# Blue Print for a Successful Mental Health Court

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# Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Court

- ***Re-envisioning*** how the criminal justice system addresses those who commit crimes and who live with mental illness and/or substance use disorders
- ***Treatment*** with accountability, not punishment
- State prison or ***something different***

# Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Court
## Scenario 1

- Felony Auto Theft
- Heroin in car
- Long criminal history
  - Drugs
  - Theft
  - prison
- ***What would we do in the old days?***

# Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Court
## Scenario 2

- David PD called regarding criminal threats
- Suspect leads them on high speed chase through Davis
- Car crashes, suspect flees
- He points loaded firearm at them
- K-9
- Suspect make strange statements
- Suspect has criminal history
- Suspect suffers from schizophrenia
- ***What would we do in the old days***?

# Yolo County

- Population just under 220,000
- 25% are Medi-Cal recipients
- Median Income-$57,663
- Persons below poverty level 18.7%
- Culturally Diverse
- Geographically Diverse

# Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Court

- A treatment approach
- Not one size fits all
- Public safety first
- Thinking long term – Recidivism
- Helping people get better and become successful

# Who'd have thunk it?

# What's in the Secret Sauce?

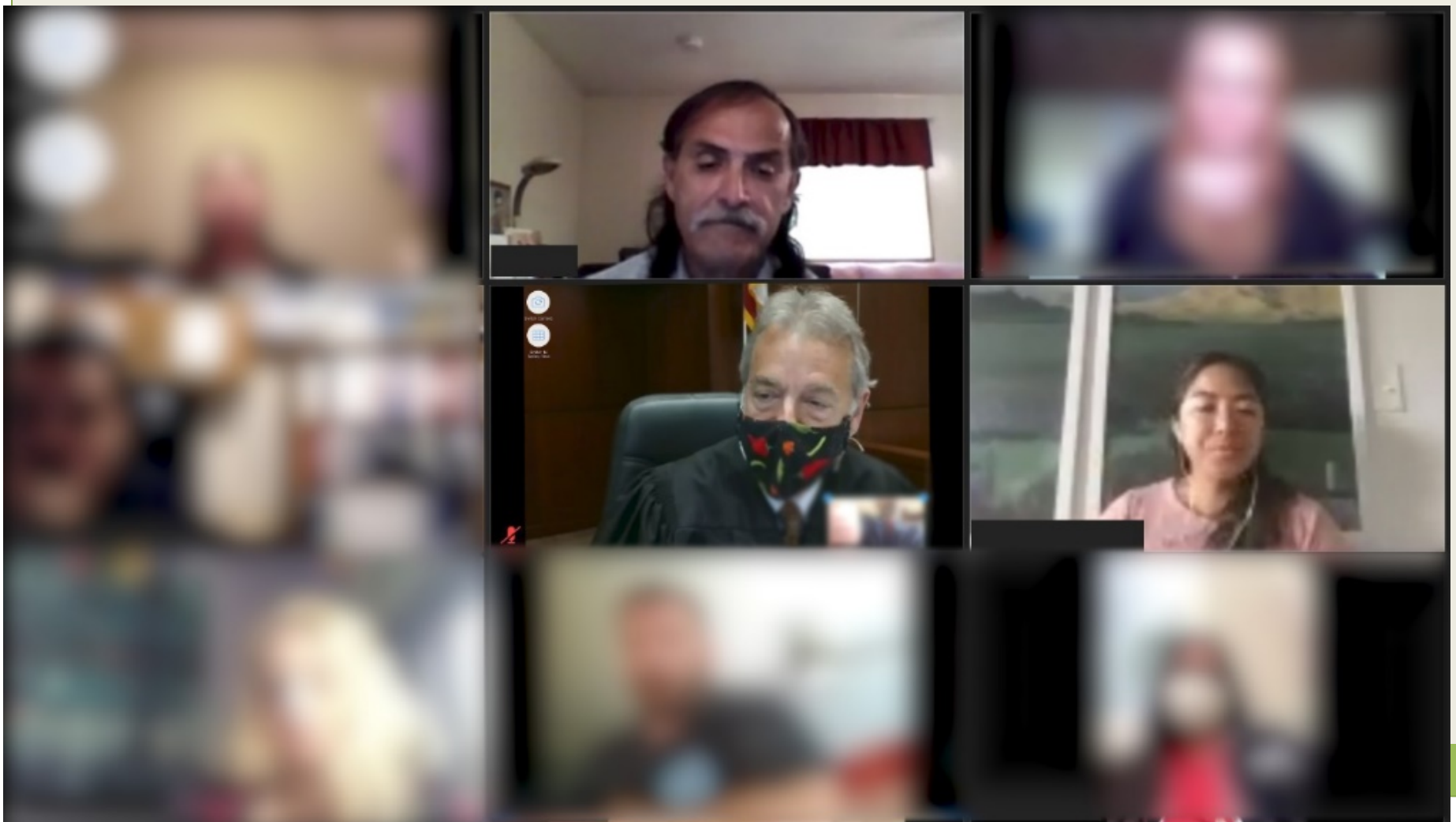
- Collaboration
- District Attorney and Public Defender
- A champion judge
- Dedicated staff at probation and HHSA supervising, providing services and supporting participants
- It's more than a job

