court,

defendants must plead guilty or no contest or admit to a probation violation before starting the program.²¹⁵ Defense and prosecution may join in a plea agreement regarding the charges, and imposition of a sentence is suspended pending completion of the program.²¹⁶

The planning committee for both the Anchorage and Bethel courts includes state and local prosecutors and public defenders, court personnel, representatives of treatment providers, and the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Corrections.²¹⁷ The court system decided to consolidate the Anchorage superior court therapeutic court caseloads (felony drug court and repeat DWI offenders) under Judge Stephanie Joannides, who currently handles the felony drug court caseload. While the legislation specified July 1, 2001 as the commencement date for the Anchorage court,²¹⁸ the court did not begin the program until the new superior court judge became available to help handle the remainder of Judge Joannides' caseload. The court planned to start work early in December 2001, but various delays pushed the date to early 2002. The legislation specified January 2, 2002 as the beginning date for the Bethel court.²¹⁹ Delays in filling the new Bethel Superior Court position and questions about the availability of suitable treatment combined to set a new target date of spring 2002.

6. Other Therapeutic Court Projects. Several other groups in Alaska are considering the development of projects using a therapeutic model that includes consolidation of all related cases under one judge, judicial supervision of court-imposed conditions, a strong emphasis on treatment, monitoring to assure sobriety and a specific program of incentives and sanctions. One group is considering a family court that would use this model in Child in Need of Aid cases. The consolidation concept presents several difficult issues, including the possible combination of civil and criminal cases under one judge, which may raise due process and confidentiality problems.²²⁰ A dozen tribes have planning or implementation grants from the Department of Justice Drug Court Program Office [pg 42] for drug courts in rural communities.²²¹ Most of the tribal drug courts are oriented toward juveniles with alcohol problems.

Some judges are considering specialty courts that resemble therapeutic courts in important ways but differ enough in other aspects that planners are not using the term "therapeutic."²²² Several judges are developing projects that use restorative justice concepts,²²³ and the increasing number of unfamiliar terms being employed in these contexts results in confusion between these new projects and the therapeutic justice courts. One Anchorage district court judge uses a judicial supervision model with DWI defendants, but without the drug court aspects of structured plea agreements, case coordinators or managers, and phased pre-determined programs.²²⁴

[pg 43]

II. THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE: LEGAL ISSUES



The concept of therapeutic jurisprudence generally assumes that the judicial process has a therapeutic or an anti-therapeutic effect but does not imply any particular approach to justice.²²⁵ By contrast, the therapeutic justice projects discussed in this Article describe a well-defined approach that differs significantly from that embodied in the traditional American adversarial system. Most of the legal issues that therapeutic justice approaches raise have not been resolved by the courts, although a few courts have issued opinions addressing them.²²⁶ These issues include constitutional concerns, confidentiality issues and peremptory challenges to judges, a statutory issue of particular importance to Alaska.

A. Constitutional Issues

Courts that have considered cases involving drug courts have dealt with a fairly limited range of the possible constitutional issues that could arise. The cases collected by the American University Drug Court Clearinghouse have largely addressed the questions of separation of powers and equal protection.²²⁷

1. *Separation of Powers*. Many drug court-related cases deal with the defendant's rights in plea bargaining situations and the balance of powers between the executive and judicial branches in determining who is eligible for drug court programs and who makes the final decisions on admission to them. Most of the courts deciding cases related to plea bargains appear to treat drug court agreements as any other plea bargain.

For example, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals decided, based on existing case law, that the defendant had a binding agreement with the district attorney that the district attorney could not subsequently repudiate.²²⁸ In a Florida case, the District Court [*pg 44*] of Appeal ruled that because the defendant successfully completed a pretrial program, the State was bound by the fact that it had offered the defendant the chance to participate in the program and was obliged to dismiss the charges.²²⁹ By the same reasoning -- that the bargain involving the drug court should follow pre-existing law regarding plea agreements -- the Court of Appeal of Louisiana upheld the trial court's refusal to allow the defendant to withdraw his plea of guilty.²³⁰ The defendant in that case argued that the prosecutor unlawfully induced his guilty plea by recommending drug court contingent upon a determination in the presentence report that the defendant was eligible.²³¹ The Court of Appeal held that the defendant was in the best position to know that he had a prior felony that disqualified him from participation in drug court, and therefore the plea was not illegally obtained.²³²

The other major separation of powers issue focuses on the prosecutor's exclusive right to decide initial eligibility for drug court admission versus the judge's right to make the final decision about admission to the drug court. Several state courts, including those in Oklahoma and Florida, have held that separation of powers requires that prosecutors be permitted to make the first determination of admission to drug courts. Judges are not allowed to admit defendants to drug courts over the objections of prosecutors. On the other hand, Iowa and Louisiana courts have held that judges have the power to make the final decision about admission to drug court and are under no obligation to accept the prosecutor's recommendation.²³³

2. *Due Process*. A few cases address due process issues that have arisen in drug courts. For example, a Washington case held that the defendant must have a meaningful opportunity to respond to allegations of non-compliance before being terminated from the [*pg 45*] program.²³⁴ An Oklahoma case held that the court must give written reasons for termination of a defendant.²³⁵ This opinion also held that the court must state why the program sanctions were inadequate or inappropriate for the defendant.²³⁶

3. *Equal Access to Courts (Equal Protection)*. Several courts have decided that defendants have no right to be admitted to drug courts and that they can be excluded on a variety of grounds.²³⁷ Prior felonies often are mentioned as grounds for ineligibility.²³⁸ A Florida case held that a defendant does not have a constitutional right to participate in a drug court if one had not been established in the circuit in which he was charged.²³⁹ One tribal appeals court decided that an alternative court could not provide harsher penalties for a defendant than a regular court.²⁴⁰ One author has warned that therapeutic justice projects "need to be sensitive to class and race bias, real or apparent. Unless care is taken, diversion courts may tend disproportionately to work with white and middle-class substance abusers."²⁴¹

Several authors have discussed the question of equal access to drug courts when programs do not have enough slots to serve all of the eligible defendants, as well as the question of whether the costs of programs where defendants pay all or part of the costs prohibit indigent defendants from using them. These problems have often been addressed in the context of "going to scale"²⁴² or expanding the pro- [pg 46] grams to serve the estimated seventy to eighty percent of defendants who have substance abuse problems.²⁴³ One court commentator noted: "[W]e must address the fact that we are providing more resources for a misdemeanor drug offense than we are for a non-capital murder offense or a rape offense. Most states can't afford to continue to do this -- politically and fiscally -- if problem-solving courts go to scale."²⁴⁴

Another equal access issue has arisen in the context of evaluating therapeutic justice programs. The most rigorous evaluations would use a system of random assignment of eligible defendants to either a therapeutic justice project or to a control group not receiving comparable services.²⁴⁵ This approach was considered for the Anchorage Felony Drug Court, but it was rejected by planning committee members on the grounds that it would be unfair to exclude some defendants at random.²⁴⁶ Other projects have used random selection of control groups in reported evaluations.²⁴⁷

4. *First Amendment.* Two New York cases do not directly relate to drug courts but address the question of whether defendants can be required to participate in AA programs as a condition of probation or eligibility for other programs while incarcerated. In 1999, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held that the Orange County Department of Probation violated the First Amendment by recommending the plaintiff's participation in [pg 47] AA as a condition of a probationary sentence.²⁴⁸ Another case, decided in 1996 by the Court of Appeals of New York, held that because of the religious nature of AA, the prison could not impose a requirement that the defendant participate as a condition of eligibility for a Family Reunion program.²⁴⁹

These cases are important because AA programs or similar programs often are recommended or required as one of the conditions of drug court participation in addition to any other requirements. For example, AA participation may be required as a part of the Wellness Court conditions.²⁵⁰ Participation in AA is not always a requirement for Anchorage Felony Drug Court participants or Court Coordinated Resource Project clients, but it may be required for some individuals. Some judges also impose AA attendance as a condition of probation for some defendants.²⁵¹

5. *Other Issues.* The non-adversarial approach used in therapeutic courts raises questions for many attorneys. Defense attorneys suggest that the drug court environment creates too much pressure to give up suppression motions, legal defenses to the charges and other defense tools before trial.

Some writers, however, suggest that problem-solving courts can protect individual rights prior to trial by using an adversarial approach at that point, saving the collaborative approach for the post-conviction therapeutic activities.²⁵² They suggest that in the traditional plea system, the defense attorney's role is mostly limited to sentencing advocacy because few cases go to trial.²⁵³ Others note [pg 48] that the traditional plea system is coercive for most defendants, allowing relatively little time for defendants to consider plea offers, and argue that drug courts are no more coercive than the existing plea bargaining system.²⁵⁴ Not all are comfortable with the change in the defense attorney's approach from adversarial, focusing on minimizing "a client's exposure to criminal sanctions,"²⁵⁵ to collaborative, focusing on aiding the defendant's "recovery from addiction and not [on] the exercise of the full panoply of the defendant's rights."²⁵⁶

B. Confidentiality

Therapeutic courts in Alaska frequently handle sensitive information concerning participants in the programs. Programs deal with records related to participants' histories of drug or alcohol abuse treatment and records related to participants' histories of mental health treatment. Specific statutory or regulatory confidentiality protections apply to both types of records.

1. *Drug and Alcohol Courts.* Drug and alcohol courts require access to participants' drug and alcohol abuse treatment records. Information concerning a defendant's treatment history is collected as part of the defendant's initial opt-in screening or assessment. The program's treatment assessor uses this information in determining whether the defendant is diagnostically appropriate for inclusion in the program and in designing an appropriate case plan. Once a program has accepted a defendant, the drug or alcohol court team uses reports of that person's ongoing treatment compliance and prognosis to assess the person's progress. The judge uses the reports to award incentives, impose sanctions and determine whether the participant should graduate, continue in the program or be terminated from the program.

Federal statutes and regulations protect information about an individual's participation in drug or alcohol abuse treatment programs.²⁵⁷ These provisions are intended to encourage substance abusers to seek treatment by ensuring that all treatment details, including the fact that a person has participated in a treatment program, will remain private between the patient and the treatment provider.²⁵⁸ The regulations restrict access to and disclosure of information in the possession of a federally assisted drug or alcohol abuse program that would allow direct or indirect identification of a patient as an alcohol or drug abuser.²⁵⁹ A violation of the statute or its accompanying regulation is a crime, punishable by fines of up to \$5,000, loss of federal funding and loss of licenses under state law.²⁶⁰ These provisions are not absolute, however, because patients may consent to disclosure of their records,²⁶¹ and the rules contain other narrow exceptions to strict confidentiality.²⁶²

Drug and alcohol courts face two significant issues created by this federal regulatory scheme. First, the courts must know the drug and alcohol treatment histories of potential program participants and the current treatment progress of offenders actively participating in the programs. Drug and alcohol courts usually interview potential participants about their treatment histories.²⁶³ Participants consent to release treatment information, both past and future, when they first apply for the programs. The Code of Federal Regulations contains a model release, specifying the elements that a patient must include in a consent to disclose drug or alcohol abuse treatment records.²⁶⁴ These elements include the specific designation of the programs or persons allowed to make the disclosures; the specific persons or organizations to which disclosure may be made; the purpose of the disclosure; how much and what kind of information may be disclosed; and the date, event or condition upon which the consent will expire if not previously revoked.²⁶⁵ Expiration must occur no later than reasonably necessary to serve the purpose for which the consent is given.²⁶⁶

In Alaska, as in the federal model, the felony drug court obtains consent to release treatment records, based on the federal model, from potential participants at initial opt-in. The felony drug court requires an additional consent as part of the plea agreement. The Wellness Court also obtains a release at the initial opt-in stage, typically using release forms provided by the treatment providers with which it works. Wellness Court releases must be renewed annually.

The second issue facing drug and alcohol courts stems from the fact that the regulatory definition of

"program" encompasses virtually all of these courts. This subjects them to the regulatory restrictions on disclosure of information that might identify a patient as an alcohol or drug abuser.²⁶⁷ A problem arises because the courts conduct public proceedings. Although most interactions among judges, attorneys and offenders in drug court do not go into significant detail about a participant's treatment,²⁶⁸ the mere fact that a person is participating in a drug or alcohol court program indicates that the person has abused alcohol or drugs. One author notes that part of drug court procedure is for the judge to "hold[] the offender publicly accountable for the results of the [drug use] test and the treatment progress."²⁶⁹ The regulations thus create a conflict between public access to court proceedings and the court's duty not to identify or discuss drug and alcohol court participants in a public setting.

The regulations require that a written notice to the recipients of information accompany each disclosure, warning them that they may not re-disclose any information they have acquired or use it [pg 51] for law enforcement purposes.²⁷⁰ The regulations require does not clarify the participants' ability to agree to allow the court or others to disclose treatment information in a drug court session.

Use of treatment information by drug and alcohol courts is described in the Code of Federal Regulations in a section titled "[d]isclosures to elements of the criminal justice system which have referred patients."²⁷¹ Drug court team members are permitted to use such information for their "official duties with regard to the patient's conditional release or other action in connection with which the consent was given."²⁷² One authority states that the federal regulations have been interpreted to allow team members to mention confidential information in court.²⁷³ Such discussions constitute the team members' official duties and are related to the action for which the consent to release information was given.²⁷⁴ The authority goes on to say that drug court officials

should be mindful that consent has not been given to disclose confidential information to unnamed third party bystanders in the courtroom (e.g., public, press and law enforcement). Therefore, courtroom discussions should avoid specific, confidential details of a person's treatment experience and, instead, focus on more general concerns such as the participant's progress.²⁷⁵

The same authority notes that the question of whether confidentiality rules apply to drug courts has not been fully resolved. It advises drug courts to

label files (court and program) "confidential" and limit access to the drug court team and staff only, educate drug court team and staff on confidentiality law and how drug court information will be maintained, refrain from posting court calendars [sic] labeled "Drug Court," review your management information system to determine where drug court information is kept and who has access to it, and utilize written consent forms for every possible disclosure.²⁷⁶

[pg 52]

2. *Mental Health Courts.* The State plays a more active role in regulating access to, and disclosure of, patient mental health records than does federal law.²⁷⁷ Alaska Statutes section 47.30.590 provides that "[t]he [D]epartment [of Health and Social Services] shall adopt regulations to assure patient rights and to safeguard the confidential nature of records and information about the recipients of [welfare and other social services]."²⁷⁸ Regulations promulgated under this statute give patients the right to confidential treatment of their records²⁷⁹ and allow patients to give written authority to disclose their records.²⁸⁰

The mental health courts, like the felony drug courts and Wellness Court, must have access to treatment histories to determine potential participants' eligibility for the program. The courts need access to ongoing treatment records to monitor a participant's compliance with program conditions and progress. Like the other courts' participants, mental health court participants consent to release treatment information when they are first considering the program. The consent authorizes named treatment providers to exchange specified information with each other and with named court team members and authorizes recipients of the information to further "disclose it only in connection with their official duties."²⁸¹ The state mental health regulations, unlike the federal drug and alcohol regulations, do not include courts among the programs that must meet disclosure requirements. Thus, the consent form currently used allows court team members to discuss participants' cases in open court.²⁸²

[*pg 53]

C. Peremptory Challenges to Judges

An issue peculiar to Alaska and a handful of other states arises from the statutory rights of parties to peremptorily challenge the judge assigned to a case.²⁸³ The court rule implementing the Alaska statute²⁸⁴ permits parties to challenge the judge within five days of the judge's assignment to a case.²⁸⁵ Each party has a single challenge, available in all types of cases: civil, criminal and domestic. No reason for the challenge need be cited in making the motion to change the judge.

Most judges receive relatively few challenges.²⁸⁶ Occasionally an institutional party such as a prosecutor's office or a defense agency will routinely challenge a judge on certain types of cases. This can rise to a level at which the challenges begin to create substantial administrative problems, especially in smaller courts with only one judge available to hear most cases.²⁸⁷ The peremptory challenge right could create similar problems for therapeutic courts for which only one or two judges are trained and scheduled.²⁸⁸ The collaborative and voluntary nature of the therapeutic courts as they are presently structured may help avoid difficulties at the present time.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS



Therapeutic justice is too new a practice in Alaska to have been evaluated for its effectiveness. Experiences of other jurisdictions suggest that its principles hold promise for cases in which treatment -- either for addictions or for mental health problems -- could significantly reduce a defendant's likelihood of recidivism.²⁸⁹ Although therapeutic justice approaches tend to be resource-intensive in the short run, most appear to cost at least one-third less than the cost of a comparable period of incarceration. They also appear to reduce recidivism significantly more than incarceration, which should result in substantial long-term reductions in prison populations.

In Alaska, the court's commitment to using therapeutic justice principles has fostered a hospitable atmosphere for innovation. Several formal projects are applying the principles to defendants with drug, alcohol and mental health problems. Other judges are experimenting with therapeutic justice principles informally. Judges are working with other justice system professionals to design therapeutic courts for parties with a variety of problems. Despite skepticism about effectiveness, concerns about costs and questions about the philosophical validity of the therapeutic approach, many practitioners seem willing to agree that other approaches have not lessened recidivism or the ever-growing costs of the justice system.

Most observers agree that therapeutic justice projects must be evaluated to demonstrate their effectiveness.

Beyond that, suggestions for improvement are numerous but not necessarily consistent. The greatest agreement is reached on the proposition that more resources for staffing and treatment would enable therapeutic courts to operate more effectively and serve more offenders. Applying therapeutic justice principles to most offenders rather than a selected few -- or "going to scale" -- suggests a range of issues beyond the basic question of cost. One observer hypothesized that going to scale might involve restoring some balance among judicial discretion, prosecutorial discretion and legislative mandates:

[m]ost courts have had judicial discretion reined in by new penal law provisions passed by legislatures that tend to give greater discretion to the prosecutor. Many problem-solving courts [have] some arrangement between the court and the prosecutor's office in which the prosecutor cedes some discretion to the court. This dynamic tension between prosecutorial and judicial discretion is important in understanding what's been happening and what's going to happen to problem-solving courts in the future.²⁹⁰

Other issues that expanding the programs will raise are likely to include the balancing of sanctions and the difficulty of the program [*pg 55] with the potential benefits perceived by each defendant, the balancing of the coercive nature of therapeutic courts with constitutionally guaranteed protections for defendants,²⁹¹ and the consequences of applying therapeutic principles in one part of the justice system and the social services system but not in others.²⁹²

FOOTNOTES



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- ** J.D., Northeastern Law School, 1983; Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska.
- *** J.D., Golden Gate Law School, 1975; Presiding Judge for the Third Judicial District in Alaska.
- 1. Hon. Peggy Fulton Hora et al., *Therapeutic Jurisprudence and the Drug Treatment Court Movement: Revolutionizing the Criminal Justice System's Response to Drug Abuse and Crime in America*, 74 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 439, 446 (1999).
- 2. *Id.* (citation omitted).
- 3. *Id.*
- 4. *Id.*
- 5. One article attributes the creation of the term to David Wexler, Professor of Law and Professor of Psychology at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and Professor of Law and Director of the International Network on Therapeutic Jurisprudence at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan. See John Petrila et al., *Preliminary Observations from an Evaluation of the Broward County Mental Health Court*, 37 COURT REV. 14, 19 (2001).
- 6. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 443 (quoting Christopher Slobogin, *Therapeutic Jurisprudence: Five Dilemmas to Ponder*, 1 PSYCHOL. PUB. POL'Y & L. 193, 196 (1995)).
- 7. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 444.
- 8. *Id.* at 445 (citation omitted).
- 9. *Q & A: The Psychologically-minded Lawyer*, Transforming Practices, at <http://www.transformingpractices.com/qa/qa5.html> (transcript of interview with Bruce Winick,

Professor of Law, University of Miami School of Law) (last visited Apr. 11, 2002).

10. *Id.* One example provided by Professor Winick is that "no-fault in the tort area . . . emphasizes compensation, but tort victims often crave other things, like apology and a process that puts the blame on the tortfeasor and relieves them (*i.e.*, the victims) from responsibility. The resolution of tort cases therefore should include some process that allows this to occur." *Id.*
11. Shirley S. Abrahamson, *The Appeal of Therapeutic Jurisprudence*, 24 SEATTLE U. L. REV. 223, 224 (2000).
12. Writers on restorative justice often emphasize its roots in or resemblance to indigenous justice systems from various cultures, including the Alaskan Indian and Eskimo cultures. *See, e.g.*, Todd R. Clear & David R. Karp, *Toward the Ideal of Community Justice*, NIJ JOURNAL 21 (Oct. 2000) ("Sentencing circles are rooted in the traditional peacemaking rituals of both Native Canadians and Native Americans.").
13. ALASKA STAT. § 12.55.005 (Michie 2000). Alaska's sentencing statute incorporates these criteria set by the Alaska Supreme Court in *State v. Chaney*, 477 P.2d. 441 (Alaska 1970).
14. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 462-63.
15. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRUG COURT PROFESSIONALS, DEFINING DRUG COURTS: THE KEY COMPONENTS 7 (Jan. 1997), available at <http://www.nadcp.org/whatis/> (last visited Feb. 25, 2002) [hereinafter NADCP].
16. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 449.
17. David Wexler, *Therapeutic Justice: An Overview*, available at <http://www.law.arizona.edu/upr-intj/intj-o.html> (last visited Mar. 16, 2001) ("The therapeutic jurisprudence perspective, however, now applies to other legal areas, probably all legal areas. For example, the perspective applies to mental health law, criminal law, juvenile law, and other areas. Personal injury law has also received attention." (citations omitted)).
18. *Center for Problem Solving Courts*, at <http://www.problemsolvingcourts.com/index.html> (last visited Feb. 25, 2002).
19. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 454-55. One source estimates that, as of May 2001, more than 600 drug treatment courts existed throughout the U.S. STEVEN BELENKO, RESEARCH ON DRUG COURTS: A CRITICAL REVIEW 5 (2001) [hereinafter 2001 UPDATE].
20. *E.g.*, BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN DWI/DRUG COURT POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL (2000); NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE, DUI/DRUG COURTS: DEFINING A NATIONAL STRATEGY (Monograph Series 1, Mar. 1999); Larry G. Sage, *An Alcohol and Other Drug Court Experiment in Nevada*, JUDGES' J. 22 (Fall 2000).
21. John Feinblatt & Derek Denckla eds., *Prosecutors, Defenders and Problem-Solving Courts*, 84 JUDICATURE 207 (2001). Courts based on therapeutic justice principles also are termed "problem-solving courts." *Id.* at 207.
22. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 463 (citation omitted).
23. CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, EMERGING JUDICIAL STRATEGIES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL IN THE CRIMINAL CASELOAD: MENTAL HEALTH COURTS IN FORT LAUDERDALE, SEATTLE, SAN BERNARDINO, AND ANCHORAGE xii (Apr. 2000) ("While a goal for substance abusers can clearly and measurably be abstinence within the time frame of the drug court treatment program, such a practical framework is not so readily available in the treatment of mental illness. Courts cannot say, 'be cured within 12 months.'").
24. Petrilu et al., *supra* note 5, at 16 (citing Administrative Order No. VI-97-I-1A, *In re Creation of a Mental Health Court Subdivision within the County Criminal Division*, 17th Cir. Ct., Broward Co.,

Fla. (1997)).

25. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 466; *see also id.* at n.121. Unfortunately, many treatment programs in Alaska are not prepared to deal with persons who have co-existing problems, so that a very large percentage of persons who might benefit from therapeutic courts are excluded. ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL, FINAL REPORT OF THE ALASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT COMMISSION 36 (May 2000) [hereinafter *CJAC Report*] (stating "77 percent of the inmates treated by DOC mental health staff have co-occurring substance abuse disorders. The shortage of mental health services, the prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse among the mentally disabled, and the shortage of dual diagnosis treatment programs has resulted in an unprecedented number of mentally disabled individuals being arrested and incarcerated.").
26. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 467 (citation omitted).
27. Michael A. Town, *The Unified Family Court: Preventive, Therapeutic and Restorative Justice for America's Families*, at <http://www.preventivelawyer.org/content/essays/town.htm> (last visited Feb. 25, 2002). Another approach that some Alaska practitioners are considering would set case management parameters only for domestic violence cases and would not try to coordinate these with other types of cases in which the same family members were involved. Interview with Susanne Di Pietro, Alaska Court System (Nov. 28, 2001).
28. Landa B. Bailey, *The Alaska Court System's Role in Providing Equal Justice in Urban and Rural Alaska with Therapeutic and Domestic Violence Courts* (July 2001) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). Bailey notes that

[i]n a mandatory court monitored domestic violence intervention program, all batterers should be required as a condition of bail or probation to participate in a state approved batterer intervention program that also assesses whether concurrent chemical substance treatment is appropriate Sixty percent of supervised batterers in the Pilot Probation Program for Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Offenders 'were under the effects of alcohol (or drugs) at the time of the offense for which they were being supervised.'
- Id.* at 8 (citations omitted).
29. RICHARD S. GEBELEIN, THE REBIRTH OF REHABILITATION: PROMISE AND PERILS OF DRUG COURTS, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE, SENTENCING & CORRECTIONS (May 2000) at 3.
30. DRUG COURT CLEARINGHOUSE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT, LOOKING AT A DECADE OF DRUG COURTS 6 (June 1998), available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/dcpo/decade98.htm> (last visited Feb. 25, 2002); BELENKO, *supra* note 19, at 40-43.
31. CHAS. MICHAEL JOHNSON, IMPACT EVALUATIONS OF DRUG COURT PROGRAMS: THE COLLECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF POST-PROGRAM AND COMPARATIVE DATA ARE VITAL TO SOUND OUTCOME EVALUATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS ON THE OVERALL IMPACT OF DRUG COURT PROGRAMS 1 (May 31, 2001) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).
32. John Feinblatt et al., *Judicial Innovation at the Crossroads: The Future of Problem-Solving Courts*, 15 COURT MGR. 28, 32 (2000).
33. *Id.* at 31 (citing *What is a Traditional Judge Anyway?*, 84 JUDICATURE 78, 81 (Greg Berman ed., 2000)).
34. *Id.* *See also* Berman, *supra* note 33, at 80 (quoting the Hon. Judith Kaye as saying "[w]e get a lot of repeat business. We're recycling the same people through the system.").
35. *CJAC Report*, *supra* note 25, at 44-45.

36. HON. JEFFREY S. TAUBER (RET.), RATIONAL DRUG POLICY REFORM: A RESOURCE GUIDE 54 (2001).
37. Proposed Standard 2.77, cmt., Procedures in Drug Treatment Courts, Standards Relating to Trial Courts (ABA Judicial Division) at 9 (adopted August 2001), *available at* <http://www.abanet.org> (last visited Feb. 1, 2001) [hereinafter ABA REPORT].
38. *Id.* at 10. One part of the "human" success is the increased satisfaction felt by judges and others who handle cases in therapeutic courts. *See* Deborah J. Chase & Peggy Fulton Hora, *The Implications of Therapeutic Jurisprudence for Judicial Satisfaction*, COURT REVIEW 12, 13 (Spring 2000). Judge Jeffrey Tauber emphasizes the personal rewards for therapeutic court personnel as one of the primary reasons for their use. The Honorable Jeffrey Tauber, Address at Fall Alaska Judicial Conference (Oct. 25, 2001).
39. California Campaign for New Drug Policies/Yes on Prop. 36, *Drug Courts Have Limited Reach*, at <http://www.drugreform.org/prop36/dc.tpl> (last visited Feb. 1, 2001) [hereinafter *Drug Courts Have Limited Reach*]. The fact sheet says "[d]espite several years of growth, today the drug court system in California reaches only a fraction of all potentially eligible drug-abusing defendants-perhaps 5%." *Id.*
40. Funding for the Anchorage Felony Drug Court, the Wellness Court and the Court Coordinated Resources Project ("Mental Health Court") does not cover the court's costs in these areas. Funding often does not cover the costs of setting up the programs and does not always cover the costs of evaluation. For example, the Wellness Court funding from a Byrne Discretionary Grant awarded in 2000 to Partners for Downtown Progress (Anchorage) did not include any evaluation funds. Partners for Downtown Progress Byrne Discretionary Grant Application, Apr. 29, 2000 (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Wellness Court Byrne Grant*]. In the Anchorage Felony Drug Court grant awarded to the Alaska Court System in 2000, all of the court's expenses are in-kind contributions from the court system. *See* Alaska Court System Felony Drug Court Grant Application 2000 (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant*].
41. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 511.
42. *See, e.g.*, Berman, *supra* note 33, at 85 ("One final problem is . . . that these courts are highly paternalistic."); *see also* Feinblatt & Denckla, *supra* note 21, at 210 ("[T]hey pressure defendants to accept pre-ordained alternatives to incarceration. How are they making judgments about what the proper treatment modality should be for an individual?").
43. *See* Feinblatt & Denckla, *supra* note 21, at 210 ("I am concerned that what we are setting up is a wider net in the guise of help or treatment for our clients."); *see also* Carl Baar & Freda F. Solomon, *The Role of the Courts: The Two Faces of Justice*, 15 COURT MGR. 19, 26 (2000) ("[T]his prominent group of drug court supporters is ready to support increased penalties as a way of expanding the client base and increasing the retention rate of treatment programs-a major step beyond the original conception of drug courts as an alternative to already punitive drug laws. And given the commission's circular definition of drug addiction, the potential for net widening seems very real.").
44. Baar & Solomon, *supra* note 43, at 26 ("Critics [in Austin, Texas] saw the new downtown community court siphoning resources from other priority projects-and doing so in the interests of the downtown business community rather than the public.").
45. *Drug Courts Have Limited Reach*, *supra* note 39 ("[T]he four-branch drug court [in San Diego county] processes 1.7% of all potential defendants each year.").
46. *See Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant*, *supra* note 40, at 10; ALASKA COURT SYSTEM, 2000 ANNUAL REPORT 5.25 (2001).

47. At the March 22, 2001 Drug Court Committee meeting, the treatment representative noted that if all drug court clients needed intensive out-patient treatment, the program would be able to serve only ten clients for the funds available. March 22, 2001 meeting notes (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). At a later Drug Court Committee meeting, a figure of \$6,650 per client was presented. June 12, 2001 meeting notes (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). By contrast, the amount for treatment was estimated at about \$60,000. Jean Sagan, *Strategy for Sustaining Anchorage Drug Court When Federal Funding Has Expired* (Alaska Court System Oct. 16, 2001) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).
48. Gebelein, *supra* note 29, at 5.
49. *Id.* ("As the number of clients grows, the tendency is to make do with the same amount of resources as offered for fewer clients. The usual result is deterioration of treatment quality as programs are shortened and more people are crowded into each group.")
50. See Susan Turner et al., *Perceptions of Drug Court: How Offenders View Ease of Program Completion, Strengths and Weaknesses, and the Impact on Their Lives*, 2 NAT'L DRUG COURT INST. REV. 61, 82 (1999).
51. Sally L. Satel, *Drug Treatment: The Case for Coercion*, 3 NAT'L DRUG COURT INST. REV. 1, 5 (2000).
52. *Id.* at 4.
53. For example, preliminary conversations and data from Anchorage Wellness Court staff suggest that most defendants opting into the Wellness Court are older repeat offenders. Younger or first offenders do not see a need for treatment and do not have the same incentives to participate in the lengthy Wellness Court program. Nov. 7, 2001 Anchorage Wellness Court meeting notes 1 (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). Anchorage Felony Drug Court team members mention the same phenomenon. Nov. 16, 2001 meeting notes 2 (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).
54. Feinblatt & Denckla, *supra* note 21, at 214 ("[A] client facing a couple of weeks jail time for a conviction in a traditional court should not be facing a year in jail after failing to complete a sentence for community service or treatment.").
55. *Id.* at 208.
56. *Id.* at 209.
57. *Id.*
58. *Id.* at 212.
59. *Id.*
60. *Id.* at 213.
61. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 477 (citations omitted).
62. For example, because domestic violence is not an addictive disorder, some prosecutors contend that therapeutic approaches are inappropriate. See Notes on draft article by Cynthia Cooper, Alaska Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Prosecutions, Nov. 2001 (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). However, as this article emphasizes, "therapeutic" refers to the effects of the procedures used in the court, not to characteristics of the types of cases handled in the court. Features of therapeutic justice projects such as multiple appearances before a judge and swift sanctions can be appropriately used in therapeutic projects oriented to domestic violence offenders.
63. In addition to the support for therapeutic courts by the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators, Tauber, *supra* note 36, at 53-55, other national organizations expressing support include The National District Attorneys Association, The National Sheriffs Association and the National Association of County Organizations, Susanne Di Pietro, *Why*

Drug Courts (Oct. 25, 2001) (unpublished PowerPoint slides from presentation to Judges Conference) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).

64. H.B. 172, 22nd Leg., 1st Sess. (Alaska 2001) (creating two new courts and providing funding for treatment of offenders in the Anchorage Wellness Court and for offenders in the Juneau court using Naltrexone).
65. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 526 ("[M]any experts in the drug treatment field have questioned the effectiveness of legally coerced treatment due to a belief that individuals must enter a program voluntarily in order to have the requisite state of mind for recovery." (internal citation omitted)).
66. *Id.* at 480 (quoting JOHN S. GOLDKAMP, U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE, JUSTICE AND TREATMENT INNOVATIONS: THE DRUG COURT MOVEMENT-A WORKING PAPER OF THE FIRST NAT'L DRUG COURT CONFERENCE, DEC. 1993 8 (1994)).
67. NADCP, *supra* note 15.
68. 2001 UPDATE, *supra* note 19, at 6-7.
69. Satel, *supra* note 51, at 34-41.
70. *Id.* at 4.
71. *Id.* at 4-5.
72. Faye S. Taxman, *Unraveling "What Works" for Offenders in Substance Abuse Treatment Services*, NAT'L DRUG CT. INST. REV., Winter 1999, at 110-11 ("Cognitive behavioral approaches consistently appear to be the most effective treatment therapy for substance abusers.").
73. *Id.* at 126. The Wellness Court gives defendants access to cognitive therapies, including Moral Recognition Therapy ("MRT", trademarked). *See also Wellness Court Byrne Grant, supra* note 40, at 8. The Alaska Department of Corrections has trained many of its staff in the understanding and use of cognitive approaches and offers programs in many of its institutions. *See* E-mail from Christy Flintoff, Alaska Department of Corrections, to Teresa Carns (Feb. 2, 2001) (outlining the use of "Cognitive Self Change" and "Choosing Change" programs by the Alaska Department of Corrections) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). The Anchorage Felony Drug Court specified in its grant application that offenders would have varied treatment opportunities, including family counseling and services "being provided in connection with the child protection system." *Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant, supra* note 40, at 8.
74. Adele Harrell et al., Nat'l Institute of Justice, Research in Brief, Evaluation of the D.C. Superior Court Drug Intervention Programs (Apr. 2000) (unpublished report on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). "Program participants and nonparticipants on both the sanctions and treatment dockets were significantly more likely to test drug free in the month before sentencing, and a larger proportion of their tests were negative compared to the standard docket sample." *Id.* at 7.
75. Miami-Dade Recidivism Project, Final Narrative 3 (unpublished report on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). "Remarkably, of the 364, only 14 have been revoked [sic] . . . meaning that, at this point, only 4% have recidivated compared with about 33% of the 'general population' of those who have had at least one DUI." *Id.* (citation omitted) (emphasis omitted). Memorandum from Ronald F. Taylor, Social Services Program Coordinator, to Elmer Lindstrom, CJAC Steering Committee 6 (Feb. 26, 1999) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *ASAP Memo*] ("Dr. Araji's research demonstrated that 75% of the DWI offenders and 52% of the non-DWI offenders did not receive a new criminal/traffic offense (2nd) within 3 years of their original ASAP referral.").
76. 2001 UPDATE, *supra* note 19, at 28-30.
77. 2001 UPDATE, *supra* note 19, at 33-34. Of six evaluations summarized in the table on pages 33 and 34 of the 2001 UPDATE, one showed a small difference in re-arrest rates that was not

statistically significant (Tarrant County, Texas); another (Las Vegas, Nevada) showed that drug court participants were re-arrested at a significantly higher rate than the control group (26% vs. 16%). The other four evaluations in the table showed better results for the drug court participants than for the comparison groups. *Id.*

78. Steven Belenko, *Research on Drug Courts: A Critical Review*, 1 NAT'L DRUG CT. INST. REV., Summer 1998, at 7 [hereinafter *1998 Research Review*].
79. *Id.*
80. Petrilu et al., *supra* note 5, at 17 (describing the formal evaluation just getting underway for one of the better established mental health courts, the Broward County, Florida, Mental Health Court).
81. The evaluations will include the Anchorage Felony Drug Court, the Mental Health Court, the Anchorage Wellness Court, the Anchorage Felony DUI Court and the Bethel Therapeutic Justice Project.
82. *Drug Courts Have Limited Reach*, *supra* note 39.
83. *CJAC Report*, *supra* note 25, at 33 n.73.
84. INTERIM STATUS REP. OF THE ALASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL app. C, at 1 (2002) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter INTERIM CJC REPORT]. These figures were prepared in connection with the Criminal Justice Council's presentations to the Alaska legislature on H.B. 172 in March, 2001.
85. *Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant*, *supra* note 40, at 4 ("The program is likely to be most attractive at the outset to persons fearing the imposition of significant jail time. This group generally has some criminal history.").
86. Memo from Larry Cohn, Judicial Council Executive Director, to the Alaska Judicial Council, Nov. 28, 2001 (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). Mr. Cohn notes that as a private attorney in 2001, he represented a client in a drug case in which the "operation took about 3 months and cost in excess of \$20,000 for the investigation alone." *Id.*
87. *Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant*, *supra* note 40, at Budget Pages 1-5.
88. Frank Dahl, *DWI Program Offers Best Solution*, ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS, Nov. 10, 2001, at B6 ("Refreshingly, the Wellness Court program saves taxpayer dollars by mandating financial responsibility from participants through employment that covers the cost of treatment.").
89. An exhibit to a court order signed by Judge Wanamaker shows the cost of House Arrest/Electronic Monitoring to be \$14 per day. *See State v. Synette Underwood*, No. 3AN-00-8618CR, Judge's Memorandum and Order, Jan. 19, 2001, Exhibit A, Condition No. 8.
90. Naltrexone is a prescription medication that dulls the pleasurable sensations associated with alcohol use and reduces a person's craving for alcohol.
91. Telephone interview with Thea Whitehead, Partners for Downtown Progress Community Liaison (Aug. 29, 2001). The Naltrexone Treatment Order used in the Wellness Court program notes that

[t]his order should only be used in those cases where Defendant certifies that he/she has available sufficient insurance or cash to cover the anticipated \$555 to \$990 costs of this order. Further, Defendant must demonstrate that he/she has a sufficient plan for housing social group [sic] and work before the plan is approved.

Synette Underwood, 3AN-00-8618CR, Exhibit C, at 1.

92. The H.B. 172 fiscal note for treatment services anticipates 125 offenders between the Bethel and Anchorage alcohol therapeutic courts and estimates costs of \$685,400 (approximately \$5,483 per

offender for treatment). The fiscal note does suggest that a substantial portion of the cost might be "self-pay." Health and Social Services fiscal note for CSHB 172 (JUD), Mar. 26, 2001.

93. Dana Fabe, *State of Judiciary* (Feb. 28, 2001), at <http://www.state.ak.us/courts/state01.htm> (last visited April 1, 2002).
94. *Id.*
95. Each of these sections has been reviewed at least once by the judges and staff involved in these projects and by other selected reviewers statewide in November of 2001. Comments and suggestions made by the reviewers have been incorporated into the current version of the Article, as of January 2002. Readers should note that the projects change their policies and procedures to adapt to requirements set by funding agencies, changes in the law and needs and concerns of staff and participants. The information in this Article should not be used to make any final decisions about a particular case or defendant.
96. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Trust Overview, at http://www.mhtrust.org/t_ov.html [hereinafter *Trust Overview*].
97. *State v. Weiss*, 706 P.2d 681 (Alaska 1985).
98. *Trust Overview*, *supra* note 96.
99. Press Release, Governor Tony Knowles, Gov. Knowles Bill Finances New, Improved API Facility (Feb. 15, 2001), available at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/PRESS/01048.html>.
100. Gary E. Whitmer, *From Hospitals to Jail: The Fate of California's Deinstitutionalized Mentally Ill*, 50 AM. J. ORTHOPSYCHIATRY 65-75 (1980); Melissa Winger, Mental Illness in the Justice System and the Mental Health Court 4 (Apr. 12, 2001) (unpublished student manuscript, on file with Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Winger Paper*].
101. Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 3.
102. *Id.* at 2.
103. *CJAC Report*, *supra* note 25, at 34-35 ("On a snapshot day in January of 1997, 37 percent of the 3,091 inmates (or 1,154 inmates) in Alaska's correctional institutions were Mental Health Trust beneficiaries. On that same day, the census at API was 79." (citations omitted)).
104. *Id.* at 36 n.81.
105. *Id.*; see also Community Mental Health/API Replacement Project, *Project Update*, available at <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dmhdd/api/api2000.htm> (last visited Feb. 18, 2002).
106. Christopher M. Hamilton & Steven L. Hamilton, *Jail Alternative Service Program Evaluation 1* (2000) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).
107. Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 48-49. Goldkamp states that both programs started in July 1998, but the executive order authorizing the Coordinated Resources Project ("CRP") was not signed until April 1999. Ct. Admin. Order #2AN-99-02. Some form of the program operated unofficially for a period of time prior to its establishment by court order.
108. Interview with the Honorable Stephanie Rhoades, Alaska District Court, Anchorage, and Kathi Trawver, CRP Project Manager, in Anchorage, Alaska (July 26, 2001) [hereinafter *Rhoades & Trawver Interview*].
109. Hamilton & Hamilton, *supra* note 106, at 4.
110. *Id.*
111. *Winger Paper*, *supra* note 100, at 19.
112. CRP clients also do not need to be incarcerated, another difference between CRP and JAS. See Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 50.

113. Hamilton & Hamilton, *supra* note 106, at 1-3, 6; *Rhoades & Trawver Interview*, *supra* note 108.
114. Christopher M. Hamilton & Steven L. Hamilton, Court Coordinated Resources Project 6 (2000) (unpublished report) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *2000 CRP Report*] ("[T]o be eligible for the JAS program, an individual must have a psychotic or organic disorder as a primary diagnosis. The CRP, however, deals with a much broader range of primary diagnoses including depressive disorders, personality disorders, mood disorders, and substance abuse disorders.").
115. Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 51-53, 63.
116. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Status Report 2-3 (2001) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *2001 CRP Report*]. These staff members were hired in January and April of 2001.
117. *Id.* at 1-3.
118. *See* Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 49.
119. *Id.* at 58. "The Anchorage mental health court proceedings are much more informal than normal adversarial proceedings in criminal cases, and follow after the fashion of drug courts." *Id.*
120. *See id.* at 49.
121. *See id.* at xi-xii.
122. *See CJAC Report*, *supra* note 25, at 35.
123. Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 57.
124. *See Winger Paper*, *supra* note 100, at 19. In earlier phases of the court, this work was done by student interns and volunteers.
125. *See* Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 51-52.
126. Rule 11 of the Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure governs plea agreements in state court.
127. *See* Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 53-54.
128. *See id.* at 54.
129. *See 2001 CRP Report*, *supra* note 116.
130. *See CJAC Report*, *supra* note 25, at 44-45.
131. Goldkamp & Irons-Guynn, *supra* note 23, at 55. "The participant is required to sign a release of information document that permits the judge and the prosecutor to receive reports about compliance with program conditions from the mental health facility and program to which the defendant has been assigned." *Id.*
132. *See id.* at 55.
133. Interviews with Kathi Trawver, CRP Project Manager, and Steve Williams, CRP staff member (May 7, 2001). This is also supported by Judicial Council review of data and court cases for CRP referrals and participants from 2001. *Id.*
134. *2001 CRP Report*, *supra* note 116; *see also* Hamilton & Hamilton, *supra* note 106, at 1.
135. *See* Hamilton & Hamilton, *supra* note 106.
136. *Id.* at 19.
137. *Id.* at 8.
138. *Id.*
139. *See id.* at 8-14.

140. *Id.* at 2.

141. *2000 CRP Report, supra* note 114.

142. Christopher M. Hamilton & Steven L. Hamilton, Jail Alternative Service Program Evaluation 4-5 (Nov. 2001) (prepared for State of Alaska Dept. of Corrections) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *2001 JAS Report*].

143. *Wellness Court Byrne Grant, supra* note 40, at 3.

144. Letter from the Honorable James N. Wanamaker, Alaska District Court, Anchorage, to Melissa Winegar [sic], Alaska Judicial Council, 1 (Dec. 24, 2001) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Wanamaker Letter*].

145. *Wellness Court Byrne Grant, supra* note 40, at 2.

146. *Id.* The grant application notes that:

[a]lcohol consumption in Alaska is far beyond the national norms. As of 1994-95, Anchorage spent more per household on alcoholic beverages than any of the other 60 metropolitan statistical areas surveyed . . . Alaska's apparent alcohol consumption rate is the 8th highest in the nation, and Anchorage's consumption is higher than the Alaska average.

Id. at 1 (citations omitted).

147. *Wanamaker Letter, supra* note 144, at 1. The Naltrexone court ordered treatment program was developed by California Superior Court Judge Darrel Stevens. *Id.*

148. *See Frequently Asked Questions About Naltrexone* (brochure provided by Assisted Recovery Centers of America, Phoenix, AZ) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Naltrexone Facts*]; *see also* John H. Krystal, M.D., et al., *Naltrexone in the Treatment of Alcohol Dependence*, 345 NEW ENG. J. MED. 1734 (2001).

149. *Wellness Court Byrne Grant, supra* note 40, at 3.

150. Note from the Honorable James N. Wanamaker, Alaska District Court, Anchorage, "DUI/Drug Courts: Defining a National Strategy," distributed at the Therapeutic Justice Workshop, Anchorage, Alaska (Dec. 2000) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).

151. *Id.*

152. *Id.*

153. Letter from Janet McCabe, Chair, Partners for Downtown Progress, to Representatives Eldon Mulder and Bill Williams, Alaska State House of Representatives 1 (Mar. 29, 2001) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).

