



Homeless Court

Bringing the law to the streets, the court to the homeless service agencies, and justice for all.

HCP Pop-Up Resource Fair

A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
THE COURT, THE COMMUNITY, AND
THE CLIENT

What is traditional Homeless Court?

A Brief History

1989 – StandDown

1990 – Women’s Resources Center

1994 – Father Joe’s Cold Weather Tent

1999 – Veteran’s Village and Father Joe’s, etc.

2001 – Monthly Sessions

2003 – Expanded Nationally – [American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness and Poverty](#)

2021 – HCP Pop-up Resource Fairs





Photo Credit: Sam Hodgkin





What is traditional Homeless Court?

Who & What? Eligibility

- Homeless or At-Risk of Homelessness
- Meet or Exceed Program Criteria or Self-Refer Based on Progress
- Eligible:
 - All traffic, MTS/trolley, or parking, and most misdemeanor cases.
- Ineligible:
 - Felony*, Toll*, DV, Sex, Civil, Out-of-County cases, New DUI's



What is traditional Homeless Court?

Why?

- Access to Justice – Inviting in those outside the system
- Promoting Confidence and Trust in the Court
- Collaborative – All parties have a seat at the table
- Public Safety and Community Building



Homeless Court Foundations

- Recognition Court
 - “Facilitate and Get Out Of The Way”
- Court comes to the Client
- Voluntary Participation
- No Jail
- Full range of misdemeanor cases, infraction cases, parking cases
- Giving people the opportunity to improve their lives by addressing the root causes of their behavior achieves better public safety outcomes than fines, supervision, and jail



Photo Credit: Sam Hodgkin

Work Group on Homelessness Final Report to the Chief Justice

Link to the Report: https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/hwg_work-group-report.pdf



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 21-147
For business meeting on November 19, 2021

Title

Final Report From the Work Group on
Homelessness to the Chief Justice

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected
None

Recommended by

Work Group on Homelessness
Hon. Louis Mauro, Chair
Hon. Carin Fujisaki, Vice-Chair

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

November 19, 2021

Date of Report

October 22, 2021

Contact

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Recommendation 2.1. Establish a homeless court program in more counties to reduce barriers to housing stability by clearing fines, fees, warrants, and outstanding cases after treatment and rehabilitation.

Homeless court programs offer treatment and rehabilitation in the community rather than incarceration in jail and allow participants to resolve citations and low-level cases often resulting from conditions of homelessness and poverty. When treatment and rehabilitation are complete, and charges and fines are resolved, barriers to housing and employment are reduced.

To maximize the impact of these programs, the Work Group on Homelessness recommends the following:

1. Courts in more jurisdictions should establish homeless court programs to reduce barriers to housing stability by clearing fines, fees, warrants, and outstanding cases after treatment and rehabilitation.
2. Courts should ensure that their homeless court eligibility criteria are as expansive as feasible and should include cases involving higher-level offenses, when appropriate.

HCP Pop-up vs. Homeless Court

NEW HCP POP-UP RESOURCE EVENT

- Client engages at the event for the first time
- Remove *immediate* barriers to benefits or housing
 - Outstanding misdemeanor warrants
 - DMV Holds from Superior Court
 - DMV holds from City parking fines/fees
 - Child Support Holds
- If warrant recalled, must appear in court on later date to resolve case.

TRADITIONAL HOMELESS COURT SESSION

- Client referred to Homeless Court by approved provider after completing provider requirements
 - 96 approved providers in San Diego County
- Remove all misdemeanor, infraction, and parking tickets; cases fully *dismissed* and/or *finest and fees satisfied* based on completion of program requirements.
- Graduation/Recognition Session held monthly

Community-based
Homeless Resource Fairs
are not new...

County Live Well Bus
Benefits Eligibility
Healthcare
Substance Treatment
Cell Phones
DMV
Housing Assistance