# Team Collaboration

# Team Collaboration
# Judge, DA, PD, HHSA & Probation (YCSO)

# Champion Judge(s)

# Champion Judge



# The District Attorney

"Prisons are not the right place for those suffering from mental illness. We are committed to working with mental health professionals, judges and others to provide more appropriate and effective options for the seriously mentally ill and drug addiction."

– District Attorney Jeff Reisig

# The District Attorney

- Gatekeepers of the criminal justice system.
- Review reports from law enforcement agencies.
  - Identify mental health or substance abuse issues.
- File cases appropriately.
- Craft treatment focused resolutions (plea deals) involving MHC/ AIC.
- Reinforce positive behavior and sanction bad behavior, while being mindful of public safety concerns.
- Engagment with participants.

# District Attorney
# Line DDAs see positive outcomes

# The DA's Involvement

- Questions we ask our trial DDAs
  - Does this person like to hurt people – can we treat him/her outside a locked (prison or jail) environment?
    - Our number one priority is public safety!
  - Can something different work for this person?
  - If he/she goes to prison for 2-3 years and gets out in 18 months with credits, where are we at then?
    - More crime, more victims, exacerbating symptoms, etc.
- Whatever we've tried before – it's not MHC!

# The DA's Involvement

- A decision maker as dedicated representative (e.g., Chief DDA)
  - Sends message and direction from the top that the office is all in.
  - Allows for extensive training and guidance of all line prosecutors.

# District Attorney & Victims

- Victim Participation
- Restorative Justice component
- Victim Offender Conferences (YCRC)

# Role of the Public Defender

- Holistic Defense Model
  - The 4 pillars of a Holistic Defense Model
    - Seamless access to services that meets client's legal and social support needs
    - Dynamic, interdisciplinary communication
    - Advocates with an interdisciplinary skill set
    - Robust understanding of, and connection to, the community served

# Public Defender

- Holistic Defense Model (continued)
  - Getting our clients connected with MHC and AIC, the services and the supports, is the goal of a Holistic Defense. The clients are connected with the community and are in a better place than they would have otherwise been.