154. *Id.*

155. *Id.* at 3; Memorandum from Rep. Norman Rokeberg to Rep. Bill Williams and Senator Pete Kelly (Mar. 29, 2001) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Rokeberg Memo*].

156. *Id.*

157. *Wellness Court Byrne Grant, supra* note 40, at 5.

158. *Id.*

159. *Id.* at 1-5.

160. *Compare* Gebelein, *supra* note 29, at 3.

161. Memorandum on "Anchorage's Wellness Court for Alcoholic Offenders," distributed at the

Therapeutic Justice Workshop (Dec. 2000) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Anchorage's Wellness Court*].

162. *Wellness Court Byrne Grant*, *supra* note 40, at 11-12.

163. *Wanamaker Letter*, *supra* note 144, at 2.

164. Many repeat drunk driving offenders are charged with misdemeanors. Those defendants charged with a third or subsequent DWI offense within five years of the two previous DWI offenses were tried as felons until mid-2001. New legislation changes this "look-back" provision over the next five years until felony DWI will include all offenders with three or more DWIs over a ten-year period. H.B. 132, 22nd Leg., 1st Sess. (Alaska 2001).

165. The Alaska Alcohol Safety Actions Program ("ASAP") provides alcohol screening and case management services for individuals who have current or pending criminal cases. Individuals may be referred to ASAP as a condition of sentencing or as a pre-conviction condition of release.

166. *ASAP Memo*, *supra* note 75, at 6.

167. *Naltrexone Facts*, *supra* note 148. Naltrexone is contraindicated for some medical conditions and for pregnant women.

168. *Wellness Court Byrne Grant*, *supra* note 40, at 8.

169. *See Wanamaker Letter*, *supra* note 144, at 2.

170. *Naltrexone Facts*, *supra* note 148. At weekly meetings, support group members discuss progress or problems from the previous week. In addition to helping with Naltrexone-specific issues, the group functions to enhance participants' self image and to foster team spirit.

171. *Anchorage's Wellness Court*, *supra* note 161.

172. *See* Abstinence Monitoring for the Wellness Court (Oct. 6, 2000) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Abstinence Monitoring*].

173. *See* Wellness Court Policy Meeting (Jan. 10, 2001) (comments by the Honorable James N. Wanamaker, Alaska District Court, Anchorage) (on file with Alaska Judicial Council).

174. Wellness Court Order and Conditions of Release: Monitoring by Anchorage Police Dep't (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).

175. Sobriety Reference Manual (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).

176. Interview with the Honorable James N. Wanamaker, Alaska District Court, Anchorage.

177. *Id.*

178. *Id.*

179. *Rokeberg Memo*, *supra* note 155. The Juneau project was funded with a \$10,000 capital budget appropriation in May 2001. *Id.*

180. Felony Drug Court Supporting Documents, Applicant Certification Drug Court Implementation Grant, Planning Grant No. 98-DC-VX-0038, 3 (Feb. 18, 2000) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Grant Support*].

181. *Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant*, *supra* note 40, at 2.

182. *Id.*

183. *Id.* at 4.

184. *Id.* at 2.

185. *Grant Support*, *supra* note 180, at 3 ("Violent offenders, as defined in the former 42 U.S.C. § 37966ii and pages 44 and 93-95 of the Program Guidelines and Application Kit for the Drug Court

Grant Program Fiscal Year 2000, will be excluded from the drug court programs.").

186. *Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant*, *supra* note 40, at 4.

187. *Id.* at 1.

188. The Honorable Stephanie Joannides, Alaska Superior Court, Anchorage, Notes From the First Meeting of the Drug Court 1 (Aug. 9, 2000) (unpublished notes, on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereinafter *Drug Court Meeting*].

189. *Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant*, *supra* note 40, Budget Detail Worksheet.

190. *Drug Court Meeting*, *supra* note 188, at 1.

191. Notes from the Drug Court Committee Overview Meeting 2-4 (Jan. 29, 2001) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council). Committee members assumed that participants would be required to reimburse the treatment provider on a sliding scale basis, but did not expect this reimbursement to cover program expenses. *Id.*

192. *Drug Court Meeting*, *supra* note 188, at Sub-Committee Assignments & Tasks.

193. Telephone Interview with Pat McBride, Program Coordinator (Mar. 4, 2002).

194. *Id.*

195. *Id.*

196. *Id.*

197. *Anchorage Felony Drug Court Grant*, *supra* note 40, at 2 (Applicant Information). One issue that arose during planning was the question of access of defendants with non-public defender representation to the program. Indigent Alaskan defendants not represented by the Public Defender because of various conflicts are represented by Office of Public Advocacy attorneys or, less frequently, by court-appointed attorneys. Because the public defender agency received all the defense funding for the program and all the training, access of other defendants to the program was at issue. However, two of the first four defendants accepted were represented by the Office of Public Attorneys ("OPA"). Defendants with private attorneys also are participating.

198. *Id.*

199. *Id.* at 8 (Program Design Narrative). A substantial part of the program funding pays for the random drug testing that DCPO considers an essential part of the program. In the first, most intensively supervised phase, defendants are randomly tested at least twice weekly. A positive test results in quick sanctions, ranging from admonition to jail time. *Id.* at 11.

200. MODEL ANCHORAGE DRUG COURT CRIMINAL RULE 11 PLEA AGREEMENT (Alaska Judicial Council) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).

201. *Id.* at 9-10.

202. *Id.* at 10. In practice, the judge has used other incentives, including tickets to sporting events and a ride-along with a Fish and Game Officer.

203. 2001 Alaska Sess. Laws ch. 64 (creating an Anchorage DUI Court which partially responds to the need for an alcohol-related drug court).

204. 2001 Alaska Sess. Laws ch. 63.

205. *Id.* ch. 64.

206. *Id.* § 1(a).

207. *Id.* § 1(b).

208. *Id.*

209. *Id.* § 1(k).
210. *Id.* § 1(d).
211. *Id.* § 1(e).
212. *Id.* § 1(d).
213. *Id.* § 1(f). Referrals may include probation violators. *Id.* § 1(g).
214. *Id.* § 1(j).
215. *Id.* § 1(g).
216. *Id.*
217. DUI Court Update 1 (Oct. 15, 2001) (unpublished letter, on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).
218. *Id.* §§ 1(b), 7.
219. *Id.* § 1(b).
220. As of January 2002, a pilot project had been proposed for the Anchorage Superior Court with a dozen families involved in Child in Need of Aid cases. The cases would be heard by Judge Joannides. The court would apparently deal only with Child in Need of Aid cases, eliminating the concerns about confidentiality and due process.
221. Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project at American University: Summary of Tribal Drug Court Activity by State and County 2, Jan. 29, 2002, at <http://www.american.edu/justice/publications/tribalchart.pdf> (last visited Feb. 26, 2002). Tribes that have planning grants are Orutsarmiut Native Council (Bethel), Native Village of Barrow, Kawerak, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium, Organized Village of Saxman, Native Village of Kwinhagak, Organized Village of Kake, Native Village of Unalakleet, the Sitka Tribe, Chevak, Napaskiak, Kwethluk, Gambell, Chickaloon Village and Tlingit & Haida (Juneau). *Id.*
222. Members of this group of judges have emphasized that such courts would provide a process for all domestic violence cases, not allowing defendants a choice of "opting in." These courts might consolidate all cases under one judge, provide periodic judicial supervision, emphasize batterers' intervention programs (which are not considered treatment) and treatment programs (including treatment for substance abuse and mental health issues), and monitor participating offenders for their compliance with court conditions. However, the application of the concept to all domestic violence offenders rather than volunteer participants would change the nature of the courts. In the broader sense of therapeutic jurisprudence, this model of court management would have a therapeutic or anti-therapeutic effect (or mixture), but because of its differences from the projects that have come to be termed "therapeutic," and because of rising objections to therapeutic courts, some would prefer that it not be termed "therapeutic." The Honorable Peter Ashman, Alaska District Court, Anchorage, Meeting Notes, July 3, 2001, Anchorage (discussion regarding domestic violence monitoring program) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council); *see also Domestic Violence*, ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS, June 27, 2001, at B6 (discussing consideration of specialty courts by the City of Anchorage and the Anchorage Women's Commission).
223. For example, two judges in smaller communities are working to develop programs that pull community members and victims into the sentencing process using "circle sentencing." Fairness and Access Implementation Committee Meeting Summary I, Sept. 10, 2001 (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).
224. Interview with the Honorable Sigurd Murphy, Alaska District Court, Anchorage (Feb. 26, 2002).
225. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 445.
226. *See, e.g., State v. Filer*, 771 So. 2d 700 (Ca. Ct. App. 2000); *Ex parte Alissa Pfalzgraf*, 741 So. 2d 1118 (Ala. Crim. App. 1999); *State v. Upshaw*, 648 So. 2d 851 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1995).

227. OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS DRUG COURT CLEARINGHOUSE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, SELECTED OPINIONS FROM FEDERAL, STATE AND TRIBAL COURTS RELEVANT TO DRUG COURT PROGRAMS, PART II: OPINIONS (2001) (the cases discussed in this section are included in this compilation).
228. *Pfalzgraf*, 741 So. 2d at 1120. The defendant had made a plea agreement with one district attorney, who was later replaced by a newly elected district attorney. The new district attorney changed the eligibility guidelines for drug court admission and decided that Pfalzgraf did not meet them, so he withdrew his approval of her admission to drug court. *Id.*
229. *Upshaw*, 648 So. 2d at 853. The State offered the defendant admission to the drug court, but after her completion of the program wanted to prosecute her on the original sale of cocaine charge, which would have made her ineligible to participate in the program. The court ruled that once the prosecutor had made the offer, the defendant had accepted it and the court had ratified it, the agreement "was essentially a plea bargain" and subject to the rules governing plea bargains in Florida courts. *Id.* at 851.
230. *Filer*, 771 So. 2d at 706.
231. *Id.* at 702.
232. *Id.* at 706.
233. *State v. Taylor*, 769 So. 2d 535, 538 (La. 2000).
234. *State v. Valentine*, No. 45142-1-I 2000 Wash. App. LEXIS 866, at *1 (Wash. Ct. App. May 15, 2000).
235. *Hagar v. State*, 990 P.2d 894, 898-99 (Okla. Crim. App. 1999).
236. *Id.* at 899.
237. *See, e.g., State v. Filer*, 771 So. 2d 700 (Cal. Ct. App. 2000); *Ex parte Alissa Pfalzgraf*, 741 So. 2d 1118 (Ala. Crim. App. 1999); *State v. Upshaw*, 648 So. 2d 851 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1995).
238. *State v. Turner*, 636 So. 2d 815, 817 n.2 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1994).
239. *Pennington v. State*, No. 96-03750 (Fla. Ct. App. Dec. 1998), *summary available in* OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS DRUG COURT CLEARINGHOUSE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, SELECTED OPINIONS FROM FEDERAL, STATE AND TRIBAL COURTS RELEVANT TO DRUG COURT PROGRAMS, PART I: DECISION SUMMARIES (2001). This case involved a physician who, because of statutory authorization, would have been able to have charges against him dismissed as a result of successful completion of a drug court program. However, no drug court program had been established in his circuit. He entered a conditional nolo plea and appealed, but the court upheld the conviction.
240. *Blackfeet Tribe v. Rutherford*, No. 00-AC-41 (Blackfeet Ct. App. Aug. 16, 2000) *in OJP Selected Cases, supra* note 227, at 161..
241. *Gebelein, supra* note 29, at 5.
242. "Going to scale" means applying therapeutic justice principles to most offenders rather than a selected few.
243. *See Wellness Court Byrne Grant, supra* note 40, at 1-3.
244. *Feinblatt & Denckla, supra* note 21, at 214.
245. ROGER H. PETERS, EVALUATING DRUG COURT PROGRAMS: AN OVERVIEW OF ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES 16 (1996).

The most desirable type of evaluation design for a drug court program is an

experimental model, in which defendants are randomly assigned to one of two groups: (1) an *experimental group*, that participates in the full range of program activities, and (2) a *control group*, that does not receive services, or that receives services that were available prior to implementation of the drug court program.

Id. (emphasis in original).

246. *Id.* at 17.

For example, the judge, prosecutor, or defense attorney may object to random assignment of defendants in determining who will receive the services of the drug court program. Public defenders may argue that it is unfair to arbitrarily withhold beneficial program services from defendants who have a demonstrated need for treatment simply on the basis of research design factors. Issues of equal protection under the law may also be raised if defendants are randomly assigned to "treatment" or "no treatment" groups.

Id.

247. *Id.* at 16-17.

248. Warner v. Orange County Dep't of Probation, 173 F.3d 120, 120 (2d Cir. 1999).

249. Griffin v. Coffin, 649 N.Y.S.2d 903, 904 (1996).

250. Naltrexone Treatment Order, *supra* note 91, at 1 (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).

251. Interview with the Honorable Stephanie Rhoades, Alaska District Court, Anchorage (July 26, 2001).

252. See Feinblatt et al., *supra* note 32, at 32. The authors note:

[T]hroughout the adjudication process-up until a defendant decides, by virtue of pleading to reduced charges, to enter treatment-prosecutors and defenders relate to one another (and the judge) much as they always have: as adversaries. In addition to contesting the merits of each case, advocates in drug courts also argue about eligibility criteria, the length of treatment sentences, and appropriate treatment modalities (for example, outpatient versus residential).

Id.; see also Feinblatt & Denckla, *supra* note 21, at 209-10.

253. Feinblatt & Denckla, *supra* note 21, at 212 ("For a long time before problem-solving courts existed, the defense attorney's function has been mostly limited to sentencing advocacy . . . It's a rare case that you get to argue that your client is not guilty and go to trial on the merits.").

254. See, e.g., *id.* at 210 ("You have to be realistic. Problem-solving courts are not so different than any other kind of plea-bargaining court. Usually, you have until the next day to decide to take this plea or it's off the table."); Feinblatt, *supra* note 32, at 33 (suggesting that drug courts are no more coercive than the existing plea bargaining system).

255. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 479.

256. *Id.* at 480.

257. 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2 (2000); 42 C.F.R. § 2.20 (2001).

258. See NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE, FEDERAL CONFIDENTIALITY LAWS AND HOW THEY EFFECT [SIC] DRUG COURT PRACTITIONERS 2 (1999) [hereinafter *Confidentiality Laws*].

259. *See id.* at 6-7. "Federally assisted" is broadly interpreted to include direct or indirect funding. A drug or alcohol court that is an arm of a state or local government that receives federal assistance for any program is considered to be receiving federal assistance. *Id.* at 6.
260. *Id.* at 8.
261. *Id.* at 10. The consent provisions are narrowly drawn and require a variety of conditions, including the defendant's right to revoke consent and the point at which the consent will expire. The discussion notes that "a participant's consent to disclosure is not inherently invalid simply because this consent was a condition of drug court participation and the participant faced a substantial prison sentence if he or she did not enroll in the drug court." *Id.*
262. *Id.* at 13-15. Other exceptions include (among others) medical emergencies, state child abuse reporting requirements, research and audit activities and certain court orders involving specified criminal investigations or prosecutions. *Id.*
263. The federal regulations prevent treatment programs from disclosing patient records to anyone else. Patients are always free to give information about their treatment histories to others. 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2 (2000).
264. 42 C.F.R. § 2.31(b) (2001).
265. *Id.*
266. *Id.* § 2.31(a)(9).
267. *Confidentiality Laws, supra* note 258, at 6-7.
268. The drug court team and participants typically discuss results of the initial assessment (indicating whether an offender is diagnostically appropriate for a drug or alcohol treatment program), participants' compliance with treatment program conditions, and the results of drug or alcohol monitoring in open court in a drug or wellness court session.
269. Hora et al., *supra* note 1, at 475.
270. *Confidentiality Laws, supra* note 258, at 9 ("[A] participant's consent to disclosure by a therapist to a probation officer does not thereby permit disclosure by the probation officer to any other person.").
271. 42 C.F.R. § 2.35 (2001).
272. *Id.* § 2.35(d).
273. *Id.*
274. *Id.*
275. *Id.*
276. Justice Programs Office, American University School of Public Affairs, *Frequently Asked Questions*, at <http://www.american.edu/spa/justice/publications/confidentiality1.htm> (last updated Aug. 15, 2001).
277. Newly adopted federal regulations promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 may significantly influence the confidentiality and disclosure of patient mental health records. These regulations were published in December 2000 and took effect in April 2001. Covered entities (health plans, health care clearinghouses and health care providers who conduct certain financial and administrative transactions electronically) have until April 14, 2003 to comply. Small health plans have until April 14, 2004 to comply. *See* Judge David L. Bazelon, Center for Mental Health Law, *New Federal Privacy Regulations*, at <http://www.bazelon.org/privacyregulations.html> (last visited Feb. 13, 2002).
278. ALASKA STAT. § 47.30.590 (Michie 2000).

279. ALASKA ADMIN. CODE tit. 7, § 71.210(b)(5) (2001).
280. *Id.* § 71.215(c).
281. Anchorage District Court/Court Coordinated Resources Project (CRP) Release of Information (May 7, 2001) (draft) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).
282. If the mental health court should come into possession of drug or alcohol abuse patient records, the court would not be considered a "program" subject to 42 C.F.R. § 2, because it does not diagnose drug or alcohol abuse or refer clients for drug or alcohol abuse treatment. *See* 42 C.F.R. § 2.11 (2001). Because the court would be subject to the federal prohibition against redisclosure of such records for those cases, it should follow the confidentiality recommendations set out above for drug and alcohol courts. *Id.* § 2.32.
283. Teresa White Carns, Alaska Judicial Council, *Peremptory Challenges to Judges: Survey of Other Jurisdictions I* (1983) (unpublished report) (on file with the Alaska Judicial Council).
284. ALASKA STAT. § 22.20.022 (Michie 2000).
285. ALASKA R. CIV. P. 42(c); ALASKA R. CRIM. P. 25(d).
286. *See* Alaska Judicial Council, *Peremptory Challenge Records for Judges Eligible for Retention in 2000* (Apr. 24, 2000), at <http://www.aic.state.ak.us/Retention00/retgen5.htm>.
287. *See, e.g.,* Hornaday v. Rowland, 674 P.2d 1333 (Alaska 1983) (involving a dispute over the administrative order by a presiding superior court judge to transfer another judge from Homer to Anchorage because of his high rate of peremptory challenges for criminal cases).
288. Even jurisdictions without peremptory challenges must plan for judicial leave and challenges for cause. The opportunity for peremptory challenges exacerbates a situation that most courts will face sooner rather than later.
289. *2001 Update, supra* note 19, at 7.
290. Feinblatt & Denckla, *supra* note 21, at 214.
291. One proponent of therapeutic justice believes that the balance falls heavily on the side of society's right to control diseases and says that "legalization [of drug use] proponents do not necessarily favor drug treatment, as it would violate the individual's right to personal liberty at all costs They would not quarantine . . . the diseased [of drug . . . addiction] They would allow the disease to spread." TAUBER, *supra* note 36, at 9.
292. For example, a Health Policy professor suggests that using therapeutic justice principles in courts will require changes in the child protection and other social systems in order to be effective. Berman, *supra* note 33, at 85.

National District Attorneys' Association

NDAA Logo

Resolution

Support and Endorsement of Drug Courts

- WHEREAS,** the National District Attorneys' Association (NDAA) is the voice of America's prosecutors and supports their efforts to protect the rights and safety of the citizens of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** drug courts provide the focus and leadership for community-wide, anti-drug systems, bringing together criminal justice, law enforcement, treatment and other community partners in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and
- WHEREAS,** a recent report from Columbia University's prestigious National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), the first to look at the effectiveness of the drug court model on offenders while in a program as compared to other forms of community supervision, concludes that *drug courts provide closer, more comprehensive supervision and much more frequent drug testing and monitoring during the program, than other forms of community supervision*; and
- WHEREAS,** the CASA study also found that *drug use and criminal behavior are substantially reduced while offenders are participating in drug court*; and
- WHEREAS,** the drug court movement has grown from the 12 original drug courts in 1994 to over 400 currently, with many more in the planning stages; and
- WHEREAS,** it is in the best interest of NDAA, on behalf of the nation's prosecutors, to support and endorse drug court programs nationwide; and
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that NDAA declares that drug courts make significant contributions to society by breaking the cycle of drug addiction and its concomitant crime.

twentieth century Mexican-American advocates fought hard for the privileges that came with being white in America. But since the 1960s activists have sought to reap the benefits of being nonwhite minorities. Having spent so long trying to fit into one side or the other of the binary system, Mexican-Americans have become numerous and confident enough to simply claim their brownness—their mixture. This is a harbinger of America's future.

The original melting-pot concept was incomplete: it applied only to white ethnics (Irish, Italians, Poles and so forth), not to blacks and other nonwhites. Israel Zangwill, the playwright whose 1908 drama *The Melting Pot* popularized the concept, even wrote that whites were justified in avoiding intermarriage with blacks. In fact, multiculturalism—the ideology that promotes the permanent coexistence of separate but equal cultures in one place—can be seen as a by-product of America's exclusion of African-Americans from the melting pot; those whose assimilation rejected came to reject assimilation. Although the multicultural movement has always encompassed other groups, blacks gave it its moral impetus.

But the immigrants of recent decades are helping to forge a new American identity, something more complex than either a melting pot or a confederation of separate but equal groups. And this identity is emerging not as a result of politics or any specific public policies but because of powerful underlying cultural forces. To be sure, the civil-rights movement was instrumental in the initial assault on racial barriers. And immigration policies since 1965 have tended to favor those immigrant groups—Asians and Latinos—who are most open to intermarriage. But in recent years the government's major contribution to the country's growing multiculturalism has been—as it should continue to be—a retreat from dictating limits on interracial intimacy and from exalting (through such policies as racial set-asides and affirmative action) race as the most important American category of being. As a result, Americans cross racial lines more often than ever before in choosing whom to sleep with, marry, or raise children with.

Unlike the advances of the civil-rights movement, the future of racial identity in America is unlikely to be determined by politics or the courts or public policy. Indeed, at this point perhaps the best thing the government can do is to acknowledge changes in the meaning of race in America and then get out of the way. The Census Bureau's decision to allow Americans to check more than one box in the "race" section of the 2000 Census was an important step in this direction. No longer forced to choose a single racial identity, Americans are now free to identify themselves as mestizos—and with this newfound freedom we may begin to endow racial issues with the complexity and nuance they deserve. □

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[Crime]

CATCH AND RELEASE

The inevitable consequence of America's high incarceration rate is a high prison-release rate—and the prisoners getting out are often more violent or antisocial than they were before. It's time to rethink—and rebuild—rehabilitation and parole

BY MARGARET TALBOT

Every day in America some 1,600 people will leave state and federal prisons. Most will start their journey with "gate money" (from \$20 to \$200), a one-way bus ticket, and little else. Many will be drug abusers who received no treatment for their addiction while on the inside, sex offenders who got no counseling, and illiterate high school dropouts who took no classes and acquired no job skills. A lot of them will be sick: rates of HIV, tuberculosis, and hepatitis C are all considerably higher among prisoners than in the general population. Many of them will be obdurate "churners," who have already been reincarcerated for a new crime or a parole violation and are now being let out again. Only about 13 percent will have participated in any kind of pre-release program to prepare them for life outside. Nearly a quarter of them will be sent home unconditionally and with no supervision. And two thirds (up from one half in 1984), according to the Urban Institute, will return to just a few metropolitan areas in their states, where they will be further concentrated in struggling neighborhoods that can ill afford to accommodate them.