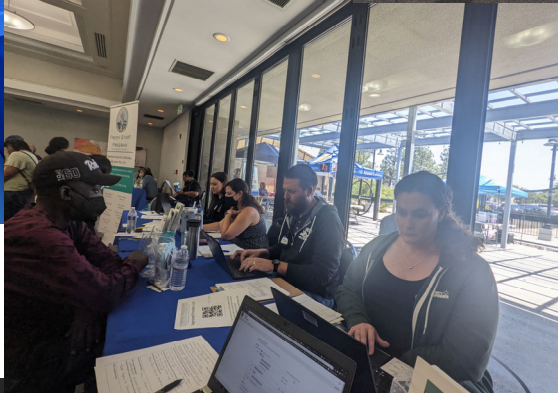
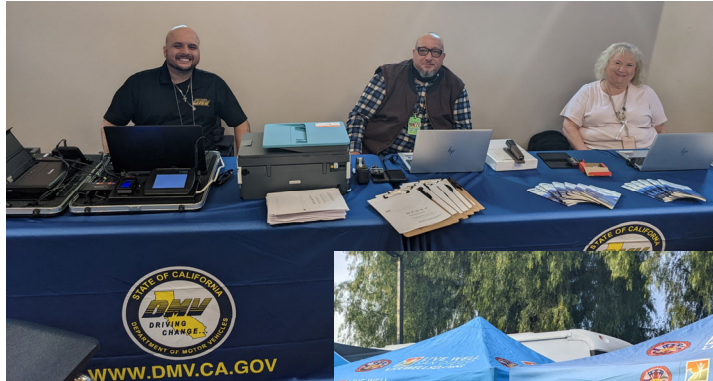
& SO MUCH MORE...

What is new?

Court meeting people where
they are
(in “active spaces”)

BRINGING REAL-TIME COURT/DMV RELIEF AND REMOVING
IMMEDIATE BARRIERS FOR THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN SERVICES

Court/PD/DA/CA
Dept of Child Support Services
Legal Aid Society
Registrar of Voters/LWV
County Assessor/Recorder
Department of Motor Vehicles



HCP Pop-up Resource Fair

1

Review DMV Printout Conduct an SDLAW warrant search

Note the case number, infraction / misdemeanor, branch, and date

2

Perform a mainframe / public court search

3

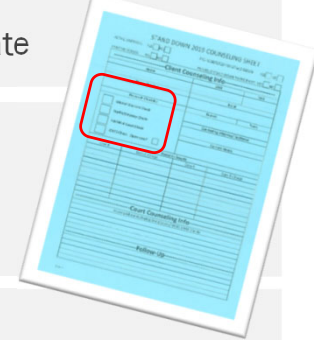
Search for client in the Odyssey / Traffic portal

Log in to conduct an advance search (e.g., DOB, CADL, SSN), and if you find a case, note the CADL

4

Create Stipulation after discussion with DA/CA for Court Process

Within a few minutes, court will have signed and barrier will be removed.



County Pop-up's By The Numbers:

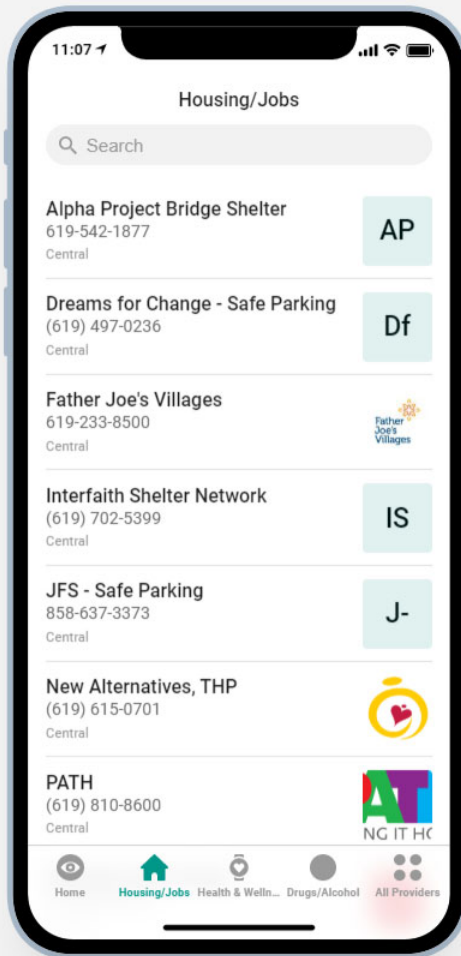
- Events: 11
- Stipulations Signed: 108
- Total Cases Resolved – Barriers Lifted: 158
 - Misdemeanor Warrants Recalled or Dismissed: 43
 - Court DMV Hold Infractions Dismissed: 115
- Avg Fines/Case: \$300 → \$47,400 satisfied

For those that need more legal help?

HCP POP-UP RESOURCE EVENTS ARE TO REMOVE *IMMEDIATE* BARRIERS.

TO SATISFY *ALL* FINES/FEES/MISDEMEANORS/PARKING ISSUES, CLIENTS
ENGAGE TRADITIONAL MONTHLY HOMELESS COURT

Client-Initiated & Client-Oriented



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WWW.BIT.LY/SDHCP

Contact us!

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[Http://bit.ly/sdhcp](http://bit.ly/sdhcp)