# Relationship Between the PD and DA

# Public Defender

- The Defense Perspective
  - Confidentiality
    - How is the referral process going to be used?
    - Will a referral hurt my client?
    - Paperwork – where will it be, can it be used against the client in this case or a future case
    - Is the case worth the structure of the program
    - Understand that we are a collaborative court, but I can not advocate against my client.  But I can educate my client to help develop insight

# Public Defender

- What is the defense's role?
  - Ultimately, it is to advocate for our clients and zealously represent them
  - Help navigate and support the clients though the MHC process so they can graduate
  - Sometimes our advocacy in the collaborative court means being quiet and letting the treatment team advocate for the client (swift sanctions/rewards)

# The Treatment Team – HHSA

## Full Service Partnership Treatment Model

- Small case load - 10:1
- Intense frequency and duration - 4xweek or 2 hours per week
- Wrap around services (mental health, substance use, housing, vocational/school, physical health, etc)
  - Treating the whole person using a holistic approach to wellness
    - Wellness Group
    - Healthy Living Group
    - Incorporating the Arts
    - WRAP group

# The Treatment Team - Probation

- Case Load- 30:1
- Assessments of new referrals
- Intense frequency and duration- Court & case by case basis
- Works closely with clients regarding compliance with terms and conditions (i.e. drug testing, community supervision, restitution, etc).
- Community involvement- transports, meetings in field, participate in groups alongside clients
- Networking- community based organizations, treatment providers, etc.
- Makes recommendations for rewards and sanctions

# Mental Health Court (MHC) & Addiction Intervention Court (AIC) ELIGIBILITY

- 18 or older
- US Citizen
- Yolo County resident
- Charged/Convicted of one or more misdemeanors or felonies or currently be on Probation
- Participant must agree to join MHC/AIC and follow the guidelines
- Participant must have the necessary insight and motivation to be successful in the program
- MHC/AIC Teams must all agree on participant's acceptance

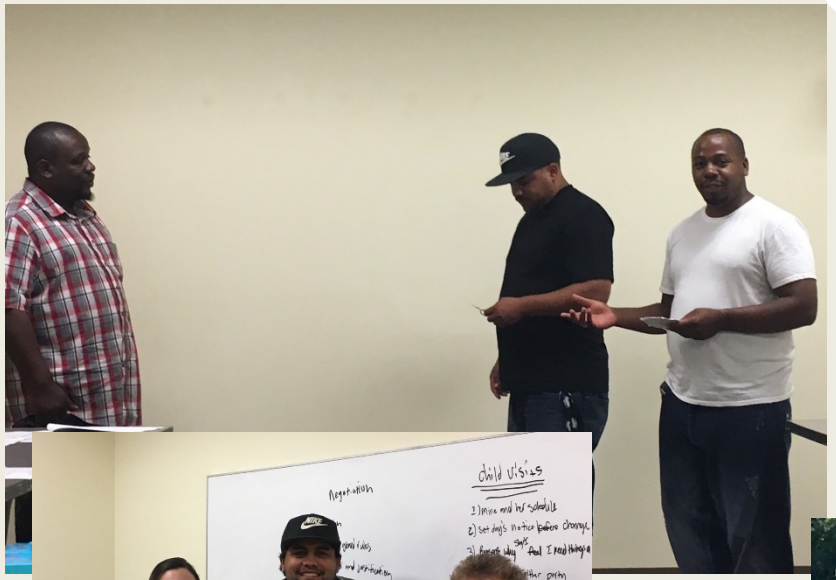
# Mental Health Court (MHC) & Addiction Intervention Court (AIC) ELIGIBILITY