It's not quite fair to say that no one thought about these sorts of things when the rage for incarceration began to dominate American crime policy, in the early 1980s, but it's not far from the truth either. Almost all prisoners get out eventually. What happens when they do, however, is not a topic that held the interest of the legislators who passed mandatory-sentencing laws, abolished parole boards, and eliminated funding for prisoner education. As a result, prison sentences have grown longer while prisons have become places where nothing is done to reprogram criminals for the life outside to which 95 percent of them will return. "Our contemporary prisons basically replicate the social order that produced the offenders to begin with," says Mark A. R. Kleiman, a professor of public policy at the University of California at Los Angeles. "Their signal qualities are violence, idleness, and noise."

Until the early 1980s prison education and rehabilitation programs were deeply embedded in American corrections. But over the past twenty years—a period in which the U.S. prison population has increased fourfold—vocational and educational programs for prisoners have dwindled steadily.

Funding once earmarked for such programs has gone instead toward constructing new facilities and providing health care for an older and sicker inmate population.

Prison programs lost their funding partly in response to research in the 1970s that implied they had scant success in cutting recidivism. But new studies suggest that certain kinds of programs do work to increase employment and reduce criminality. Adult literacy and GED classes, vocational training with a realistic eye to the job market, cognitive therapy for sex offenders, and drug-abuse counseling that continues after release have all shown modest but cost-effective success. A recent study sponsored by the Virginia Department of Correctional Education, in which ex-inmates were tracked for fifteen years, found that recidivism among those who had pursued an education while in prison was 59 percent lower. More-comprehensive studies on prison educational programs have shown that reincarceration is 20 percent less frequent for participants. Even allowing for the inevitable selection bias (those who enroll in optional prison programs are more motivated to succeed in the first place), these are pretty encouraging results. "It's an ironic story," says Todd Clear, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, in New York, "in that just as the evidence for programs that reduce recidivism was growing, the willingness and capacity to fund them shrank."

Meanwhile, the culture of parole has changed too. Resources for supervising parolees have not kept pace with the growing numbers of them, so caseloads are bigger. In the 1970s the average parole officer oversaw forty-five ex-offenders, according to the Urban Institute, whereas today the number is about seventy. One consequence has been an emphasis on surveillance rather than more time-consuming personal relationships between officers and parolees, which has meant that many more parolees are charged with technical violations. Indeed, parole violators make up a rapidly growing class of prisoners: in 1980 they accounted for 18 percent of admissions; today they account for a third, and most of them have been sent back on technical grounds. But many technical violations—leaving a designated area, not showing up for a meeting with the parole officer—aren't crimes, and it's not at all clear that improving the capacity to detect technical violations or locking up more parole violators enhances public safety. What we can say is that this approach is expensive: California, which sends more parole violators back to prison than any other state, spends some \$900 million a

year to house them, for average stays of about five months.

The larger problem, though, is that in many places we have replaced discretionary parole, in which parole boards decide when a prisoner is ready for conditional release, with a regime that eliminates much of the discretion not only from parole but also from sentencing. In so doing we have removed some powerful incentives for prisoners to become the sort of people we would want to send home again. Parole boards came under attack in the 1970s: the right criticized them for being too lenient, the left for being too hard on minorities, and good-government types for being too beholden to the narrow political interests of the governors who appointed them. In 1977 parole-board decisions still accounted for 88 percent of all prisoner releases; by 2000 they accounted for only 24 percent.

In some ways this was an improvement: it removed an element of arbitrariness from the parole process. But the social cost was high. As Joan Petersilia, a criminologist at the University of California at Irvine, explains in a forthcoming book, *When Prisoners Come Home*,

A majority of inmates being released today have not been required to "earn release" but rather have been "automatically released." Parole boards used to examine a prisoner's "preparation" for release, including whether she or he had a place to live, a potential job, and family support. With determinate sentences [fixed prison terms in which parole boards have no say], these factors are not relevant to release. When of-

fenders have "done their time," they are released no matter what level of support is available to them or how prepared they are for release.

One ramification of this is that in a growing number of cases prisoners have "maxed out" on their sentences and are being released unconditionally. Because of new so-called truth-in-sentencing laws (mandating that a prisoner serve most of his or her sentence behind bars and not on parole), by the time some prisoners get sprung, the penal system no longer has any hold over them. In 1977 only four percent of prisoners maxed out; by 1999, 18 percent did. "We have about 150,000 people getting out scot-free each year now—no supervision, nothing," Petersilia told me recently. And although some of these are minor offenders who served short sentences, many are what the former assistant attorney general Laurie Robinson calls the "baddest of the bad"—prisoners who failed to qualify for any early-release credits, or who had committed such violent crimes that they were ineligible for early release. "In Massachusetts," Mark Kleiman says, "you can graduate from a super-max facility at Walpole—where the lights are on all the time, you never



PRISON EXERCISE PROGRAM

see another human face because all the guards are wearing hockey masks, and you leave your cell one hour a day for exercise—straight to the street. And that is not atypical. But nobody ought to be able to walk straight from a prison to the street. Inmates need to decompress. That's what halfway houses were supposed to be for."

Over the past year or so some of the dismal facts about "prisoner re-entry" have come under new scrutiny and have begun to generate some creative thinking. For one thing, parole clearly needs to be reformed. It is not working: more than 40 percent of released inmates are back in prison within three years. Part of the problem is the all-or-nothing response to technical violations. "We need a system that does not have as its only sanction ending the experiment of parole for someone entirely," says Kleiman, who advocates a range of prescribed and immediate but less drastic sanctions, such as short confinements in "halfway-back houses," for people who have been caught in technical violations of parole.

A handful of jurisdictions around the country—including Richland County, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Indiana—are now experimenting with a promising institution called re-entry court, which is charged with overseeing a prisoner's reint-

THEY'RE BACK

Prisons are disgorging ever larger numbers of ex-convicts



gration into society. Here "conditions of parole are openly agreed to and openly enforced," as Jeremy Travis and Sarah Lawrence, of the Urban Institute, write. "If a new crime is committed, all bets are off and the parolee is prosecuted for the new crime." The violations of parole that now fill prisons, though, are handled differently—with "support services, close judicial monitoring, graduated sanctions for failure to meet conditions, and local detention where needed to enforce the orders of the court." Travis has argued for a twist on this approach: making sentencing judges responsible for coming up with a re-entry plan for prisoners. Judges would tell men and women they had just sentenced that they must begin preparing in prison for the return home, and would order drug rehabilitation, job training, or whatever other programs were called for

At the same time, prison programs have been experiencing a renewal. A few prisons are involving families and community groups in an inmate's release plan before he is let out. The Vera Institute of Justice's Project Greenlight, for example, brings representatives of community organizations into the Queensboro Correctional Facility, in New York, to talk to prisoners about jobs they might seek once they're free. It also provides counseling for prisoners and their families before the prisoners' release. When prisoners serve longer sentences, as they have done in recent years, family ties are likely to be more attenuated, meaning that inmates are likely to require more help to reconstruct them. Of course, not everybody wants to participate in easing a relative's transition from prison; often family members have been the inmate's victims. But when prisoners can go home to families, they seem to fare better, both in the crucial first few months after release and later.

A few prison systems, notably Oregon's, have been trying out more-practical kinds of vocational training, geared to job openings in fields such as telemarketing and computer-aided mapping of water and tax districts. This has cut recidivism. Meanwhile, Missouri's prison system, under the leadership of Dora Schriro, has come up with a more comprehensive approach whose premise is that prison life should actually resemble real life as much as is practicable. Every offender engages "during work and non-work hours in productive activities that parallel those of free society," as Schriro describes the rules in a paper written for the National Institute of Justice. "In work hours offenders go to school and work and, as applicable, to treatment for sex offenses, chronic mental-health problems, and drug and alcohol dependencies. In non-work hours they participate in community service, reparative activities, and recreation."

Schriro says that from 1994 (when the program went into effect) to 1999 the proportion of inmates returned to prison in Missouri for felony offenses fell from 33 percent to 20 percent. That's impressive in itself. Still more promising, however, is the larger idea this approach evokes. It may be that as a society we want to keep our incarceration rates higher than those of other industrialized democracies (though not, surely, as high as they have been, given how many prisoners are parole violators and drug offenders). After all, there is fairly good evidence that the prison boom was responsible for about a quarter of the decline in crime in the 1990s. But if we do want to keep our prisons full, we must endow them with a purpose broader than incapacitation. We will have to take up again, in new form, the goal of re-making prisoners for life beyond bars. We will have to accept that the question before us is not only how stringently we want to punish people in prison but also what kind of people we want to see emerge from it. ■

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February 21, 2003

CHAIR, EX OFFICIO
Dana Fabe
Chief Justice
Supreme Court

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Judicial Council's description and evaluation of the data available about the Court Coordinated Resource Project (CRP, or Anchorage Mental Health Court). The Alaska Court System and the Mental Health Trust Authority asked the Judicial Council to evaluate the outcomes for a group of defendants participating in the CRP during 2001. The Council provided the CRP with a database to enter information about the defendants, trained CRP staff in use of the database, collected added data about CRP defendants from several sources, and analyzed outcomes for those defendants. The evaluation also included findings about the CRP defendants such as ethnicity, gender, and case processing.

In brief, the findings show that the CRP provides much needed services to a significant group of defendants. The outcomes for the selected defendants in 2001 show that defendants had fewer API and jail days after beginning the program than before. They also had fewer arrests and admissions to API. The program served a wide range of defendants, including some that no other court program has been able to work with. These findings suggest that further experience with the CRP project could show more benefits for Alaska's mentally disabled defendants and the agencies that work with them.

We welcome comments and questions about this evaluation. Please contact Teri Carns, Senior Staff Associate at the Alaska Judicial Council.

Court Coordinated Resources Project Evaluation Report

Prepared by:
The Alaska Judicial Council
1029 West Third Avenue, Suite 201
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January 2003

Court Coordinated Resources Project Evaluation Report

*Prepared by the Alaska Judicial Council
for the Alaska Court System,
Mental Health Trust Authority, and
Court Coordinated Resources Project*

January 2003

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The Judicial Council thanks the many people who have contributed information and understanding to this report. Chief among these are the Alaska Court System, which provided much of the data, and the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections for information about outcomes. Alaska Psychiatric Institute and Alaska Comprehensive and Specialized Evaluation Services at the University of Alaska Anchorage cooperated to provide data about API services. The Mental Health Trust Authority, through an Alaska Court System contract, funded the evaluation.

The staff of the Court Coordinated Resources Project provided the services described in the evaluation. Judge Stephanie Rhoades, who initiated the court, Judge John Lohff, Project Manager Kathi Trawver, and OPA Case Coordinator Steve Williams carried the primary responsibility. Jail Alternative Services Program Manager Colleen Patrick-Riley (Department of Corrections) and JAS Case Coordinator Laura Brooks also contributed to the project.

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Part I: Introduction and Summary of Findings

A. Introduction

In July 1998, the Mental Health Trust Authority (MHTA) funded the Court Coordinated Resources Project (CRP) to offer services to mentally disabled persons convicted of misdemeanor offenses in the Anchorage District Court.¹ The CRP worked with a MHTA-funded companion program in the Department of Corrections (JAS, or Jail Alternative Services), the municipal and state prosecutors, defense agencies and others to design individualized programs of treatment, housing, medication and other services. The MHTA continues to fund both JAS and CRP, with funding anticipated through fiscal year 2005.

The CRP has not had an outcome evaluation since its inception, although it has been the subject of several nationally-distributed reports and articles, a student honors paper, descriptive reporting done by C&S Management Associates in conjunction with JAS evaluations and other reports. This report is the third prepared by the Judicial Council for the CRP project. In October 2001, the Judicial Council provided brief information about its evaluation activities to CRP. A March 2002 report included a more detailed description of the evaluation process and issues and descriptive data about 175 defendants who participated in CRP between April 2001 and October 2001. The present report gives the outcome analyses for that group of defendants and incorporates most of the March 2002 report. The Judicial Council may prepare additional reports.²

¹ See Appendix D for excerpts from the "CRP Policy and Procedures," for a description of the program operations. Those unfamiliar with CRP operations should read either Appendix D, or the ALASKA LAW REVIEW article, Carns, et al, "Therapeutic Justice in Alaska's Courts," 19 ALASKA LAW REVIEW 1 (2002). Pages 21 - 29 of the law review article describe the CRP operations.

² This report covers only the Judicial Council's evaluation for the Mental Health Trust Authority. The CRP reports independently to the Mental Health Trust Authority about its activities.

B. Summary of Findings

1) Outcomes for CRP Participants

a) **CRP Participants Improved on All Outcome Measures.** CRP participants showed improvement on all of the outcome variables measured.³ Both the numbers and length of jail and API stays diminished after defendants began participating in CRP. Even in this brief evaluation period, the state and Anchorage governments benefitted substantially, with a savings of about \$73,991 in jail costs and \$117,163 in API costs. Improved outcomes result in potential net savings for law enforcement, prosecution, defense, courts, victims, and others.

i) Alaska Psychiatric Institute measures.⁴

- CRP participants showed fewer **days of commitment** during the period following the first hearing in CRP (8.8 days), as compared to the twelve-month period prior to a first appearance in CRP (10.4 days).
- CRP participants showed about half as many **admissions to API** during the period after the first CRP appearance (.7 admissions) as compared to the twelve months before the first CRP hearing (1.5 admissions).

³ This evaluation measured success by the defendant's improvement on the outcome measures after the defendant began to participate in CRP, using either the first hearing date (API data) or the disposition date (arrests and incarceration data) as the beginning of the evaluation for each case. The outcome analysis includes, depending on the defendant, information about the defendant during the program, or after completion of the program, or both. Longer followup and more complete data sources might show that the defendant's completion of the program resulted in greater benefits than this evaluation could show.

⁴ Note that these definitions are different from those used for evaluating arrests and incarcerations. The Council had only one opportunity to ask for data from API for this report. The evaluators asked that API summarize the data for the twelve months prior to the date of the first hearing in CRP, and for whatever period of time was available after the first hearing in CRP (times in CRP varied substantially from one defendant to the next, and were often difficult to find in the court record). After reviewing these data, and the more complete data from the Department of Corrections about days of incarceration, the evaluators concluded that it would have been more accurate and shown more substantial change to have used the date of opt-in to CRP for the API evaluation, generally defined as the date on which the defendant entered a plea or otherwise indicated the willingness to actually participate in the program. For this evaluation, it was not possible to return to API and ask for the different data definition.

ii) Department of Corrections incarceration days and Department of Public Safety arrest measures

- CRP participants showed an average of 27.8 days of incarceration during the six months before CRP disposition, and an average of 23.3 days during the six months after CRP disposition. Those who received the most service from CRP (eight or more hearings)⁵ showed an average of 31.1 days for the six months before and 19.5 days during the six months after period. This is an average of 11.6 days of incarceration saved by participation in the CRP program. Defendants who had seven or fewer hearings in CRP averaged 25.6 days before and 25.6 days after, indicating that those who considered the CRP program but did not participate substantially did not benefit, as would be expected.
- All CRP participants had an average of 1.5 arrests during the six months prior to CRP disposition and only 0.6 arrests during the six months after. CRP participants showed no substantial difference in the number of arrests when the data were analyzed by the number of hearings held with them in CRP (i.e., eight or more; seven or fewer hearings).

b) CRP Benefitted State and Local Agencies, and the Public. CRP participation benefitted various agencies and the public by:

i) **Reduced cost of incarceration:** At \$113.31/day, for the 142 defendants with information available, the state saved an average of 4.6 days per defendant, or 653 days of incarceration and \$73,991. Defendants with mental health issues may require more costly services, so this amount of savings may be underestimated.

ii) **Reduced cost of arrests:** Although no data were available on the cost of arrests, an average arrest involved at least an hour of the officer's time, booking time at the jail (a DOC expense) and often prosecutor, defense attorney and court time. A reduction by half of the numbers of arrests in a six-month period saved expenses for several agencies. This savings appeared to occur for most participants considered by CRP or substantially participating in CRP.

⁵ Because CRP did not have a specific program that each defendant followed, project staff decided to define the levels of service offered in CRP by the number of appearances each defendant made in court. The supervising judge set eight or more hearings in CRP as the threshold for saying that a defendant had received CRP services and seven or fewer hearings in CRP as the criterion for saying that although a defendant had some attention from CRP, the defendant could not be defined as "receiving CRP services." This distinction between eight or more hearings to represent CRP service and seven or fewer hearings to represent defendants who interacted with CRP but who did not receive significant CRP services has been used throughout the report.

iii) **Reduced cost of API days:** A single day's stay at API in 2001 cost \$732.27. For the 160 participants in CRP for whom data were available, approximately 1.6 days were saved for each defendant (as compared to the previous 12-month period), or 160 days total and about \$117,163.

iv) **Reduced cost of API admissions:** Again, no data were available, but a typical API admission involved professionals who assessed the individual's condition and needs, and performed related tasks.

v) **Reduced cost to potential victims:** Fewer arrests for the CRP participants (who are more intensively supervised than other misdemeanor offenders) suggested that the CRP participants were committing fewer crimes, at least while they were in the program, thus resulting in fewer victims.

2) CRP Demographic Data

a) **CRP Served Defendants with Serious Misdemeanors.** About 47% of the defendants had a violent offense for their single most serious original charge, ranging from Arson 1 to Violating a Domestic Violence Order. CRP's willingness and ability to serve those charged with violent offenses was one of the most important findings in this report. Violent offenders constituted about 26% of Anchorage district court offenders in FY'01⁶ and often were excluded from participation in treatment and other rehabilitative programs. Other therapeutic courts in Anchorage reported (anecdotally) that they rarely were able to serve violent offenders.

b) CRP Served a Varied Range of Defendants.

i) **Age:** Defendants were not evenly distributed, with fewer between the age ranges of 20 - 29 years (27%) and 30 - 39 years (31%), and more who were 40 years and older (36%). Defendants were older, on average, than defendants in the Council's 1999 felony study (see Table 1, Appendix B).⁷

⁶ Alaska Court System Annual Report, FY'01, page S-51.

⁷ The Judicial Council will report on the 1999 felonies collected in a statewide sample, in a separate study in 2003.

ii) **Defendants' Sex:** Thirty percent of the defendants seen in CRP were female, a sizable minority. For comparison, about 17% of the defendants in the sample of 1999 felony defendants were female (see Table 2, Appendix B).

iii) **Defendants' Ethnicity:** Caucasians constituted about half (51%) of the participants in this CRP group. African-Americans were about 9% of the group and Alaska Natives/American Indians were about 29% (see Table 3, Appendix B).⁸ These percentages mirrored the percentages of the different ethnic groups in the 1999 Felony Study.

3) CRP Case Characteristics

a) CRP Case Processing.

i) **Charges at conviction:** Most convicted defendants had only one charge against them at the time of conviction.

ii) **Type of plea:** Nearly all of the defendants who were convicted had entered a no contest plea. None had been convicted at trial.⁹ There were no significant differences by type of case management, whether JAS, CRP, or no case management. About 28% of the convicted defendants entered pleas without specific charge or sentence agreements on the record. The remainder entered pleas under Criminal Rule 11, with most of the pleas involving sentence agreements rather than charge agreements.

iii) **Incarceration before plea/trial:** Most of the defendants seen in CRP (93%) had been incarcerated before trial. The amount of time incarcerated ranged from less than one day (7%, N=12), to 181 to 364 days (1%, N = 2). About 29% had been incarcerated for one to five days, 43% had spent six to 30 days, and 20% had served 31 to 150 days.

iv) **Attorney Type:** The state or municipal public defender or the Office of Public Advocacy represented most of the defendants (90%), rather than a private attorney. In the 1999 felony study, about 83% of Anchorage defendants had a public attorney, and 17% had a private attorney.

⁸ Asian-Americans were about 2%, and unknown ethnicity was about 9%. The relatively high percentage of unknown was probably due to the fact that these were misdemeanor defendants, for whom data often were missing.

⁹ The program allows for the possibility that defendants convicted after trial can participate in CRP; however, none in this sample had gone to trial.

v) **Municipal or State Charges:** Municipal prosecutors filed 76% of the charges and state prosecutors filed about 24%. Defendants with a JAS case coordinator were more likely to have had state charges against them than other defendants in the program.

b) **CRP Defendants and Jail Time.**

i) **No jail or time to serve in jail as part of sentence:** Of the 157 defendants for whom information was available, about 47% were sentenced to no jail time on the single most serious charge against them, or their cases were pending or all charges had been dismissed. About 53% were required to serve some jail time in conjunction with their single most serious CRP charge (although through credit for time served pretrial, many of these defendants may have been released from jail at the time of sentencing or shortly thereafter). Neither the type of case management (OPA case coordinator, JAS case coordinator, other/none case coordinator) nor the level of services received from CRP (eight or more hearings, seven or fewer hearings) was associated statistically with the jail time imposed.

c) **Length of Time Sentenced to Jail:** Judges required fifty-seven defendants (69% of the 83 defendants who had a jail sentence) to serve a period between one and thirty days, and twenty-six defendants (31% of those with jail sentences) to serve between two and twelve months on their single most serious charge. JAS defendants were more likely to serve time in jail than were the other two groups.¹⁰ This may reflect the fact that the JAS defendants were identified while they were incarcerated, or other characteristics of JAS defendants that did not appear in the data. There were no significant differences by the level of CRP service.¹¹

d) **CRP Outcomes Were Similar by Type and Level of Service:** Overall, a few differences appeared in this data set between the defendants served by CRP (eight or more hearings) and those not served by CRP, (seven or fewer hearings). The most important difference was in the number of days incarcerated before and after CRP service. Defendants who had eight or more hearings were incarcerated 11.6 fewer days during the six months after CRP disposition than during

¹⁰ CRP-managed defendants were more likely to have pending charges, reflecting the shorter period of the OPA case coordinator's employment, as compared to the JAS case coordinator's employment.

¹¹ Defendants who had eight or more CRP hearings had sentence lengths comparable to those with seven or fewer hearings. This is a different measure from that showing that defendants with eight or more hearings were incarcerated fewer days during the six months after the CRP disposition than were defendants with seven or fewer hearings in CRP. The before and after comparison shows that defendants with CRP services actually served fewer days of incarceration than they had during the six months prior to CRP. This could be because, even if actual sentence lengths were the same for the two groups, the group with more services may have spent less time incarcerated for probation violations or other reasons than did the group with fewer services during the six-month-after period.

the six months before CRP service. The analysis could find no significant differences among the defendants served by JAS as compared to those served by the OPA case coordinator or neither case coordinator. These data were limited in both time (only for a six-month period) and number of cases. Additional analysis with more data and longer time frames could find more differences by one or both of these variables.

