

CALIFORNIA DEPENDENCY DRUG/FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS

County	Number of DD/FTCs	County	Number of DD/FTCs	County	Number of DD/FTCs
Alameda County	1	Marin County	0	San Luis Obispo County	1
Alpine County	0	Mariposa County	0	San Mateo County	0
Amador County	0	Mendocino County	1	Santa Barbara County	1
Butte County	1	Merced County	1	Santa Clara County	1
Calaveras County	0	Modoc County	1	Santa Cruz County	1
Colusa County	0	Mono County	0	Shasta County	0
Contra Costa County	0	Monterey County	0	Sierra County	0
Del Norte County	0	Napa County	1	Siskiyou County	1
El Dorado County	2	Nevada County	0	Solano County	1
Fresno County	1	Orange County	0	Sonoma County	1
Glenn County	0	Placer County	0	Stanislaus County	0
Humboldt County	0	Plumas County	0	Sutter County	0
Imperial County	0	Riverside County	3	Tehama County	1
Inyo County	0	Sacramento County	1	Trinity County	0
Kern County	0	San Benito County	0	Tulare County	0
Kings County	0	San Bernardino County	0	Tuolumne County	1
Lake County	1	San Diego County	2	Ventura County	1
Lassen	0	San Francisco County	1	Yolo County	0
Los Angeles County	5	San Joaquin County	1	Yuba County	0
Madera County	0				
TOTAL: 33 Dependency Drug/Family Treatment Courts in 25 Superior Courts					

Dependency Drug Courts are a family reunification program designed to address the issues of parents whose children have been removed from the home by the County because of the parents' abuse of drugs or alcohol. Participants who qualify for acceptance into these programs must comply with the specific requirements of program phase, which include frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, individual and group counseling, regular court appearances, and attendance in perinatal or parenting classes.

The Dependency Drug Court program is a collaborative effort that includes the Social Services Agency, the Health Care Agency, the County Counsel, the office of the Public Defender, the parents' retained legal counsel, and the Law Offices retained by the County to provide legal representation for the children.

Funding for Dependency Drug Courts come from various sources. Some boards of supervisors approve annual funding for the County agencies which allocate personnel and services that are essential to the success of the program. The goal is to provide parent(s) with the necessary parenting skills and treatment for their substance abuse to allow children to remain safely in their care and to help decrease the number of children placed in foster care.

ISSUES

#1 – Self-Referral to Dependency Courts may not be known early enough by the public, the individual, or a family member to seek or refer services

#2 – Court Referrals, when available can be successful, but must be involved with the Team noted above, especially county social services.

#3 – Service Assessments need to be “true” to identify the need and refer accordingly – internal training is lacking in many organizations. The above scenario on Dependency Drug Courts has proven to be effective in the provision of services, the benefits in dollars and more importantly the reunifications. As noted in #1, there needs to be awareness that drug courts work.

#4 and #5 –The provision of services at whatever level needs to be caring, professional from pre-beginning to success.

#6 – Treatment Services Ends – Once entered into a Dependency Drug Court, with a full caring/professional team noted above, unsatisfactory progress or poor outcomes are rare.

March 2015