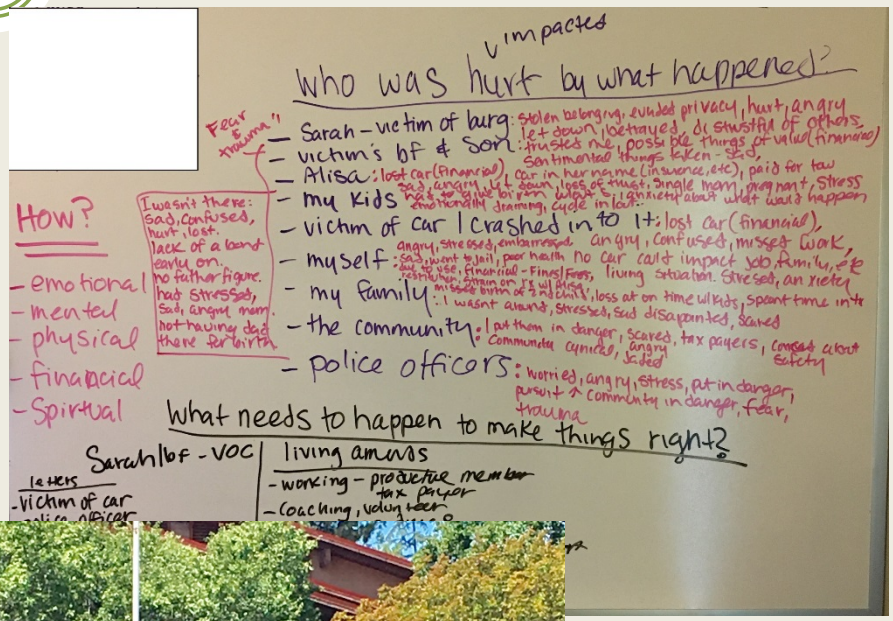
| MHC | AIC |
| --- | --- |
| • Diagnosed with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI)<br>• Mental State at the time of Offense (MSO) – Participant's SMI must be cause or aggravating factor in the commission of their crime | • Diagnosed with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)<br>• Their SUD was the cause or aggravating factor in the commission of their crime(s) |

# Mental Health & Addiction Intervention Court REQUIREMENTS

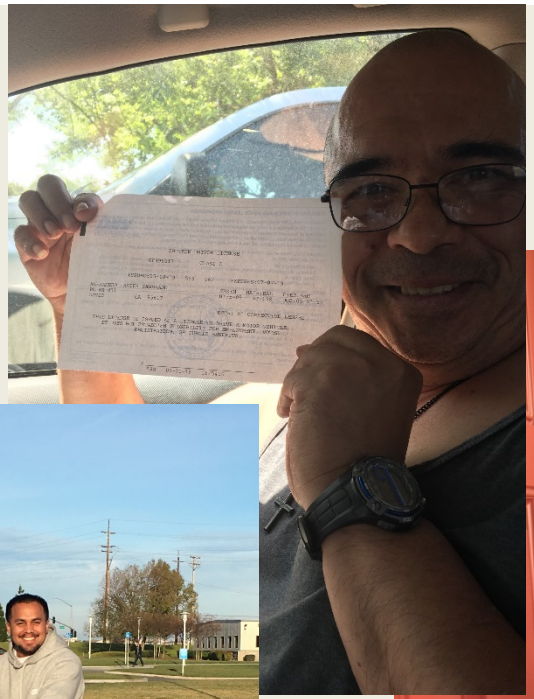
- Minimum of 18 months. Participants progress through four phases:
  - Phase I: Orientation and Treatment Plan Development
  - Phase II: Early Recovery
  - Phase III: Active Recovery
  - Phase IV: Sustained Recovery
  - MHC Alumni Program