Part II: The CRP Evaluation Background and Process

The Judicial Council evaluated the CRP in the context of its ongoing evaluation of several other therapeutic justice projects. Other evaluations in progress included the Anchorage Felony Drug Court, the Anchorage Wellness Court, the Anchorage Felony DUI Court and the Bethel Therapeutic Court. The Council used accepted evaluation techniques for its work in each of these projects.

Evaluating the CRP presented special difficulties. In the other projects mentioned that focused on "curing" a person's drug or alcohol addiction, the programs were designed with a beginning (usually the date on which the defendant's plea was entered and final agreements were signed), a middle (phases or specific steps to completion), and an end (the "graduation" date). The programs typically were structured with status hearings before the judge with all members of the team, monitoring of drug or alcohol use, specified sanctions and incentives, various types of treatment requirements, and other conditions (such as employment). The programs tended to be similar from one defendant to the next, and the treatment in all of the programs was limited to one or two contracted providers.

The Mental Health Court, CRP, usually dealt with chronically mentally disabled defendants for whom the desired outcome was not a cure but stability or improvement in conditions. Because of the very individual nature of each defendant's situation and illness or condition, CRP did not have a set (or even similar) program for each defendant. Not only did the programs differ from client to client, but they lasted different lengths of time, from a few weeks to a year or more. There were no specific criteria for successful "completion" of a CRP program – the judge, treatment providers, case coordinators and attorneys decided when the defendant had met the individual requirements. In the other drug/alcohol court projects, all of a defendant's cases were consolidated before the therapeutic judge, as a condition of participation. In CRP, some defendants had cases that were not handled by the CRP, and may have had different CRP cases going on at the same time. Because of the fluid nature of the project, the evaluators and staff for the CRP carefully considered how to best evaluate the effectiveness of the CRP.

The Judicial Council set parameters for each case, after consulting with project staff.¹² The starting date for evaluation was the date of the first CRP hearing in the case file. A case was considered to have received CRP services if it had at least eight total CRP hearings described in the file, in one time period.¹³ Two other important evaluation dates were the "final opt-in date" usually the date of the defendant's entry of plea or date of sentencing (typically, the date upon which all participants have signed off on a specific treatment plan for the defendant), and the end date. For evaluation purposes, the end date was either a date shown in the file as the end date (these rarely were available for CRP cases before April 2001), or the date of the last CRP hearing in one continuous time period.¹⁴

The Council recorded data about the organization that provided case management services: JAS (Jail Alternative Services) case coordinator, OPA case coordinator (only employed after April 2001), and none or other case coordinator. The outcomes recorded for each defendant were based on the defendant's own record of arrests, incarceration days, API admissions and API days before and after entering the court. Because of the referral processes used to send defendants to CRP, and the resources available for the work, the Council could not define valid experimental control or comparison groups.

¹² These parameters applied to the set of 175 CRP participants from 2001 covered in this report. Other evaluations may set different parameters.

¹³ This is a vague measure because of the nature of the data available. It varied by defendant, but generally meant that the hearings occurred within a space of one to three months, a time frame in which it was likely that the court was dealing with a related set of issues and not with unrelated charges or cases.

¹⁴ Again, the cases were so individualized in the services offered that no consistent time frame could be established for all the cases included.

Part III: Description of Evaluation

The Judicial Council carried out this evaluation between October 2001 and December 2002. In July 2002, the Council received and analyzed data from the Department of Public Safety and ASAP, and incorporated the data into the report. Between August 2002 and January 2003, the Council completed its analysis and report.¹⁵

A. Data Elements and Databases

The data elements for evaluating CRP were established through a lengthy process of discussion with project staff, policymakers, review of data sources and of databases. Elements included typically came from at least one potential data source, and occasionally from two or more. Some elements that people interested in the project would have liked to include (e.g., housing status and changes, education status and changes, employment improvements, health improvements, treatment histories, and DFYS history¹⁶) were not reliably available from any data source and were not included.

Data elements covered in this report included demographic and historical information about each defendant, court case and case processing information, case management information, and outcome measures. Each of the two databases used in the project contained elements that occurred in both databases, and unique elements that permitted the databases to accomplish different tasks.

1) Judicial Council Database: In the Judicial Council's criminal justice database, data elements included court case number, defendant name, identifying information such as APSIN number, all original and final charges against the defendant and the disposition of each, extensive information about the sentence imposed and conditions, dates of different events, demographic

¹⁵ In addition to this report, the Council has comparable data on a group of 249 defendants who participated in the CRP between July 1, 1998 and October 2000.

¹⁶ Project staff encouraged the use of information from the Division of Family and Youth Services about participants' background and current status with DFYS custody of any children. Obtaining these data would have required substantial negotiation with DFYS, creation of added variables for the database, and a separate data entry and analysis process, tasks for which the Council was not funded in this evaluation. DFYS data are governed by substantially different and even more restrictive confidentiality provisions than most of the other data used by the Council in the evaluation.

information, criminal history and substance abuse/mental health history, and information about the offense(s).¹⁷ The database focused on the charging and sentencing aspects of each case, and included data about not only CRP defendants but defendants in each of the other projects that the Judicial Council was evaluating, and any control or comparison group defendants for the other projects. This database had less information about each defendant than did the CRP database, but allowed analysis within each therapeutic justice project and also among the individual projects.

2) Mental Health Court (CRP) Database: The mental health court database included some of the same information, particularly defendant identifiers, demographic information, and court case variables. It also included more detailed information useful to the case coordinator (e.g., address, contact numbers, insurance information), detailed case management information about hearings, sanctions, incentives and other actions taken, data about housing situation at intake, treatment history, and more detailed criminal history information.¹⁸ The CRP began using its database extensively in March 2002. Getting the data required (for the most part) that the case coordinator interview the defendant and incorporate information from a variety of sources (court hearings, case files, treatment providers, etc.). Because of these restrictions, the CRP database mainly contained information about the defendants who actually received services from the CRP. Information about earlier participants in the projects or about control or comparison groups was separately entered by the Council in its own database, and based largely on case files or other sources of information.

3) Other Data Sources: Several outcome data elements came from other data sources, and the Judicial Council's database was modified to include this information. The outcome variables that the Judicial Council used at the request of the project and the MHTA were days of incarceration (six months prior to opt in to the program, and six months after entry), number of arrests (lifetime, six months before disposition and six months after disposition), days of API commitment (lifetime, twelve months prior to initial hearing in the program, and during the defendant's participation in the study), and number of admissions to API (lifetime, twelve months before the initial hearing, and during the defendant's participation in the program). Information from Department of Corrections about incarceration, from Department of Public Safety about arrests, and from API about API admissions and days of commitment were entered into the Council's own database.

¹⁷ See Appendix A for a partial list of variables included in the Council's own database for this project.

¹⁸ The Mental Health Court database was originally designed in Buffalo, New York, and adapted for wider use under a State Justice Institute grant. The Council further modified the database for use by the CRP, the Anchorage Wellness Court and the Anchorage Felony Drug Court in 2000 and 2001. The Council also trained staff in the use of the databases, made changes as needed, and provided added training.

B. Data Sample

The present report focuses on the defendants who passed through CRP between April 1, 2001 and October 31, 2001. The MHTA-funded OPA case coordinator began work on April 12, 2001, and data collection for this portion of the project started after October 31, 2001, establishing the size of the sample for this status report. As Part IV shows, the cases within this time frame were divided into those with a JAS case coordinator (N=33), those with the OPA case coordinator (N=55), and those without either type of case coordinator (N=87).

One reason for choosing this time frame was that evaluation outcomes could be tied to a specific service offered by the CRP – the service of case management. The effectiveness of that service could be measured by each defendant's personal improvement, and also could be measured by comparison with defendants served by JAS, and the third group of defendants served by CRP but not by the JAS or OPA case coordinators.¹⁹

A second division of the data for purposes of analysis was between defendants who spent enough time in CRP to be categorized as "served by CRP," and those who did not. For purposes of this report, Judge Rhoades²⁰ suggested that a minimum of eight CRP hearings should be recorded before a defendant was identified as "CRP-served" (N=66). Defendants with at least one CRP hearing, but fewer than eight, were identified as "not-CRP-served" (N=109). The 109 defendants were included in this report for comparison, and to help identify whether defendants referred to CRP but not eventually served by CRP, differed in significant ways from those who received CRP services. To the extent that they did, CRP could use that information to improve screening for CRP, or to improve CRP services.

¹⁹ The Research Associate selected the first fifty cases that could be identified as JAS (in the end, only 33 could be identified), the first fifty cases that could be identified as assigned to the OPA case coordinator (in the end, an additional five CRP cases were added to the group. The fifty-five cases were all the cases assigned to the OPA case coordinator during the time period), the first fifty cases that could be identified as JAS-eligible, and fifty cases that did not meet any of the case management criteria but appeared for CRP hearings. After collecting the data, project staff advised that the JAS-eligible distinction was not useful for determining case management services, so no analysis was done with that variable (fewer than fifty were available for inclusion in the sample). The total of 175 eligible cases in the sample therefore includes 33 JAS, 55 CRP-managed, and 87 with neither type of case management, but with CRP hearings.

²⁰ Anchorage District Court Judge Stephanie Rhoades designed the project in 1997 and has managed it since, assisted by Anchorage District Court Judge John Lohff, Project Manager Kathi Trawver, OPA Case Coordinator Steve Williams and student interns from University of Alaska Anchorage. In January 2003, Ms. Trawver moved to a different position, and Mr. Williams will become the Project Manager in March 2003.

C. Sources of Data

The Judicial Council compiled data for its evaluation from several sources. These included the court case file, other agencies' computerized records, and secondary sources of information such as court system and other agency reports, literature about therapeutic justice, and similar sources. The variety of data sources permitted a much richer evaluation than using just the data available from court case files or records.

1) Court Case File: The primary source of information was the court case file for a given defendant in a given case. Because CRP defendants in this sample were convicted of a misdemeanor, they had no presentence reports and very limited information in the case file. The court file included²¹ defendant identifying information, the charging document, brief log notes from hearings, limited bail and release information, case disposition, and the judgment with probation conditions and sentence imposed. The court file did not include information about types of problems experienced by the defendant, demographic information, the offense or other important variables. After the CRP hired a case coordinator, project staff filed more information in the court case files, including opt-in forms and treatment plans.

2) Other State Agencies: DOC, ASAP, API, DPS: Other state agencies cooperated with the evaluation by providing outcome and demographic variables. The Department of Corrections supplied information about days of incarceration. The Department of Health and Social Services provided data about days spent at API, through the intermediary of ACSES at UAA.²² The Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) shared data about treatment history for alcohol problems. The Department of Public Safety provided criminal history and ethnicity for each defendant.

²¹ A third source of information about defendants participating in CRP was the CRP staff, who kept both manually-maintained and computerized records. In February 2002, the manual records included a variety of paper files kept by the case coordinator and project manager. The evaluation made limited use of these files for this report, but did rely on paper copies of the court calendars for all of 2001 to select the defendant sample. Computerized records included those in the Council-modified "Buffalo" database (*supra* n. 15) and Excel spreadsheets with information entered over about a three-year period by different university interns. Some of these records could serve as the basis for creating additional defendant samples for future evaluations. Staff have used the Buffalo database for periodic brief reports to MHTA and the court.

²² The Judicial Council sent the names of defendants to ACSES; ACSES stripped the names, substituted an identifying number, and forwarded the list of defendants to API; API provided (for each defendant) numbers of admissions to API as of the dates requested and numbers of days in API during three time periods: lifetime, 12 months before the date of the first hearing in CRP, and during the period after the first hearing but before the date the defendant list was received at API. API then returned the list to ACSES; ACSES put the names back in and eliminated their identifying numbers, and returned the list to the Judicial Council. Because API did not provide the dates of each admission or the length of time, and gave only summary data, the Council was limited in the analysis that it could do with the API data.

3) **Secondary Sources:** The final sources of information used in this evaluation were secondary sources, including court system reports, prior evaluations of JAS and data reported by C&S Management Associates about CRP, and articles and papers written about the CRP and about therapeutic justice. Cites for these sources are available from the Judicial Council upon request.

D. Data Entry and Analysis

A variety of staff entered CRP data used in this evaluation. The Judicial Council hired two research associates to collect data from the court cases. One of the research associates had substantial background in CRP, having worked there as an intern, and having completed an award-winning paper on the CRP during her UAA studies.²³ Both had worked with the Judicial Council entering data for felony cases and other projects. The CRP Project Manager supervised UAA interns who entered data, and entered some of the data herself. The OPA case coordinator maintained paper files tracking each of his clients.

Judicial Council staff used ACCESS databases for data entry (see above) and SPSS-PC for the analysis. The analysis included descriptive tables for demographic and case processing information, assessment of outcomes, and cross-tabulations of data to determine the statistical significance of observed phenomena and outcomes. No long-term outcome analysis is possible yet for the defendants served by the OPA case coordinator because of the short time elapsed since he began work with CRP.

E. Outcome Measures

The outcome measures for CRP included:

- Change in the numbers of days incarcerated, from six months before the defendant entered the program to six months after entering the program ("incarceration days," data from the Department of Corrections).
- Change in the number of arrests for each defendant, six months before and after entrance to the program (data from the Department of Public Safety). This outcome measure also can be described as "legal recidivism."

²³ Winger, Melissa, *Mental Illness in the Justice System and the Mental Health Court 4* (April 12, 2001) (unpublished student manuscript, on file with the Alaska Judicial Council) [hereafter, *Winger Paper*].

- Change in the number of days spent at Alaska Psychiatric Institute twelve months before and six to twelve months during/after participation in CRP (“API days”).
- Change in number of admissions to API during the twelve months before and six to twelve months after entry into the program. This outcome measure also is described as “clinical recidivism.”
- The evaluation also looked at data for the total number of days the defendant spent at API during his or her adult lifetime, the number of days spent at API during the year before the defendant entered the CRP project, and the number of days spent during/after receiving services from CRP. The API data also included the total number of admissions to API during the defendant’s lifetime, and the shorter periods defined above.

Two different criteria indicated improvement or success. If the defendant spent fewer days in incarceration or at API during the six months after beginning to participate in CRP, the services were described as successful. CRP services cost the state substantially less²⁴ than either incarceration (an average of about \$113.31/day)²⁵ or API (\$732.27). If the defendant was arrested fewer times or admitted to API less frequently after beginning to participate in the CRP that also was considered program success.²⁶

Data were not available for the present evaluation for other criteria of success.²⁷ Improvement in defendants’ housing situations as a result of CRP services could show success, as would improvements in DFYS status, educational achievements, employment or physical health. The number of these criteria that can be used, and their validity, depends upon the data collected by program staff and made available to the evaluators.

²⁴ Although exact cost figures were not available for the CRP at the time of this report, the program was funded by the MHTA for \$135,000 in FY’01 and \$175,000 in FY’02. These funds covered the costs of the case coordinator, the project manager and other expenses, but not the cost of the judges and other court expenses. The program served an estimated hundred or more defendants in each of these years.

²⁵ Source: Department of Corrections Cost of Care for FY’03, available from the Judicial Council.

²⁶ Ideally, program success would be defined with more rigorous outcomes, including a followup period after full release from any supervision or criminal justice oversight. These outcomes require a longer time for evaluation than the outcomes reported here, and may be considered in future evaluations.

²⁷ The Council used the limited funding available to focus on the outcomes reported here.

Part IV: Description of a Selected Group of CRP Participants

The Judicial Council selected a group of 175 defendants who appeared in CRP between April and October 2001.²⁸ The Case coordinator funded by MHTA began work in early April 2001. The Judicial Council used court calendars provided by the CRP Project Manager for April through October, and collected data from court files about selected defendants who appeared at least once in CRP during these months. The data and analysis that follow focus on these defendants.

The most basic level of analysis used the three different types of case management services provided in CRP: those done by the OPA case coordinator (N=55), those done by JAS (N=33) and those defendants who did not have either the CRP or the JAS case coordinator (N=87). Some of the non-JAS/non-CRP defendants had case management services through a treatment provider; others had a limited amount of case management through the defense attorney or prosecutor. The second basic level of analysis shows whether the defendants received substantial CRP services (N=66, or 38%)²⁹ or not (N=109, or 62%).

Variables reviewed for each defendant included age, gender, ethnic background, prior criminal history, single most serious charge at arrest and at conviction (if convicted), sentence imposed, conditions of probation, type of attorney representing the defendant in this case, whether an appeal or post-conviction motion was filed,³⁰ conditions of pre-trial release, and disposition of the case (at the time of analysis).³¹ The following sections describe some of the characteristics of these defendants and their cases.

²⁸ Court case calendars showed about fifty additional defendants appearing in CRP during this six-month period. None of these defendants had a JAS or OPA case coordinator, and because the sample of defendants who were in CRP but had neither type of case coordinator was already large enough, they were not included in the data set.

²⁹ "Served by CRP" was defined for purposes of this report as having eight or more CRP hearings. "Not served" was defined as having had seven or fewer hearings in CRP, during the period evaluated.

³⁰ Only a few defendants had either an appeal or a motion for post-conviction relief; these data were not analyzed further.

³¹ Other variables in the database for which too little information was available to report for most defendants included: education, employment, marital status, substance use at time of arrest (on this offense/case), and substance abuse problems.

A. Demographic Characteristics of CRP Defendants

Characteristics of defendants in this group of 175 CRP participants were compared, where possible, with data from a Judicial Council review of 2,331 defendants in a study of 1999 felonies statewide.³² Overall, compared with the felony study defendants, the CRP defendants were likely to be older, more likely to be female, about as likely to be an ethnic minority defendant, more likely to have a misdemeanor criminal history and less likely to have a felony prior record.

1) **Age of Defendants:** Defendants were evenly distributed between the age ranges of 20 -29 years, 30 - 39 years, and 40 years and older, with close to one-third of the defendants in each group (see Table 1). About 6% of the defendants were 16 to 20 years old. Nearly two-thirds of CRP participants were 30 years old or older, somewhat older than the felony study defendants, of whom 50% were aged 30 years or older. The age distribution did not vary significantly by either type of case coordinator, or by whether the defendant was served by CRP.

2) **Gender of Defendants:** Thirty percent of the defendants seen in CRP were female, a sizable minority (see Table 2). For comparison, about 17% of the defendants in a large sample of 1999 felony defendants were female.³³

3) **Ethnicity:** Caucasians constituted about half (51%) of the participants in this CRP group (see Table 3). African-Americans were about 9% of the group and Alaska Natives/American Indians were about 29%.³⁴ The ethnicities of CRP defendants were almost identical to those for the felony study defendants. Analysis of level of service from CRP did not appear to differ by ethnicity of defendants.

4) **Prior Criminal History:** CRP participants' prior history of convictions differed somewhat from the Council's data on 1999 felony defendants (see Table 4, Appendix B). The largest difference was that the felony study had fewer defendants (45%) with only a misdemeanor record

³² The 1999 felony study was not published at the time of this report. Data and other information are available through the Judicial Council. Although the defendants included in the two studies are not entirely comparable, the felony study provides a better comparison than census data. No data are available for comparable Anchorage District Court defendants.

³³ The Judicial Council will report on the 1999 felonies collected in a statewide sample, in a separate study in 2003.

³⁴ Asian-Americans were about 2%, and unknown ethnicity was about 9%. The relatively high percentage of unknown was probably due to the fact that these were misdemeanor defendants, for whom data often were missing.

than did the CRP review (60% of CRP participants had prior misdemeanors only). This may reflect the CRP decision to focus on serving misdemeanor defendants.

Otherwise, CRP defendants resembled the 1999 felony study defendants. About 17% of CRP defendants had no prior history of offenses, compared to 15% of the 1999 felony study defendants with a known prior record. More of the felony study defendants had one or more prior felony convictions (25%) in addition to any prior misdemeanor convictions, compared with the CRP defendants (22%).

Again, few differences among prior records occurred between defendants who received CRP services, and those who had limited or no service from CRP. Defendants with CRP services (eight or more hearings) included a few more defendants with lengthy prior misdemeanor records, fewer defendants with lengthy felony records, and fewer defendants with no prior record.

B. Types of Offenses Charged and Convicted

Defendants arrived at CRP by various routes: attorney or prosecutor referral, treatment program or family request, or self-initiated requests. Because of the range of referral possibilities, the single most serious offense charged against a single defendant varied widely, from felonies and violent cases down to minor misdemeanors. All final single most serious offenses reported here were misdemeanors, even if the original offense had been a felony.³⁵

1) Number of Charges: Most defendants (79%) had only one or two charges filed against them at the outset of the case and many convicted defendants for whom information was available had only one charge against them at conviction. Any remaining charges had been dropped. Defendants served by CRP (eight or more hearings) were more likely to have had two or more charges filed against them at the beginning of the case (67% had two or more charges, as compared to 42% of the defendants with fewer hearings), but the number of charges filed did not vary significantly by type of case management (i.e., JAS, CRP or neither).

2) Types of Offenses Charged: About 11% of the cases had a felony as the original single most serious charge. These included a Class A Violent offense (Arson 1), ten Class C Violent

³⁵ It is helpful to describe the most serious offense with which the defendant was charged, and also, of which the defendant was convicted. The Judicial Council's protocol for deciding which is the single most serious offense charged or convicted is available from the Judicial Council. Briefly, if the defendant has several charges, the most serious will be the one carrying the most serious penalties. If the charges are equally serious, a violent offense will be considered more serious than other types of offenses. If all the charges are violent offenses, the one with the most harm to the victim will be considered most serious. For more detail, please contact the Judicial Council.

offenses (largely Assault 3), six Class B and C property offenses, a Class B sexual offense and a Class B drug offense. The remaining 89% of the defendants had only misdemeanor charges against them at the beginning of the case.

About 47% of the defendants had a violent offense for their single most serious original charge ranging from Arson 1 to Violating a Domestic Violence Order. About one-quarter of the offenders had a property offense, (26%) and 7% had driving offenses. The 17% of defendants with "Other" offenses included sixteen originally charged with disorderly conduct, and others charged with offenses ranging from illegal use of a telephone to various prostitution-related offenses. The finding that so many defendants faced charges of a violent offense was one of the most important findings in this report, because none of the other therapeutic courts could deal with them.³⁶ Violent offenders constituted about 26% of Anchorage District Court offenders in FY'01³⁷ and often were excluded from participation in treatment and other rehabilitative programs.

3) State or Municipal Charge: Another characteristic of cases that affected charging, dispositions, and how cases were handled was whether the charges were filed by the state prosecutors or the Municipality of Anchorage. State prosecutors filed about 24% of the charges, and municipal prosecutors filed 76%. The defendants with a JAS case coordinator were more likely than those with a OPA case coordinator or with neither case coordinator to have had state charges against them.

4) Convicted Offense: Defendants had a somewhat different pattern of charges at the time of conviction than they had at the beginning of the case. If the defendant was convicted (10% of the 175 defendants in this group had pending cases and 20% had all charges against them dismissed), about one-third (32%) had a violent charge, 26% had a property charge, 29% had "Other" offenses (primarily disorderly conduct), and 7% had driving charges. All final offenses were misdemeanors. The major difference between original charges and final charges was that a number of violent offenses had changed to "Other" offenses, usually disorderly conduct, and all the felonies had been reduced to misdemeanors.

