

## **SUMMARY OF SOME RECENT RESEARCH DATA ON THE CLARK COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

The following findings are those of Heidi Herinckx a faculty researcher from Portland State University based upon pre-MIRAP participants in Mental Health Court. I point out that this data **does not** include individuals admitted the past year or MiRAP candidates dates because presumably the data will be even more impressive for those participants that have MIRAP support. MIRAP is the grant supported re-arrest prevention program.

The Portland State data shows:

- (1) Mental Health Court Graduates were 4.1 **times** LESS likely to re-offend than others.
- (2) The data clearly shows that Mental Health Court helps break the cycle of the "repeat offender."
- (3) 80.5% of mental health court participants had a reduction in bookings after entering MHC (compared to a similar period before entry).
- (4) MHC over it's entire existence, has been dealing with serious offenders and difficult cases and not "cherry picking" clients.
- (5) Most participants have no further criminal justice contacts after being admitted to mental health court.

Additionally, Professor Randall Kliennesselink of the Department of Psychology at Washington State University has been studying our mental health court and has determined that the average number of jail days for those individuals with mental illness who opted in to mental health court has been 12 and for those that opted out 56 a difference of 44 days. For 105 individuals studied this resulted in jail cost savings of \$243,381.60. This figure does not include the cost of medicating a jail inmate with mental illness. The cost of medication comes to almost \$2000 per individual over their entire stay in the jail. This would be in addition to the average cost of jail above. There are other savings to the county and liability issues that are currently under review.

Even further, another University is preparing an article for publication that indicates the statistics for the first 11 months that the mental health court was in operation using our new model, shows even more favorable and dramatic results that the analysis of Portland State and Washington State set forth above. The reasons for the improved results in that study is that it is for a slightly different period of time and a slightly different population that we were using some different approaches on. That information should be available later this year.