# The Treatment Team – Probation and HHSA Reducing Recidivism

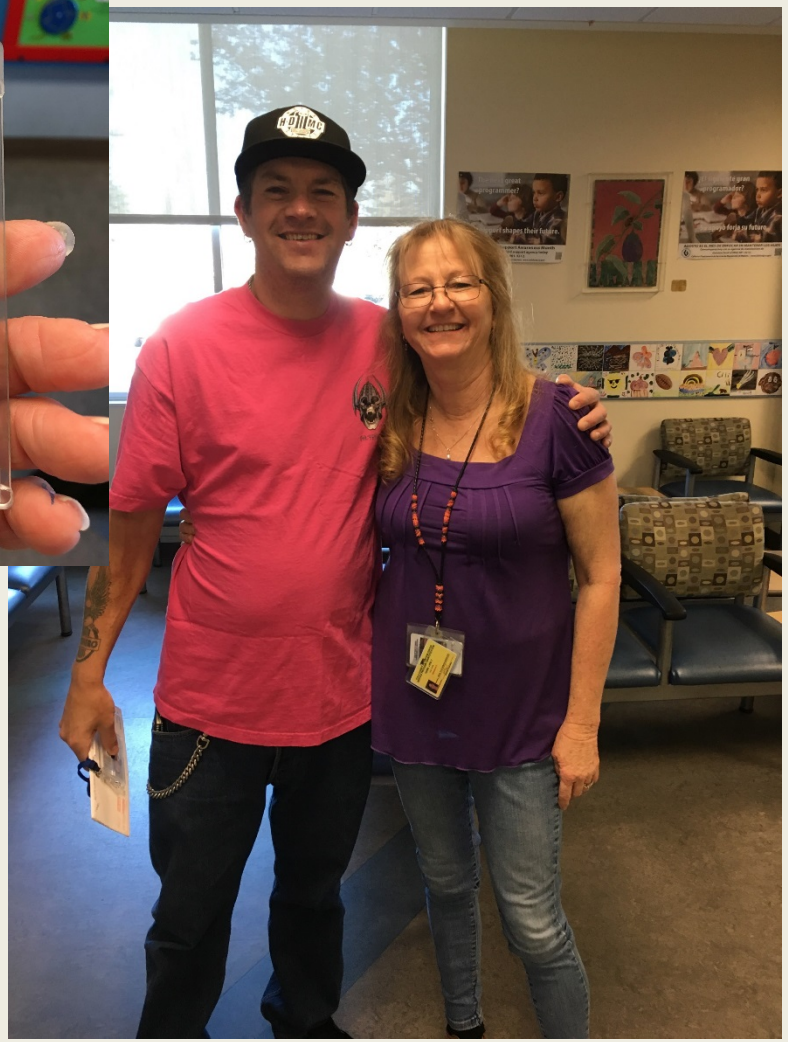




# Milestones and Achievements



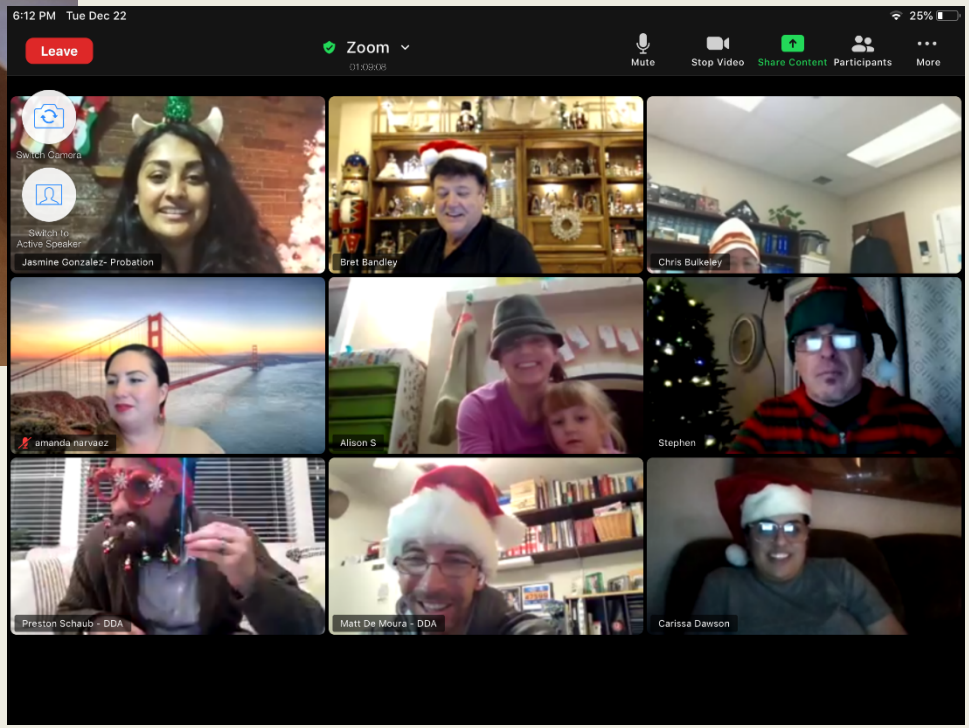
# Mental Health Court Milestones and Achievements