In this sample of 175 defendants, about 69% were convicted. About 22% were not convicted, and about 10% of the defendants' cases were pending at the time the data were collected. The majority

³⁶ Anchorage Wellness Court occasionally takes offenders with some history of minor violent offenses. Anchorage Felony Drug Court is prohibited by federal funding guidelines from taking any offenders with any violent offenses, past or present. The other therapeutic projects take few, if any, offenders with violent convictions, past or present.

³⁷ Alaska Court System Annual Report, FY'01, page S-51.

of defendants, whether cases were handled by the OPA case coordinator, the JAS case coordinator or neither, were convicted. A sizable percentage of cases handled by the OPA case coordinator were pending at the time of this report (22%), probably because the report reviewed the first six months of his work.

Defendants who had fewer than eight hearings in CRP (and therefore were characterized as "not served" by CRP) were somewhat more likely to have not been convicted on any charges. This finding is significant at .058, meaning that it does not meet the usual tests of statistical significance, but comes very close.³⁸ The finding suggests that defendants who were "not served" by this definition may have not needed or qualified for CRP services because prosecutors dismissed all charges against them before they had a chance to receive CRP services. About 5% of the defendants who received CRP services also had all the charges against them dismissed.

5) Type of Plea: Nearly all of the defendants who were convicted had entered a no contest plea. Only five had entered guilty pleas, and none had been convicted at trial.³⁹ There were no significant differences by type of case management. About 29% of the defendants entered pleas without specific agreements on the record. The remainder entered pleas under Criminal Rule 11, with most of the pleas involving sentence agreements rather than charge agreements.

C. Other Offense Characteristics

1) Victim Characteristics and Relationships: About 36% of the offenses did not have the relationship to the victim identified. For those that did, the court case file showed that the victim was a member of the same domestic unit for about 14% of the cases (N=24). The victim's status did not vary significantly by type of case coordinator, but did vary by whether the defendant was served by CRP (eight or more hearings). For those served by CRP, the court case file was more likely to show that the defendant and victim were not members of the same domestic unit.

The relationship between victim and defendant did not vary significantly by type of case coordinator or whether the defendant was served by CRP. Again, for about half the cases, there was no victim. The relationship was unknown in about one-quarter of the 175 cases reviewed. In about 11% of the cases, the victim was a spouse, parent, sibling or child. In about 5%, the victim was a boy friend or girl friend, and in 2%, the victim was formerly in an intimate relationship with the defendant.

³⁸ The standard for statistical significance using the Pearson Chi-square test is that the finding must be significant at .05 or less.

³⁹ The program allows for the possibility that defendants convicted after trial can participate in CRP; however, none in this sample had gone to trial.

2) Harm to the Victim: Harm to the victim (based on information in the court case files) was categorized as serious physical, serious emotional, physical, economic, or no victim. Thirty-six percent of the cases fell into the "no victim" category. In about 7%, the defendant caused serious emotional injury to the victim, and in 36% of the cases, the defendant caused some form of physical injury. Economic injury was the most serious harm to 19% of the victims. The types of injuries did not vary significantly by type of case coordinator or whether the defendant was served by CRP.

3) Use of a Weapon: The court case file sometimes showed whether a weapon was used in the commission of the offense. Only eleven cases showed use of a weapon, and these were evenly distributed by type of case coordinator, and by whether the defendant received CRP services. Information about weapons was unknown for 30% of the cases, and the court case file was clear that a weapon was not used in 63% of the cases.

D. Case Processing Characteristics

This category of variables included about the defendants' charging and sentencing, and about events during the pre-trial/pre-plea period.

1) Incarcerated Before Trial: Most of the defendants seen in CRP (93%) were incarcerated before trial. The amount of time incarcerated ranged from less than one day (7%, N=12) to 181 to 364 days (1%, N = 2). About 29% were incarcerated for one to five days, 43% spent six to 30 days, and 20% served 31 to 150 days. The data showed no significant differences in pre-trial time incarcerated for the different types of case coordinator (JAS, OPA case coordinator, or neither). Defendants who had eight or more hearings spent more time incarcerated before sentencing than did defendants who had seven or fewer hearings. The finding is statistically significant, but the data are too sparse in some of the analysis to warrant substantial reliance on them.

2) Third Party Custodian Required: The court required that a majority (59%) of the defendants have a third party custodian before authorizing release from custody pretrial. The requirement for a third party custodian did not appear to be related either to the type of case coordinator or to the number of CRP hearings that the defendant had.

3) Type of Defense Attorney: Most defendants (90%) were represented by the state or municipal public defender. Only one had an Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) attorney, and 3% (N=5) had private attorneys. In the 1999 felony study, about 83% of Anchorage defendants had a public attorney, and 17% had a private attorney. Most defendants with private attorneys were in the

non-JAS/non-CRP Manager group. Another few (N=4) represented themselves; all were in the group not served by CRP (i.e., seven or fewer hearings).

The court could require defendants to pay some portion of the defense attorneys' cost, even if the defendants were found eligible for these services. About 47% of the defendants were required to pay nothing for the defense services, and 49% were required to pay \$200. Although the level of CRP service was not significantly associated with a requirement to pay for the defense attorney, defendants with the OPA case coordinator were more likely than other defendants to be required to pay \$200 for defense services.

4) Jail Time Imposed for Sentence: Of the 175 defendants in this group, about 53% were sentenced to no jail time on the single most serious charge against them, or their cases were pending or all charges had been dismissed (Table 4-A, Appendix B). About 47% were required to serve some jail time in conjunction with their single most serious CRP sentence (although through credit for time served pretrial, many of these defendants may have been released from jail at the time of sentencing or shortly thereafter). Neither the type of case management nor the level of services received from CRP was statistically significant.

5) Amount of Jail Time Imposed for Sentence: Fifty-seven defendants (69% of the defendants who had a jail sentence) were required to serve a period between one and thirty days, and twenty-six defendants (31% of those with jail sentences) had to serve between two and twelve months on their single most serious charge (Table 4-A, Appendix B). JAS defendants were more likely to serve time in jail than were the other two groups.⁴⁰ This may reflect the fact that the JAS defendants were identified while they were incarcerated, or other characteristics of JAS defendants that did not appear in the data. The level of CRP service (eight or more hearings vs. seven or fewer) did not appear related to jail time imposed post-conviction.

6) Length of Probation Term: Of the 157 defendants for whom data were available, about one-third (36%) had no probation. Many of those had all charges dismissed. Most defendants with sentences that included probation had probationary terms of 13 months to over five years.

Few differences in the length of probationary terms appeared between the groups with eight or more and seven or fewer hearings. When analyzed by the source of case coordination services (i.e., JAS, CRP, no case coordination), JAS clients had the highest percentage of defendants with longer probation terms, followed by CRP clients and clients with no case coordination. Probation terms

⁴⁰ CRP-managed defendants were more likely to have pending charges, reflecting the shorter period of the OPA case coordinator's employment.

were more comparable for the CRP clients and the group with no case coordination. The data do not show that providing case coordination resulted in shorter probation terms, whether analyzed by the source of case coordination services or the number of hearings provided in CRP. A larger data set would provide more detailed data.

7) Received SIS (Suspended Imposition of Sentence): Most defendants did not receive a SIS sentence. Those participating in CRP (eight or more hearings) were more likely to have one than those not participating. Type of case coordinator had no relationship to the imposition of SIS.

8) Restitution: For the 157 defendants for whom data were available, most (138, 88%) were not required to pay restitution. The question did not apply to nine defendants, leaving a total of ten defendants for whom the court required restitution. To understand these data, it would help to know what percentage of all district court defendants were required to pay restitution, since CRP requirements may not have varied substantially from practices in other courts.

Part V: Analysis of Outcome Data

A. Introduction

The Court Coordinated Resources Project and the Mental Health Trust Authority defined the desired outcomes for this project prior to the beginning of data collection. Recognizing the limitations on the data and resources available, the organizations settled on outcomes comparable to those used to evaluate Alaska's other therapeutic justice projects: numbers of arrests, days of incarceration, numbers of admissions to Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) and numbers of days spent at API. Because appropriate control or comparison groups were not available,⁴¹ each defendant served as his or her own comparison. Evaluators looked at the differences for a six or twelve month period prior to the defendant's starting in CRP and for a period after the defendant's starting in CRP. The actual periods differ for data about arrests and incarceration days, and API admits and days, because of different requirements for obtaining the data.

B. API Admissions and Days Admitted

Tables 5 and 6 (Appendix C) show the numbers of API admissions and days for the 175 defendants included in this evaluation of CRP. Table 5 shows the admissions.⁴² The data are divided into "lifetime" admissions, admissions during the twelve months before beginning the CRP program and admissions during the time in the CRP program. The mean number of admissions and the mean days spent at API both improved after admission to CRP.

CRP participants had an average of about half as many admissions to API during the period after the first CRP appearance (.7 admissions) as compared to the twelve months average before the first CRP hearing (1.5 admissions) (Table 5). Most participants had some experience with API admissions.

⁴¹ As noted earlier, referrals to the CRP come from a variety of sources, unlike referrals to most of the therapeutic projects in which prosecutors and defense attorneys act as "gate-keepers," screening referrals to a project and deciding eligibility. In CRP, referrals come from other judges, attorneys, families, treatment organizations and a wide range of other sources. This fact, combined with the absence of information about mental health in virtually all misdemeanor case files, made it inappropriate to try to create a control or comparison group.

⁴² Number of admissions were available from API for only 101 of the 175 CRP participants whose names were sent to API, and days admitted data were available for 100 of the CRP participants. This could mean that the identifying information available did not permit matching the AJC/CRP list with the API records, or it could mean that API had no record of those defendants spending time at API.

Only five of the 101 participants for whom data were available had no known admissions to API during their lifetime. The lifetime average for the 101 defendants was 7.9 admissions.

The majority of participants (63%) were admitted to API at least once in the twelve months that preceded their first appearance in CRP. During the period after their first appearance in CRP, only 37% were admitted to API at least once. The reduction in the number of admissions to API suggests fewer serious episodes of mental problems that required hospitalization. It also may indicate better use of community services, monitoring, stable housing and other resources that would prevent the use of API.

CRP participants showed fewer days in API during the period following the first hearing in CRP (8.8 days), as compared to the twelve-month period prior to a first appearance in CRP (10.4 days) (Table 6, Appendix C). CRP participants had spent a substantial amount of time at API during their lifetimes. The average number of lifetime days was 205.86 days. A slight majority of defendants (52%) had each spent 31 or more days at API during their lifetimes, prior to their initial hearings in CRP.

During the twelve months that preceded the defendants' first contacts with CRP, the typical defendant had spent 10.36 days in API. After the first contact with CRP, the average stay was 8.8 days. Because the date of contact with CRP was not the date when a defendant actually agreed to the program, but the date when the defendant first came to CRP, a much earlier date typically, these numbers probably understate the effectiveness of CRP in reducing days spent in API. Because the period of time measured for each defendant varied, these data suggest, but do not conclusively show, that CRP services resulted in fewer days spent at API. The CRP program has stabilized to some extent since these data were collected and future evaluations may have more reliable findings.⁴³

⁴³CRP services have stabilized because the program is not taking any clients who do not have an MHTA-funded case coordinator, either through CRP or through the Department of Corrections' JAS program. The nature of the clients served by the program still means that services will be tailored to the individual client's needs and offered for a varying length of time, resulting in difficulties comparing the program's services to non-served defendants, and in comparing defendants in the program with each other.

C. Number of Arrests

CRP participants had an average of 1.5 arrests during the six months prior to CRP disposition⁴⁴ and only 0.6 arrests during the six months after (Table 7, Appendix C).⁴⁵ CRP participants had an average of 13.5 arrests during their lifetimes prior to the disposition of their cases in CRP. Note that the date used for measuring the arrest outcome and the days of incarceration outcome differs significantly from the date used to measure the API outcomes (number of admissions and days at API). The API measurements used the date of the first hearing in CRP. Arrests and incarceration days use the date of disposition in CRP. This date is probably preferable because it more accurately reflects a date when the defendant probably started to receive CRP services.⁴⁶

Note also that the arrests and incarceration outcomes are measured for different periods than were the API admits and number of days. Arrests and days of incarceration were calculated for the defendant's lifetime before disposition in CRP, for six months before the date of disposition and for six months after the disposition. Although these are relatively short periods, they suffice to show whether CRP participation benefits the state and the community significantly, even for a few months.

To show whether the level of services provided by CRP affected the likelihood that a CRP defendant would be re-arrested during the six months after CRP services began, the data were divided by whether the defendant had eight or more hearings, and seven or fewer hearings (Tables 8 and 9, Appendix C). Both groups showed substantial drops in the number of arrests during the six-month-after period when compared to the six-month-before period. The data are insufficient to show whether the level of CRP services made a difference for defendants.

A second finding from the tables is that defendants receiving eight or more hearings started with a substantially lower level of lifetime arrests. The eight or more hearings group had only 10.3 lifetime arrests prior to the CRP disposition date; the seven or fewer hearings group had 15.4 lifetime arrests. Additional research could help determine why the differences occurred. It may reflect a tendency for defendants with slightly less serious prior criminal histories to participate (or be approved to

⁴⁴See Part II, *supra*, for a discussion of difficulties in evaluating CRP and ways in which the difficulties were resolved.

⁴⁵Data on arrests were missing for 13 of the 175 CRP participants.

⁴⁶Not all defendants included in this report received significant CRP services. As noted below, the project staff defined receiving CRP services as a defendant who had at least eight hearings in CRP. This definition, although imprecise, was necessary because the types and amount of services offered differed so greatly from one defendant to the next. Defining CRP service as eight or more hearings gave an objective basis for evaluating the services. Eight or more was chosen to reflect a substantial amount of time spent by the court on a given client.

participate) in the program, or it may reflect the seriousness of the defendants' problems, or may have another explanation.

D. Days of Incarceration

Tables 10 - 12 (Appendix C) display the data about days of incarceration for CRP participants. CRP participants showed an average of 27.8 days of incarceration during the six months before CRP disposition, and an average of 23.2 days during the six months after CRP disposition.⁴⁷ Lifetime days of incarceration were not reliably available from the Department of Corrections files, so this analysis focused only on the six months before the date of disposition in CRP, and the six months after the date of disposition. The data show an improvement of 4.6 days overall between the before and after periods for all CRP participants (Table 10).

The evaluators looked at incarceration days by level of service to determine whether any relationship existed. Defendants who received the most service from CRP (eight or more hearings, Table 11) showed an average of 31.1 days of incarceration for the six months before and 19.5 days of incarceration during the six months after period. This is an average of 11.6 days of incarceration saved by participation in the CRP program. Defendants who had seven or fewer hearings in CRP (Table 12) averaged 25.6 days before and 25.6 days after, indicating that those who considered the CRP program but did not substantially participate received no benefit.⁴⁸

E. Discussion of Outcomes and Conclusions

CRP participants showed improvement on all of the outcome variables measured. Both the numbers and length of jail and API stays diminished after defendants began participating in CRP. Even in this brief evaluation period, the state and Anchorage governments benefitted substantially, with a savings of about \$73,991 in jail costs and \$117,163 in API costs. The costs associated with arresting defendants and those associated with admitting them to API probably fell, for participants in the

⁴⁷ Data for days of incarceration were missing for 32 defendants for the six months prior period and for 33 defendants during the six months after CRP disposition period. The difference between days of incarceration as a measure of outcomes, and days sentenced is that a defendant could serve more days than those sentenced, if the defendant violated probation conditions or was arrested on a new charge. Table 4-A (Appendix B) shows days sentenced; Table 11 (Appendix C) shows days incarcerated.

⁴⁸ Again, note that days sentenced did not vary significantly by amount of CRP service, but mean days of incarceration were substantially fewer for six months after CRP service for defendants who received eight or more hearings (note also that CRP defendants with higher levels of service served more days during the six months prior to CRP participation than during the six months after beginning CRP participation, when compared to CRP defendants with seven or fewer CRP hearings).

CRP. Both state and local governments, especially prosecution, defense, and courts and others (for example, victims) probably saved additional money because CRP services were available.⁴⁹

CRP participation benefitted various agencies and the public by:

1) Reduced Cost of Incarceration: At \$113.31/day, for the 142 defendants with information available, the state saved an average of 4.6 days per defendant, for all CRP participants, or 653 days of incarceration and \$73,991. Defendants with mental health issues may require more costly services while incarcerated, so this amount of savings may be underestimated.

2) Reduced Cost of Arrests: Although no data were available on the cost of arrests, an average arrest involved at least an hour of the officer's time, booking time at the jail (a DOC expense) and often prosecutor, defense attorney and court time. A reduction by half of the numbers of arrests in a six-month period saved expenses for several agencies. This savings appeared to occur for most participants considered by CRP, whether they received substantial services or not.⁵⁰

3) Reduced Cost of API Days: A single day's stay at API in 2001 cost \$732.27. For the 100 participants in CRP for whom data were available, approximately 1.6 days were saved for each defendant (as compared to the previous 12-month period), or 160 days total and about \$117,163.

4) Reduced Cost of API Admissions: Again, no data were available, but a typical API admit involved professionals who assessed the individual's condition and needs, and performed other admissions tasks. It is likely that reduced numbers of admissions would reduce API costs.

5) Reduced Cost to Potential Victims and the Public: Fewer arrests for the CRP participants (who were more intensively supervised than other misdemeanor offenders) may suggest that the CRP participants were committing fewer crimes, at least while they were in the program, thus resulting in fewer victims. Victim benefits occurred first, because fewer new crimes meant fewer direct costs to victims such as medical and counseling expense, less loss of victim time from work, and less property loss. It also was possible that defendants participating in CRP may have been more likely to make restitution, perform community work service, and in other ways work to benefit

⁴⁹ Although detailed cost/benefit data were not available when this report was written, the Judicial Council expects to obtain more data during 2003 that can be used to assess the benefits of the CRP. The Council will report these data separately. An example of a report that has demonstrated the relationship between treatment and reduction of arrests is the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University report, *Behind Bars*, published in 1998. It can be found at the CASA website, last visited on Jan. 30, 2003, http://www.casacolumbia.org/newsletter1457/newsletter_show.htm?doc_id=3567.

⁵⁰ Note that comparison data are not available for non-CRP defendants in the Anchorage District Court.

the community. These hypothesized benefits or their absence could be shown with additional review of the data, or with new data.

The public as a whole benefitted from having fewer victims, because of lower costs for law enforcement and criminal justice services. Other studies suggest that reduction in crimes may account for the majority of the benefits to the public from similar programs.⁵¹ Even when offset against the costs of treatment and other expenses associated with therapeutic programs, less incarceration and criminal justice services for offenders may save millions in public expenses.

Conclusions

The evaluation of the Anchorage Court Coordinated Resources Project leads to the following conclusions:

- The CRP has provided services that save the state and Anchorage Municipality substantial amounts of funds in incarceration costs, costs of arrests, and cost of admissions and stay at Alaska Psychiatric Institute.
- The CRP services may result in fewer arrests, suggesting fewer victims and increased benefits to the public. CRP services clearly result in fewer days of incarceration for those who received the higher levels of service (eight or more hearings).
- The CRP serves a wide range of defendants, including those who have been convicted of violent misdemeanor offenses. This is a group that is not served by any other therapeutic projects, and often is not served by other treatment or social services programs.
- The CRP served a diverse group of defendants, with proportionately more women and older defendants than typically found in other court settings. Ethnic representation closely parallels ethnic representation data available from other studies of court populations.

The findings from this evaluation suggest the need for:

- More evaluation of the CRP's services over the next few years, to provide a larger group of defendants, more information about the effects of the case coordinator services, and longer follow up times.

⁵¹ *Supra*, n. 47.

- Comparison of the CRP's services, to the extent possible, with those provided by other therapeutic justice projects in Anchorage and in the state.
- Assessment of the costs and benefits of the services offered by CRP.

Appendix A

Partial List of Database Variables Modified AJC 1999 Felony Study Database

**CRP Evaluation
January 2003**

1999 Felony Study Variables

Alaska Judicial Council
December 9, 2002

The Judicial Council collected data about nearly 200 variables for the 1999 felony cases that it reviewed, from defendant name and case number, to conditions of probation, length of sentence, restitution and victim information. Some of the variables existed primarily to help track the case; others had little or no information and could not be used. The list following shows the approximately 142 variables that were sent to the Institute for Social and Economic Research to include in their analyses. They are listed in alphabetical order by the database name for the variable, with a brief description following.

Some of the variables are created from original data, re-stating it for usefulness in the analysis. For example, LocCity and LocREC summarize the information about the court location in which the case was filed into variables that include several cities at once. Staff at both ISER and the Judicial Council re-coded some of the variables again, to make them easier to understand (e.g., days sentenced was re-coded to months sentenced).

ISER reviewed the variables to decide how many variables were missing substantial portions of the data, or were not present in many cases. Restitution, for example, was not ordered in a large number of cases, so was not a useful variable in the multiple regression analyses (although it will be reported in the Council's larger report). So few cases were appealed that the Council could not use statistical analysis to see how they might have differed from the other cases convicted. No cases in this sample were sent to the three-judge panel, so although data were compiled about the three-judge panel, it will not appear in the final analysis. ISER then used the remaining variables to build models of sentencing process.¹

¹ As noted elsewhere, variables related to the pretrial were only available consistently enough to analyze in Anchorage. Although the Council collected data about the pretrial process for every case, pretrial policies and procedures vary greatly throughout the state and cannot be compared. The Council will analyze the Anchorage pretrial data in greater detail at a later time.

