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Federal Grant Expands Services for Dual Diagnosis Drug Treatment Court in Santa Clara County

SAN JOSE, CA -- The federal government has awarded the Santa Clara County Department of Alcohol & Drug Services a $1.2 million grant to enhance services for clients participating in treatment through the Dual Diagnosis Drug Treatment Court for co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders.

The Dual Diagnosis Drug Treatment Court, established in Santa Clara County in 1998, is part of the Superior Court of California. It was the first court of its kind in California to direct defendants into integrated treatment for substance abuse and mental health problems as an alternative to incarceration. It is one of the largest mental health treatment courts in the country.

Judge Stephen Manley, who presides over the Dual Diagnosis Drug Treatment Court, noted that "to date, this program has shown real promise. There are presently 308 graduates of the program, with a very low re-arrest rate, who continue to participate in community treatment."

A recent report showed that the savings to the County, based on these defendants receiving treatment rather than incarceration, were nearly $3 million.

The grant was awarded by the federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The funding will be distributed over three years in annual payments of $400,000.

"We have had to deal with some drastic budget cuts over the past two years," said Robert Garner, Director of the Department of Alcohol & Drug Services. "The securing of this grant is

good news and will bolster our efforts to treat clients referred to treatment by the Dual Diagnosis Drug Treatment Court."

About 275 more clients will be served during the three-year funding cycle. The money will allow the Department of Alcohol & Drug services to hire a full-time case manager to help coordinate more specialized and intensive treatment for clients participating in the program. The funding will also pay for additional residential treatment beds and expand outpatient services, giving clients greater access to psychiatric services and psychotropic medications.

"Our ongoing goal is to continue to expand the collaborative efforts between the Court and treatment in order to meet the needs of as many dually diagnosed clients as possible," Judge Manley said.

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Services is part of the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System, which is owned and operated by the County of Santa Clara.

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