Variables in Final Felony SPSS File

3/11/02

OffId - Offender ID - unique number
ageoffrc - Age at Offense
aggrav_ - Aggravators Found Y/N
alcoff_ - Under Alch at Off Y/N
alcprob_ - Alcohol Problem Y/N
app - Type Appeal
app_ Case Appealed? Y/N
appbond_ -Appearance Bond Y/N
casenumb - case number
CDalcohol - Condition of probation alcohol restrictions Y/N
Cdanger - Condition of probation anger management Y/N
CDasap - Condition of probation ASAP evaluation Y/N
CDBttrs - Condition of probation batterers intervention Y/N
CDdnatst - Condition of probation DNA testing Y/N
CDdrivng - Condition of probation driving restrictions Y/N
Cdelecmn - Condition of probation electronic monitoring Y/N
CDMnHtlh - Condition of probation mental health evaluation. Y/N
CDmovers - Condition of probation movement restrictions Y/N
CDotherc - Condition of probation other conditions (see notes field). Y/N
CDotheri - Condition of probation other conditions while incarcerated Y/N
CDparent - Condition of probation parenting classes Y/N
CDperson - Condition of probation person contact restrictions Y/N
CDresjus - Condition of probation restorative justice Y/N
CDSbsAbs - Condition of probation substance abuse treatment. Y/N
CDSxOfIn - Condition of probation sex offender treatment while incarcerated Y/N
CDSxOut - Condition of probation sex offender treatment not incarcerated Y/N
CDweapon - Condition of probation weapons restrictions Y/N
chfilerc - # Charges Filed - ChFiled is the original data field Y/N
chsentr - # Charges Sentenced - ChSent is the original data field Y/N
city - City where offender lives
concas - Contemporaneous Cases? T F
conccrc - Consecutive or Concurrent Charges
cond_ - Failure to Comply Issued Y/N
convict - Convicted on SMS Charge? Y/N
cs_ctRC - Court Locations.
cs_dist - Judicial District
cws_ - Was Community Work Service assigned? Y/N
CWSHrRC - Hours of community work service assigned. Cwshrs is original data field.
Darrest - date arrest
laysalrc - Overall Sentence. Daysnta is original data field.
DaySMSRc - Sentence for Single Most Serious Charge in Days. Daysnsms is original data field.
Ddism - Date charge dismissed.
Dindctwv - Date indictment waived.
dispo - Disposition
dob - date of birth
dom_ - Is Victim in same domestic unit? Y/N

dopen - date case opened (filed in court).
Dplea - Plea date
dpsalch - Two or more prior alcohol offenses from DPS data .T F
dpsmics - One or more prior offenses from DPS data. T F
drgoff_ - Under Drugs at Off Y/N
drgprob_ - Drug Problem Y/N
dsent - date charge sentenced
dtrial - date of trial
dv_ - Any Prior Adult crimes that are DV? Y/N
dvofftbc - Was domestic violence involved in this charge? Y/N
DWIRC - Number of prior DWIs from file. DWI is the original data field.
edu - Education Level
emp - Employment
engdiff_ - English Difficulty Y/N
ethnicrc - Ethnicity of offender. Ethnicit is original data field
finalcd - Final Offense Category showing all 32 categories.
Finaloff - name of final offense
FinechRC - Fine Per Charge. Finechrg is original data field.
finerc - Overall Fine. Fine is the original datafield.
finlCdRc - Final Offense Categories showing the eight major groupings.
fta_ - Failure to Appear Issued Y/N
gender - Gender of offender
harmrc1 - Harm to Victim
hisp_ - Hispanic Surname Y/N
inctrlc - Time Incarcerated Before Sentence - inctrial is the original data field.
Ind_ - indicted on this charge? Y/N
inout - Was the defendant assigned any time to serve on the single most serious charge? Y/N
inoutall - Was the defendant assigned any time to serve on the overall sentence? Y/N
juvdv_ - Any Prior Juvenile DV Crimes? Y/N
juvfelRC - Number of juvenile felonies. Juvfel is original data field.
juvmisRC - Number of juvenile misdemeanors. Juvmisd is the original data field.
juvviol_ - Any Prior Juvenile Crimes that are Violent? Y/N
LocCity - Location by City. Anch, Fairbanks, Juneau, Other
LocREC - Location by 3 cities, southeast, southcentral and rural.
Locur - Location Urban or Rural. Recode of locrec - Anch, Fairbks, SCentral, SE rural.
married_ - Married? Y/N
mdfelRC - Misd or Felony Final Chg
menthlth - Mental Health Status from file or PSR (if available)
mhdevdis - Developmentally Disabled from file or PSR (if available)
mhdoc - Was there any indication of a mental health history - from DOC files, Dr. Sperbeck.
mhhdinj - Head Injury from file or PSR (if available)
mhill - Mental Illness from file or PSR (if available)
mhothr - Mntal Health Other from file or PSR (if available)
mhsendem - Senile Dementia from file or PSR (if available)
mitig_ - Mitigators Found Y/N
naggrav_ - Notice Aggravators Y/N
nmitig_ - Notice of mitigators? Y/N
off - name of charged offense
offcdRc - Charged offense category showing 8 major categories
offcode - Charged offense category showing all 32 categories.

panel_ - 3 Judge panel? Y/N
parent_ - Parent of Dependent Child Y/N
pdpayrc - amount to ay to PD
perbond_ - Performance Bond Y/N
plea - Type plea per charge
postcon_ Post Conviction Relief Motion? Y/N
preind_ - Pre Indictment Hrng Y/N
presump_ - Was this sentence a presumptive sentence? (Per charge) Y/N
priorin_ - Incarcerated Before Trial - Y/N
priorrec - Prior Record - Created field from combined information from data collection and DPS data.
probalrc - Total Probation in Months for the overall screen - proball is the original data field
probchrc - Probation in Months per Charge - probchrg is the original data field.
probrev_ Probation Revoked? Y/N
prsntnc - Was there a presentence report? Variable created after data collection.
rest_ - Was there any Restitution on the overall screen? Y/N
rest_ch - Was there restitution for this charge? Y/N
restallR - Restitution amount from overall screen. Restit is original data field.
restchRc - Restitution amount per charge. Restitch is original charge.
sis_ - Did this sentence receive a suspended imposition of sentence? Y/N
TypDfARC - Type Defense Atty
vagerc - Victim Age - Vage is original data field
vbus_ - Is the Victim a Business? Y/N
vethnrc - Ethnicity of Victim
vgender -Victim Gender
violent_ - Any Prior Adult Violent crimes? Y/N
vrc - Number of Victims - V_ is original data field
vrelat - Relationship to Victim
weap_ - Was a weapon used during this offense? Y/N
xrdpty_ - 3rd party required Y/N

Appendix B
Descriptive Variables Tables

CRP Evaluation
January 2003

Appendix B
Descriptive Variable Tables
 January 2003

Table 1: CRP Participants: Age at Offense Compared to 1999 Felony Data				
Age at Offense	2001 Selected CRP Participants		1999 Felony Study Selected Participants	
	N	%	N	%
16-19	11	6%	377	16%
20-24	26	15%	435	19%
25-29	21	12%	349	15%
30-39	54	31%	657	28%
40+	63	36%	511	22%
Total	175	100%	2,329*	100%

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

** Data not available for two defendants*

Table 2: CRP Participants: Gender Compared to 1999 Felony Data				
Gender	2001 Selected CRP Participants		1999 Felony Study Selected Participants	
	N	%	N	%
Female	53	30%	405	17%
Male	122	70%	1,926	83%
Total	175	100%	2,331	100%

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

**Table 3:
CRP Participants: Ethnicity
Compared to 1999 Felony Data**

Ethnicity	2001 Selected CRP Participants		1999 Felony Study Selected Participants	
	N	%	N	%
Caucasian	90	51%	1,167	50%
African-American	15	9%	264	11%
AK Native/Indian	51	29%	705	30%
Asian/PI	3	2%	57	2%
Other	-	-	39	2%
Unknown	16	9%	99	4%
Total	175	100%	2,331	100%

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

**Table 4:
CRP Participants: Prior Criminal History
Compared to 1999 Felony Data**

Prior Criminal History	2001 Selected CRP Participants		1999 Felony Study Selected Participants	
	N	%	N	%
3 or More Felony Convictions	7	4%	146	6%
2 Felony Convictions	9	5%	136	6%
1 Felony Conviction	23	13%	307	13%
4 or More Misdemeanor Convictions	56	32%	486	21%
1 to 3 Misdemeanor Convictions	49	28%	550	24%
No Convictions	29	17%	347	15%
Other	-	-	56	2%
Unknown	2	1%	303	13%
Total	175	100%	2,331	100%

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

**Table 4-A:
Days to Serve, if Sentenced**

Days Sentenced on Single Most Serious (N=175 defendants)	Eight or More Hearings		Seven or Fewer Hearings		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Pending charge (not convicted)	5	28%	13	72%	18	100%
No time to serve imposed	28	38%	46	62%	74	100%
One to thirty days to serve	20	35%	37	65%	57	100%
Two months to twelve months to serve	13	50%	13	50%	26	100%
Total	66		109		175	

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

**Defendant may have received credit for time served pretrial*

Appendix C
Outcome Variables Tables

CRP Evaluation
January 2003

Appendix C
Outcome Variable Tables
 January 2003

Table 5:						
API Admissions for Selected 2001						
CRP Participants*						
N=101 of 175**						
Number Admiss.	Lifetime Admissions		12 Months Prior to CRP Initial Hearing		During CRP	
0	5	5%	37	37%	63	63%
1	23	23%	40	40%	26	26%
2	18	18%	10	10%	3	3%
3	6	6%	6	6%	4	4%
4	3	3%	3	3%	2	2%
5	11	11%	2	2%	2	2%
6	6	6%	0	-	1	1%
7-10	6	6%	1	1%	0	-
11-20	10	10%	2	2%	0	-
21-47	13	13%	0	-	0	-

Mean Scores for Admissions -			
All Participants			
	Lifetime	12 Months Prior	During CRP
Mean	7.90 Admissions	1.45 Admissions	.67 Admissions

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

* Data Source: API, July 2002

** Data not available from API for 74 defendants

**Table 6:
API Days for Selected 2001
CRP Participants***
N=100 of 175**

Number Days	Lifetime Days		12 Months Prior to Initial CRP Hearing		During CRP	
0 Days	5	5%	37	37%	63	63%
1 Day	4	4%	12	12%	3	3%
2 Days	8	8%	5	5%	6	6%
3 Days	3	3%	5	5%	0	0%
4 Days	4	4%	6	6%	2	2%
5 Days	4	4%	4	4%	1	1%
6 Days	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%
7 Days	2	2%	0	-	1	1%
8-14 Days	11	11%	10	10%	5	5%
15-30 Days	6	6%	10	10%	11	11%
31-90 Days	18	18%	8	8%	4	4%
91-180 Days	6	6%	2	2%	3	3%
181-365 Days	11	11%	0	-	0	0%
366-1,095 Days	12	12%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Over 1,095 Days	5	5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Mean Scores for Days in API -
All Participants**

	Lifetime Days	12 Months Prior to Initial CRP Hearing	During CRP
Mean	205.86 Days	10.36 Days	8.81 Days

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

* Data Source: API

** Information not available about days in API for 75 defendants

**Table 7:
Number of Arrests for Selected 2001
CRP Participants ****

Number Arrests	Lifetime Before Dispo in CRP		Six Months Before Dispo in CRP		Six Months After Dispo in CRP	
0	-	-	15	9%	111	69%
1	16	10%	88	54%	32	20%
2	18	11%	43	27%	7	4%
3	13	8%	9	6%	6	3%
4	15	9%	3	2%	3	2%
5	17	11%	3	2%	2	1%
7	11	7%	1	1%	0	-
8	7	4%	0	-	1	1%
9-15	23	14%	0	-	0	-
16-32	25	15%	0	-	0	-
33 or more	17	11%	0	-	0	-
Total	162		162		162	

**Mean Scores for Number of Arrests -
All Participants**

	Arrests Lifetime Before Dispo	Arrests Six Months Before Dispo	Arrests Six Months After Dispo
Mean # Arrests	13.5	1.5	0.6

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

** Data Source: Department of Public Safety, July 2002*

*** Data unavailable for thirteen defendants*

**Table 8:
Number of Arrests for 2001 CRP Participants
With Eight or More Hearings****

Number Arrests	Lifetime Before Dispo		Six Months Before Dispo		Six Months After Dispo	
0	-	-	8	13%	46	75%
1	5	8%	31	51%	11	18%
2	5	8%	16	26%	1	2%
3	5	8%	4	7%	1	2%
4	8	13%	1	2%	2	3%
5	6	10%	1	2%	0	-
6	5	8%	0	-	0	-
7	4	7%	0	-	0	-
8	4	7%	0	-	0	-
9-15	8	13%	0	-	0	-
16-32	8	13%	0	-	0	-
33 or more	3	5%	0	-	0	-
Total	61		61		61	

**Mean Scores for Number of Arrests -
Eight or More Hearings**

	Arrests Lifetime Before Dispo	Arrests Six Months Before Dispo	Arrests Six Months After Dispo
Mean # Arrests	10.3	1.4	0.4

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

* Data Source: Department of Public Safety, July 2002

**Data unavailable for five defendants

**Table 9:
Number of Arrests for 2001 CRP Participants
With Seven or Fewer Hearings****

Number Arrests	Lifetime Before Dispo		Six Months Before Dispo		Six Months After Dispo	
0	-	-	7	7%	65	64%
1	11	11%	57	56%	21	21%
2	13	13%	27	27%	6	6%
3	8	8%	5	5%	5	5%
4	7	7%	2	2%	1	1%
5	1	1%	2	2%	2	2%
6	5	5%	0	-	0	-
7	7	7%	1	1%	0	-
8	3	3%	0	-	1	1%
9-15	15	15%	0	-	0	-
16-32	17	17%	0	-	0	-
33 or more	13	13%	0	-	0	-
Total	101		101		101	

**Mean Scores for Number of Arrests -
Seven or Fewer Hearings**

	Arrests Lifetime Before Dispo	Arrests Six Months Before Dispo	Arrests Six Months After Dispo
Mean # Arrests	15.4	1.5	0.7

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

* Data Source: Department of Public Safety, July 2002

**Data unavailable for eight defendants

**Table 10:
Days Incarcerated for all 175 Selected
2001 CRP Participants***

Number of Days	Days Incarcerated Six Months Before Disposition		Days Incarcerated Six Months After Disposition	
0 Days	13	9%	55	39%
1 Day	6	4%	9	6%
2 Days	9	6%	5	4%
3 Days	3	2%	5	4%
4 Days	4	3%	2	1%
5 Days	6	4%	3	2%
6 Days	4	3%	5	4%
7 Days	8	6%	6	4%
8-14 Days	20	14%	9	6%
15-30 Days	20	14%	12	9%
31-90 Days	42	29%	17	12%
91-180 Days	8	6%	9	6%
181-365 Days	-	-	5	4%
Total Participants	143 (data not available for 32 defendants)		142 (data not available for 33 defendants)	

**Mean Scores for Days Incarcerated -
All Participants**

	Six Months Before Disposition	Six Months After Disposition
Mean	27.8 Days	23.2 Days

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

* Data Source: Department of Corrections, July 2002

**Table 11:
Days Incarcerated for 2001 CRP Participants With
Eight or More Hearings**

Number of Days	Days Incarcerated Six Months Before Disposition		Days Incarcerated Six Months After Disposition	
0 Days	5	9%	19	33%
1 Day	4	7%	3	5%
2 Days	1	2%	4	7%
3 Days	-	-	1	2%
4 Days	2	3%	1	2%
5 Days	2	3%	2	4%
6 Days	1	2%	2	4%
7 Days	3	5%	3	5%
8-14 Days	7	12%	3	5%
15-30 Days	10	17%	6	11%
31-90 Days	19	33%	9	16%
91-180 Days	4	7%	4	7%
181-365 Days	-	-	-	-
Total	58 (data not available for 8 participants)		57 (data not available for 9 participants)	

**Mean Scores for Days Incarcerated -
8 or More Hearings**

	Six Months Before Disposition	Six Months After Disposition
Mean	31.1 Days	19.5 Days

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

January 2003

* Data Source: Department of Corrections, July 2002

**Table 12:
Days Incarcerated for 2001 CRP Participants
With Seven or Fewer Hearings**

Number of Days	Days Incarcerated Six Months Before Disposition		Days Incarcerated Six Months After Disposition	
0 Days	8	9%	36	42%
1 Day	2	2%	6	7%
2 Days	8	9%	1	1%
3 Days	3	4%	4	5%
4 Days	2	2%	1	1%
5 Days	4	5%	1	1%
6 Days	3	4%	3	4%
7 Days	5	6%	3	4%
8-14 Days	13	15%	6	7%
15-30 Days	10	12%	6	7%
31-90 Days	23	27%	8	9%
91-180 Days	4	5%	5	6%
181-365 Days	-	-	5	6%
Total Participants	85 (data not available for 24 participants)		85 (data not available for 24 participants)	

**Mean Scores for Days Incarcerated -
7 or Fewer Hearings**

	Six Months Before Disposition	Six Months After Disposition
Mean	25.6 Days	25.6 Days

Alaska Judicial Council CRP Evaluation

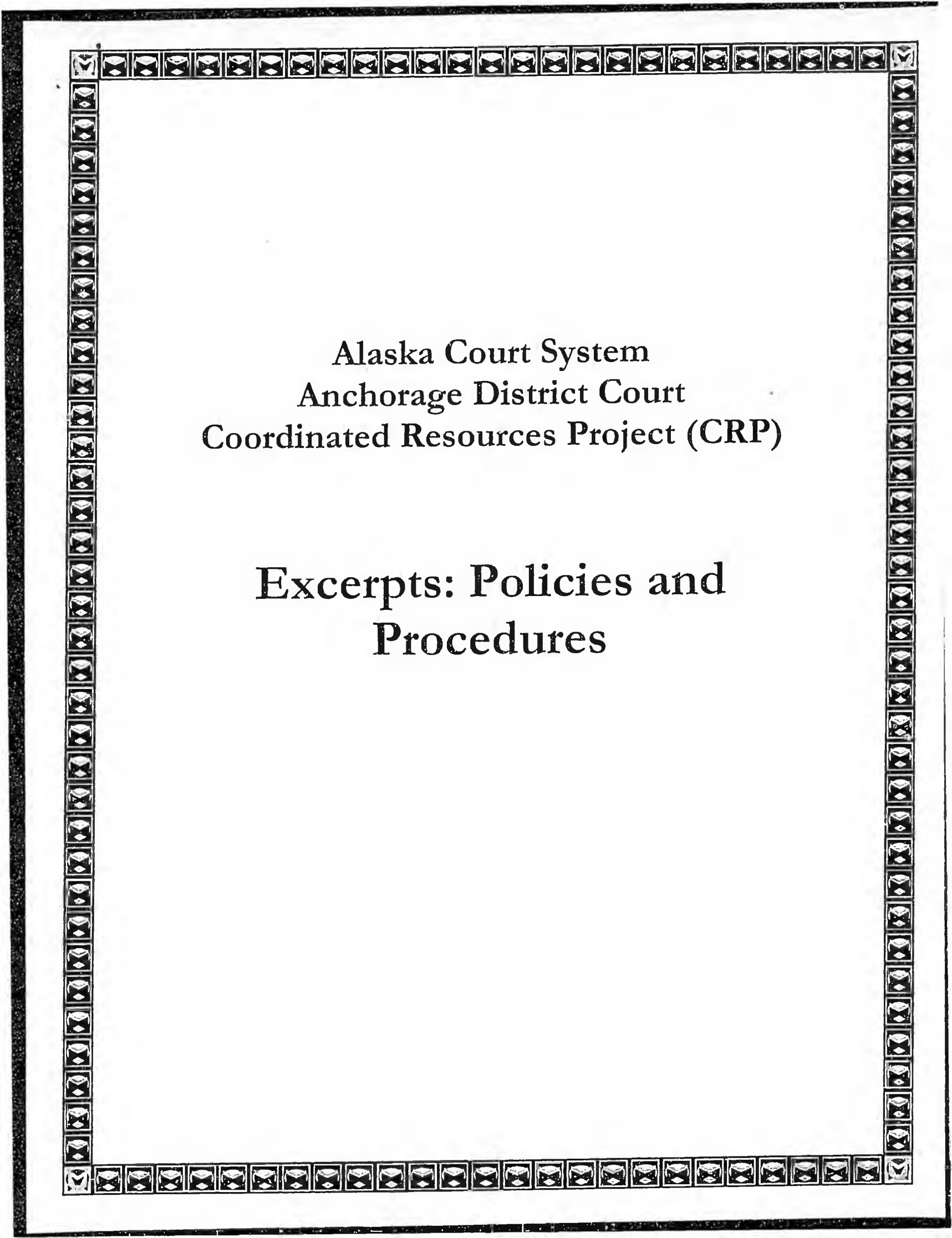
January 2003

* Data Source: Department of Corrections, July 2002

Appendix D

**CRP Excerpts:
Policies and Procedures**

**CRP Evaluation
January 2003**



Alaska Court System
Anchorage District Court
Coordinated Resources Project (CRP)

Excerpts: Policies and
Procedures

Introduction: The Coordinated Resources Project

The national movement to deinstitutionalize the mentally disabled, beginning the 1970's and continuing to today, has had the unfortunate consequence of re-institutionalizing many mentally disabled people in correctional facilities. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 1998 American prisons and jails held 238 thousand mentally ill offenders, 16% of state prisons and jail inmates and 7 % of federal inmates.

The percentage of incarcerated persons who suffer from mental disabilities in Alaska is higher than that of the rest of the nation. On a snapshot day in January of 1997, Alaska Care Systems North found that 37% of the 3,091 inmates housed in the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) were Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) beneficiaries (mentally ill, developmentally disabled, dementia or other related brain disorders, or alcoholic w/psychosis).

People with mental disabilities have an increased likelihood of being "criminalized" (or being processed through the criminal justice system instead of through the mental health system) for publicly acting out the symptoms of their mental illness. The cruel irony is that for people in need of mental health care, jail can increase their suffering and the severity of their symptoms to an alarming degree.

In response the problem of 'criminalization' of people with mental disabilities, the Alaska Court System (ACS) established the Coordinated Resources Project (CRP)/Anchorage Mental Health Court Project in 1999 — in the Anchorage District Court to address the unique needs of misdemeanor offenders with mental disabilities.

The CRP is a collaboration between Alaska Court System judges, Department of Corrections staff, law enforcement, prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, Office of Public Advocacy and Community Behavioral Health providers who are specially trained and who consistently participate in CRP court hearings.

How the CRP/Anchorage Mental Health Court Project Works

The court diverts low-level misdemeanor offenders with mental disabilities from jail and into appropriate community treatment, focusing on the individual therapeutic needs of the Defendant. Defendants with mental disabilities who adhere to treatment requirements cycle through jails and psychiatric hospitals far less often.

Collaboration: An important highlight of the CRP Project is to provide a single point of contact for a Defendant with mental disabilities. It provides a team of designated and specially trained Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and case coordinators who consistently participate in court hearings. This approach builds a base of knowledge and understanding about the individual Defendant's therapeutic needs and goals. It also provides maximum access and accommodation for individuals with cognitive challenges who are interfacing with the criminal justice system.

Community Treatment: The Defendant is eligible to receive assistance from the project in developing, coordinating and monitoring an individualized community treatment plan. The

court orders the plan as conditions of bail or probation. The Department of Corrections' Jail Alternative Services (JAS) project or the Office Public Advocacy, CRP Case Coordinator provide coordination and monitoring of community treatment plans. In some cases, the State or City Prosecutor monitors the treatment plan.

Monitoring by the Court: The court, through regularly held status hearings, monitors the Defendant's treatment plan. During status hearings, the court hears reports on the Defendant's progress in treatment. If treatment non-compliance occurs, the court may adjust the plan to motivate compliance or employ non-jail-based sanctions or incarceration for non-compliance.

Mission Statement

The mission of the CRP is to divert people with mental disabilities charged with misdemeanor offenses from incarceration and into community treatment and services and to prevent further contacts with the criminal justice system.

Objectives of the CRP

- ◆ To promote public safety;
- ◆ To reduce inappropriate incarceration of offenders that have a mental disability and promote their well-being in the community;
- ◆ To relieve the burden on the Department of Corrections presented by inmates with mental disabilities;
- ◆ To reduce repeated contacts with the criminal justice system among mentally disabled offenders (legal recidivism); and
- ◆ To reduce psychiatric hospitalization of mentally disabled offenders (clinical recidivism).

Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in the CRP a Defendant must be:

- 1) Charged with a misdemeanor offense with no other felony involvement in other cases or on felony probation;
- 2) A beneficiary of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority diagnosed with a mental illness, developmental disability, dementia or other related brain disorder, or alcoholism with psychosis as defined by AS 47.30.056:

Mentally Ill

- Schizophrenia(*);
- Delusional Disorders (*);
- Mood Disorders (* - if includes psychotic features);
- Anxiety Disorders;
- Somatoform Disorders;
- Organic Mental Disorders;

- Personality Disorders;
- Dissociative Disorders;
- Other Psychotic or severe and persistent mental disorders manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms of comparable severity to those manifested by persons with mental disorders listed in this subsection (*).

* Denotes diagnosis that may be eligible for assessment for assignment to the regular JAS Case Coordination Services caseload.

Developmental Disability

- Cerebral Palsy;
- Epilepsy;
- Mental Retardation;
- Autistic Disorder;
- Severe Organic Brain Impairment;
- Other severe and persistent mental disorders manifested by behaviors and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with disorders listed in this subsection.

Chronic Alcoholics with Psychosis

- Alcohol withdrawal delirium
- Alcohol hallucinosis
- Alcohol amnesic disorder
- Dementia associated with alcoholism
- Alcohol-induced organic mental disorder
- Alcoholic depressive disorder
- Other severe and persistent disorders associated with a prolonged or excessive drinking or episodes of drinking out of control and manifested by behavioral changes and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with disorders listed in this subsection.

Dementia

- Alzheimer's
- Multi-infarct dementia
- Senile dementia
- Pre-senile dementia
- Other severe and persistent mental disorder manifested by behaviors and symptoms similar to those manifested by persons with disorder listed in this subsection.

3) The Defendant's mental condition was a contributing factor to contact with the justice system;

- 4) A comprehensive therapeutic approach to the Defendant's mental health needs would likely prevent future relapse/deterioration of mental condition and contacts with the justice system;
- 5) The Defendant is eligible to receive community treatment and services within the Municipality of Anchorage; and
- 6) The defendant voluntarily agrees to follow the JAS/OPA Case Coordinator's recommended treatment plan as conditions of bail/probation.

Referrals to the CRP/Anchorage Mental Health Court

Each day CRP Project staff proactively compares all daily arraignment calendars with its list of previous CRP Eligible Defendants and schedules their cases for an Initial Opt-In hearing in the CRP.

For Defendant's unknown to the CRP, the Court has a liberal referral process in order to intervene at the earliest point possible with an individual who has a mental disability and has been charged with a crime. Anyone can refer a person to the mental health court for an introduction to the project and screening for eligibility.

- **Method of Referral from the Community**

1. Police;
2. Corrections Staff;
3. Lawyers;
4. Friends & Family Members;
5. Guardians, Conservators, Payees; or
6. Community Behavioral Health Providers

Any of the above may refer a case to the CRP by contacting the CRP Project Manager for screening at 264-0886. The community referral source needs only to provide the Defendant's name and doesn't need to know if the individual is legally or diagnostically eligible, only that the Defendant appears to be eligible.

- **Method of Referral from Regular District Court Proceedings**

1. Judicial Officers
2. Court System Staff

Often District Court Judicial Officers or court system staff will identify Defendants who may be eligible for participation in the CRP.

Any *Court System Staff* may refer a case to the CRP by contacting the CRP Project Manager for screening at 264-0886. The court system staff needs only to provide the

Defendant's name and doesn't need to know if the individual is legally or diagnostically eligible.

Criminal Division Staff should refer any case in which an ACS form CR-260 Order for Competency Evaluation or Evaluation in Aid of Disposition in a misdemeanor or felony case prior to indictment is issued. This referral can be made by calling the CRP Project Manager at 264-0886 with the Defendant's name, case number and date/time of the next court hearing.

Eligibility - Felony Reductions for Misdemeanor Charges

A defendant who is charged with a felony, is on felony probation or is charged with a felony during participation in the CRP is not eligible to participate in the CRP. However, a defendant charged with a felony that is reduced by the State to misdemeanor charges may be eligible to participate.

Participation criteria for these cases are as follows:

1. The Defendant must have a pending offer from the State reducing the felony charge(s) to a misdemeanor;
2. The case is screened by the CRP Project Manager for diagnostic eligibility, and
3. JAS or OPA Case coordination services must be available for the defendant.

Referrals from Other Jurisdictions

The CRP only hears cases involving individuals who are eligible or receiving services in the Municipality of Anchorage and intend to reside there for the foreseeable future. The CRP is a community-based project and does not have the resources to link the Defendant with and monitor services outside the area.

CRP Hearing Schedule

CRP hearings are held each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoon beginning at 2:30 p.m. for in-custody Defendants and 3:15 p.m. for those out of custody. Judge Stephanie Rhoades presides over the hearings on Tuesday and Thursday and Judge John Lohff on Wednesday. Effort is made by the CRP to only schedule State cases on Tuesdays and Wednesdays whenever possible. The CRP attempts to organize the daily calendar to accommodate case coordinators, treatment providers, and the overall efficiency of the court.

Victim Rights and Notification

Nothing in these policies and procedures is in any way intended to affect the legal rights of crime victims. The CRP court will make the identical inquiries as are required in regular district court proceedings with respect to legally required victim notification. The CRP court encourages the participation of crime victims at all hearings.

Initial Opt-In Hearing

Each Defendant that is referred to the CRP will be set for an Initial Opt-In Hearing unless it is clear at the time of referral that the Defendant is not eligible. At this initial stage in the proceedings, the Defendant is provided information about the project, given an opportunity to evaluate if they wish to participate, and assigned to a Case Coordinator for further assessment.

At the Initial Opt-In hearing a defense attorney assigned to the CRP will meet with the Defendant and explain the legal status of their case. The attorney, as well as the CRP Judge, will explain the CRP Court process the Defendant. The Defendant, if legally competent, may decide to participate in the CRP at the Initial Opt-In or may request additional time to decide. If additional time is needed, a Continued Initial Opt-In hearing will be set and Criminal Rule 45 should be tolled with the Defendant's agreement after explanation. A Defendant who does not elect to participate in the CRP will maintain all court dates in their case as previously set at arraignment.

Defendants who elect to pursue the development of a community based treatment plan to be monitored by the JAS or OPA Case Coordinator and the CRP Court will complete a **Motion for Initial Opt-In**. The Motion for Initial Opt-In memorializes the Defendant's beginning date of participation in the CRP. The motion also documents the Defendant's decision regarding trial dates and tolling Rule 45.

The Defendant also will sign releases of information in favor of the assigned case coordinator to allow gathering of medical and mental health information to enable the development of a comprehensive individualized treatment plan.

Method of Initial Opt-In

1. The Defendant and their attorney will complete the **Motion for Initial Opt-In** to CRP Court form provided by the court. The Prosecutor will indicate their non-opposition or opposition by signature on the motion.
2. The defense attorney will present the **Motion for Initial Opt-In** to CRP Court form to the prosecutor for signature and then file it in open court.
3. The CRP judge will grant or deny the Motion. If granted, the CRP judge will set conditions of release on the **Co ordinated Resources Project Conditions of Release/Bail** form pending the creation of a formal individualized treatment plan.
4. The CRP Judge will insure that the following information has been or is gathered during the Initial Opt – In hearing:
 - Diagnostic information – if available - to document that the Defendant meets the above stated eligibility criteria will be provided to the assigned Case Coordinator;

- Other pending criminal charges;
 - Prior criminal history of the Defendant;
 - Any other criminal probation orders;
 - Respondent in any DV protective orders and if so the terms of those orders; and
 - Name of guardian, conservator, or payee if any.
5. All cases accepted into the CRP will have case coordination services assigned. The CRP judge will determine whether the JAS or OPA Project Case Coordinator will be assigned to the Defendant's case.

The DOC/JAS Project is a jail diversion project funded by the Trust. The JAS Case Coordinator serves up to 40 people who are diagnosed with a major psychotic disorder and are incarcerated at the time of referral to JAS. Five of the 40 slots are available for people with developmental disabilities, organic mental disorder, and/or Traumatic Brain injury.

The OPA Case Coordinator is also funded by the Trust. The OPA Case Coordinator serves up to 40 people who are diagnosed as Trust beneficiaries and who are in or out of custody at the time of referral.

The role of the JAS and OPA Case Coordinators is to gather Defendant's diagnostic information, document eligibility, assist the Defendant in identifying, accessing and advocating for community behavioral health treatment options and develop a individualized treatment plan to propose to the court in lieu of a traditional sentence. If the Defendant ultimately is sentenced in the CRP, the Case Coordinator also acts as a problem-solving liaison between the Defendant, the direct service providers and the court and monitors the Defendant's progress in their treatment plan. The Case Coordinator appears in court with the Defendant to report on the Defendant's progress.

6. A Bail Status Hearing will be set to review the status of the development of the Defendant's individualized treatment plan and the Defendant's progress on bail pending Formal Opt-In.

Formal Opt-In Hearing

A Motion for Formal Opt-In to the CRP Court may be filed with the court after a Defendant has:

- Developed an agreed upon individualized community treatment plan with their assigned Case Coordinator, and
- Worked with their attorney to negotiate a legal resolution to their criminal case based on their agreement to follow the treatment plan.

Prior to Formal Opt-In, a Defendant may decide that they do not wish to participate in the CRP process and may have their case returned to the regular district court without sanction. However, after a Defendant has formally Opted-In, both a therapeutic and legal resolution of the Defendant's case is contemplated and recorded and the Defendant is required to follow the terms of their treatment plan as agreed or sanctions may issue.

Method of Formal Opt-In

1. Prior to the Formal Opt-In hearing, the Case Coordinator will memorialize the individualized treatment plan on the CRP court form entitled **JAS or OPA Treatment and Release Recommendations**. The Case Coordinator explains their role to the Defendant their role and reviews the treatment requirements of the plan. The Defendant's responsibilities and future court hearings and the consequences of failing to follow the treatment plan as agreed are also explained. At this time, the Defendant can make their final decision regarding participation in the CRP.
2. The Defendant and their attorney will complete the **Motion for Formal Opt-In to CRP Court** form provided by the court;
3. The Defendant's attorney will present the **Motion for Formal Opt-In to CRP Court** form to the prosecutor for signature and file it in open court;
4. The CRP judge considers the proposed treatment plan, legal disposition and reviews the plan with the Defendant and grants or denies the Motion. If granted, the CRP judge will record the legal disposition on the record. If the Defendant has agreed to be sentenced, the court will conduct the sentencing.
5. The **JAS/OPA Treatment and Release Recommendations** will be ordered by the CRP judge as Conditions of Release or conditions of sentence in lieu of active jail time.
6. The Initial and Formal Opt-In Motions, the CRP Conditions of Release and the will be kept in the ACS file. The **JAS/OPA Treatment and Release Recommendations** will be kept in a confidential envelope in the ACS file.

Community Services Treatment Plan

After Initial Opt-In to the CRP, all CRP participants (except for homeless chronic inebriates who are utilizing the service of the Homeward Bound Program) will receive case coordination services from either the DOC/JAS Case Coordinator or the OPA Case Coordinator.

If the JAS or the OPA Case Coordinator's caseload is full, the court will note whether the Defendant would have been eligible to participate and whether the Defendant wished to participate. The court will document the need for additional Case Coordination services. The court will not establish a wait-list for Case Coordination services, but will regularly apprise the legal team about the status of the JAS or OPA caseloads.

During the Initial Opt-In period, the JAS/OPA Case Coordinator works with the Defendant and defense counsel to determine whether the individual is eligible for community treatment services, identifies an individualized community treatment plan, and determines if the Defendant is willing and able to participate in the plan. If the Defendant decides to Formally Opt-In as a CRP participant, The JAS/OPA Case Coordinator will appear with the Defendant and present the formal Treatment and Release Plan to the court to be ordered as

conditions of bail or probation. Elements of this individualized plan may include, but are not limited to:

- Crisis intervention and stabilization
- Co-occurring mental health and substance abuse treatment services
- Initial and/or ongoing psychological assessment
- Intensive case management
- Medication management
- Anger management
- Group therapy
- Individualized therapy
- Family therapy
- Individualized "wraparound" services
- Supportive, transitional, or independent housing
- Assistance with entitlements
- Protective payeeship, conservatorship, & guardianship
- Employment, training, and vocational services
- Transportation services
- Linkages to other support services

After Formal Opt-In, the Case Coordinator will monitor the Defendant's progress in the plan and will appear with the Defendant at all subsequent hearings to report on the Defendant's progress.

Continued Eligibility

If the Defendant fails to adhere to the plan as agreed, the Case Coordinator may request a hearing to review the problem by requesting the hearing through the Project Manager after assuring that the Defendant and treatment provider will be available and the attorneys didn't oppose.

In cases where a Defendant's failure to adhere to the plan as agreed may compromise the public safety, the Case Coordinator will file an Affidavit of Non-Compliance with the Prosecutor and the Prosecutor may file a Petition to Revoke Probation.

Opt-Out: Returning Case to Regular District Court

Prior to Formal Opt-In, a Defendant may decide that they do not wish to participate in the CRP process and may have their case returned to the regular district court without sanction. After a Defendant has formally Opted-In, however, both a therapeutic and legal resolution of the Defendant's case is contemplated and recorded and the Defendant is required to follow the terms of their treatment plan as agreed or sanctions may issue.

Methods of Returning Case to Regular District Court

1. After Motion for Initial Opt-In to CRP Court is filed, defense counsel may make an oral or written motion to return the case to the regular district court either at a CRP hearing or by filing it with the CRP Project Manager. In either of the above events, the court will issue **CRP Court Order Returning Case to Regular District Court Calendar** and will distribute the Order. The CRP court will specify the next court hearing to be held in the case.

If the Defendant has been using the JAS or OPA Case Coordinator to coordinate a treatment plan, the Defendant may opt out before proposing the plan, however, counsel must notify the JAS or OPA Case Coordinator immediately so that they do not continue to work on the Defendant's behalf.

JAS	Laura Brooks	269-7392
OPA	Steve Williams	264-0887

2. After a Motion for Formal Opt-In to CRP Court is filed, prosecution or defense counsel may either make an oral or written motion to vacate the **JAS/OPA Treatment and Release Recommendations** as conditions of bail/sentence at a CRP hearing or by filing it with the CRP Project Manager. In either of the above events, the court will evaluate the totality of the Defendant's legal and therapeutic progress and will determine whether the case should be returned to the regular district court with or without sanctions.

The CRP is a collaboration of designated and specially trained staff that builds a base of knowledge and understanding about the individual Defendant's therapeutic needs and goals. Once a Defendant has completed an Initial Opt-In to the CRP court then all future hearings in that case must be scheduled before the assigned CRP Judge.

Order: CRP Conditions of Release/Bail

At any CRP hearing in which the court orders conditions of release/bail, those conditions will be documented on the **CRP Conditions of Release/Bail** form provided by the court.

Bail Violations

The philosophy of the CRP court is to avoid the use of jail as the primary motivator for compliance with treatment since incarceration is rarely therapeutic for persons with mental disabilities. It can increase their suffering and the severity of their symptoms to an alarming degree. At the same time, the court will not hesitate to incarcerate any individual who is a clear risk of harm to the community.

Bail violations may come to the attention of the court from the Prosecutor, JAS, or the OPA Case Coordinator. There are two ways to obtain a bail review hearing in the CRP court.

The first method involves the use of the **Request for a CRP Status Hearing** form. Both the Prosecutor and the JAS or OPA case Coordinator may use this method. This method can be used in cases involving technical bail violations, considered less serious, or when a Case Coordinator feels that court intervention is necessary to prevent a more serious violation from occurring. Because the Prosecutor is required to provide victim notification in

all cases involving a review of conditions of release, this first method may only be used when there are at least two (2) full days between the date of the request and the proposed date of the hearing. This request may be filed directly with the Project Manager, by e-mail, or by fax.

The second and more expedited way to obtain a bail review is by **Motion for Immediate Remand**. This motion may only be filed by the Prosecutor and must be supported by the affidavit of the JAS or OPA Case Coordinator or other sworn statement showing probable cause to believe that the Defendant has engaged in a serious violation of a condition of release. This method is used when the relief sought is re-incarceration for alleged violation due to considerations of public safety.

Methods for Scheduling a Review of Conditions of Release

- 1) The Prosecutor may request a Bail Review Hearing by using **Request for CRP Status Hearing** or **Motion for Immediate Remand** with a supporting affidavit demonstrating probable cause and a request that a warrant or summons issue. Prosecutors intending to file either request should first telephone the Project Manger at 264-0886 or CRP Project Secretary at 264-0666 to insure staff will be available to accept a filing for expedited processing.
 - If by fax: Send to attention of CRP Project Manager at 264-0872
 - If by e-mail: Send to ktrawver@courts.state.ak.us
 - Or hand deliver to CRP Project Manager or CRP Project Secretary.
- 2) The JAS or OPA Case Coordinator may request a Bail Review Hearing if deemed necessary while a case is in bail status by filing a Request for CRP Status Hearing form. Case Coordinators will notify the Defendant's Community Service Provider and certify that the both the Defendant and their direct service provider will be able to appear at the proposed hearing date and that attorneys assigned were notified.
- 3) The CRP will schedule the hearing as requested, issue process as requested, and notice the parties of its actions by phone, e-mail or fax.

CRP Status Hearings: Monitoring for the Probation Period

After the sentencing hearing, the CRP judge will schedule ongoing status hearings to be attended by the Defendant, service provider(s), Case Coordinators, and prosecuting and defense attorneys. Status Hearings may continue throughout the Defendant's probationary period. The frequency and duration of status hearings is based on a Defendant's progress in treatment.

The purpose of all CRP status hearings is primarily to report on the Defendant's progress and commitment to their community based treatment plan, to problem-solve any difficulties the Defendant and/or the provider may be experiencing in following the plan and to tailor and modify the plan if required. If necessary and appropriate, elements of the plan may be modified to help the offender gain the maximum benefit from treatment. Status hearings help the CRP judge to determine whether the Defendant is stable and is receiving the care

they need. The court and all CRP project partners make every effort to draw upon all available resources to ensure that the Defendant succeeds in completing the treatment plan.

For CRP participants, the court-ordered conditions of bail or probation may typically include one or more of the following:

- Following the recommended treatment plan in cooperation with community mental health service providers;
- Taking all medications as prescribed;
- Following alcohol or substance abuse treatment plans in cooperation with provider agencies;
- Maintaining housing;
- No criminal offenses;
- Submitting to regular substance abuse testing;
- No alcohol or street drugs;
- Attending scheduled meetings with Case Coordinators.

To monitor treatment compliance and effectiveness, the JAS and OPA Case Coordinators maintain frequent contact both with program participants and their treatment providers. Participants may remain on the Case Coordinator's caseload for the duration of the Defendant's probation with status hearings, continue to be monitored without status hearings, or have CRP conditions vacated for the remainder of their probation when a significant successful period of following their treatment plan is demonstrated.

Once a Defendant has agreed formally to participate in the CRP, they are required to follow the terms and conditions of the treatment plan and may not withdraw without the possibility of sanctions. However, a Defendant who participates successfully in the court-ordered treatment plan generally negotiates a plea bargain with the prosecutor and receives either a dismissal of charges or a partially or completely suspended jail sentence in exchange for the agreement to participate.

Post-Sentence Violations: Petitions to Revoke Probation

CRP participants, who fail to comply with any of the court-ordered conditions of probation, are subject to sanctions, which could include incarceration. If a CRP Defendant fails to comply with court-ordered treatment conditions, and is sentenced, the prosecuting attorney may file a petition to revoke probation and the Defendant returns to the CRP court to answer for the noncompliance.

While re-incarceration may be a possible sanction for violation of treatment conditions, the philosophy of the mental health court is to provide an accommodation to disabled persons and access treatment as an alternative to incarceration whenever possible. Above all, **Defendants who choose the CRP court option should not be subject to greater sentencing or probation revocation consequences in their cases overall than they might have met with if they had chosen the regular district court process instead.**

If the CRP court determines that any Defendant failed to comply with treatment conditions, the court will re-examine the overall conditions to determine whether they are still appropriate and whether the Defendant is capable of complying with them. Graduated sanctions may be utilized according to the nature of the violation.

Probation violations may come to the attention of the court from the Prosecutor or the JAS or OPA Case Coordinator. There are two ways to obtain a post-sentencing Status Hearing in the CRP court.

The first method involves the use of the **Request for a CRP Status Hearing** form. Both the Prosecutor and the JAS or OPA case Coordinator may use this method. This method can be used in cases involving technical probation violations, considered less serious, or when a Case Coordinator feels that court intervention is necessary to prevent a more serious violation from occurring.

The second and more expedited way to obtain a post-sentencing Status Hearing is by **Petition to Revoke Probation**. A Petition to Revoke Probation may only be filed by the Prosecutor and must be supported by the affidavit of the JAS or OPA Case Coordinator or other sworn statement showing probable cause to believe that the Defendant has engaged in a serious violation of probation. This method is used when the relief sought is re-incarceration for an alleged violation due to considerations of public safety.

Methods for Scheduling a Review of Probation Conditions

- 1) The Prosecutor may request a Post-Sentencing Status Hearing by using **Request for CRP Status Hearing** or by filing a **Petition to Revoke Probation** with a supporting affidavit demonstrating probable cause and a request that a warrant or summons issue. Prosecutors intending to file either request should first telephone the Project Manager at 264-0886 or CRP Project Secretary at 264-0666 to insure staff will be available to accept a filing for expedited processing.
 - If by fax: Send to attention of CRP Project Manager at 264-0872
 - Or hand deliver to CRP Project Manager or CRP Project Secretary.
- 2) The JAS or OPA Case Coordinator may request a post-sentencing Status Hearing if deemed necessary by filing a **Request for CRP Status Hearing** form. Case Coordinators must notify the Defendant's Community Service Provider and certify that the both the Defendant and their direct service provider will be able to appear at the proposed hearing date.
- 3) The CRP will schedule the hearing as requested, issue process as requested, and notice the parties of its actions by phone, e-mail, or fax.

Post-Sentence Opt-In

The CRP will accept participants who have been sentenced. The procedure for Initial Opt-In is identical to that involving a pre-trial Defendant (see above).

Court Record/Files

The CRP recognizes that by participating in the project, Defendants have otherwise private information shared in open court and is public record. This issue should be evaluated by anyone agreeing to participate in the project. However, the CRP limits the amount of confidential information held within the public court file. The CRP Judge and Clerks document all proceedings in the ACS case file along regular District Court practice. Brief notes regarding treatment progress are included in the ACS file, as well as all CRP Motions and Orders. JAS or OPA Case Coordinator's Treatment Recommendations and Title 12 Evaluations will be filed in a confidential envelope, not available to public viewing without a specific court order.

Data Collection

The CRP is funded as a pilot project and must prove its efficacy. As such, the CRP and their program evaluator, the Alaska Judicial Council, collect the following data on each individual referred to the CRP. When data is gathered, evaluated and disseminated, names are not included. Data collected includes:

- Referral to the CRP by date and referral source
- Basic demographic information
- Housing, Income, and Services at intake, during CRP participation, and at discharge/graduation
- Basic diagnostics documenting eligibility
- Case information and history (charges, attorney assigned, opt-in dates, etc.)
- Criminal history
- Hospitalization history