# Mental Health Court Outings

# Mental Health Court Annual BBQ and Holiday Party

# 2020 Holiday Zoom Parties



# Healthy Living Group

# Incorporating the Arts

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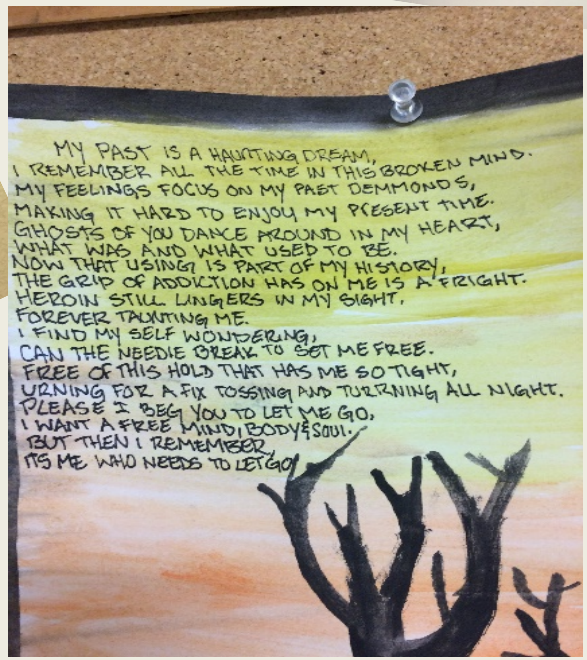
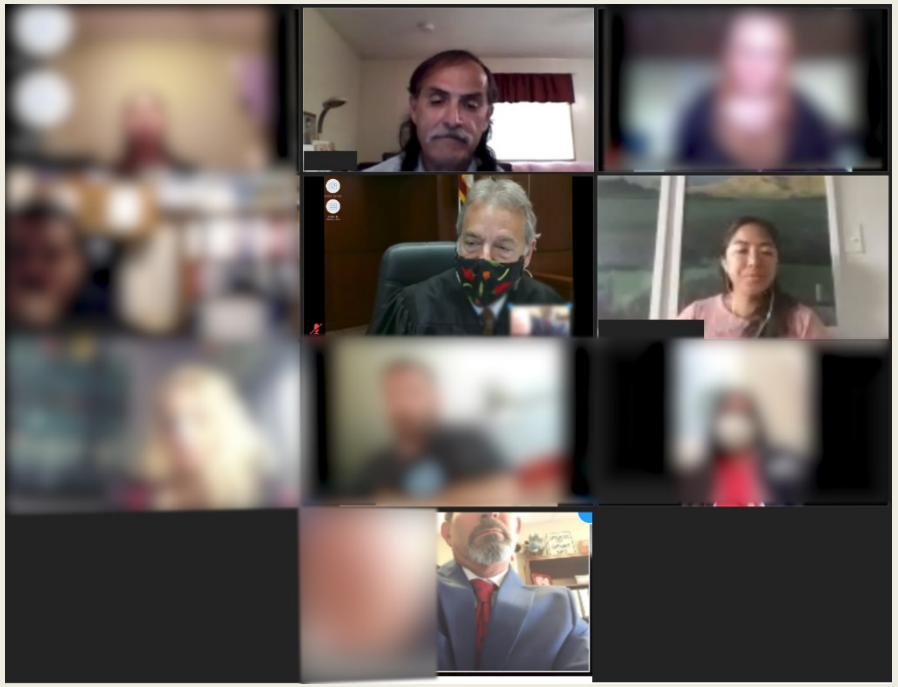
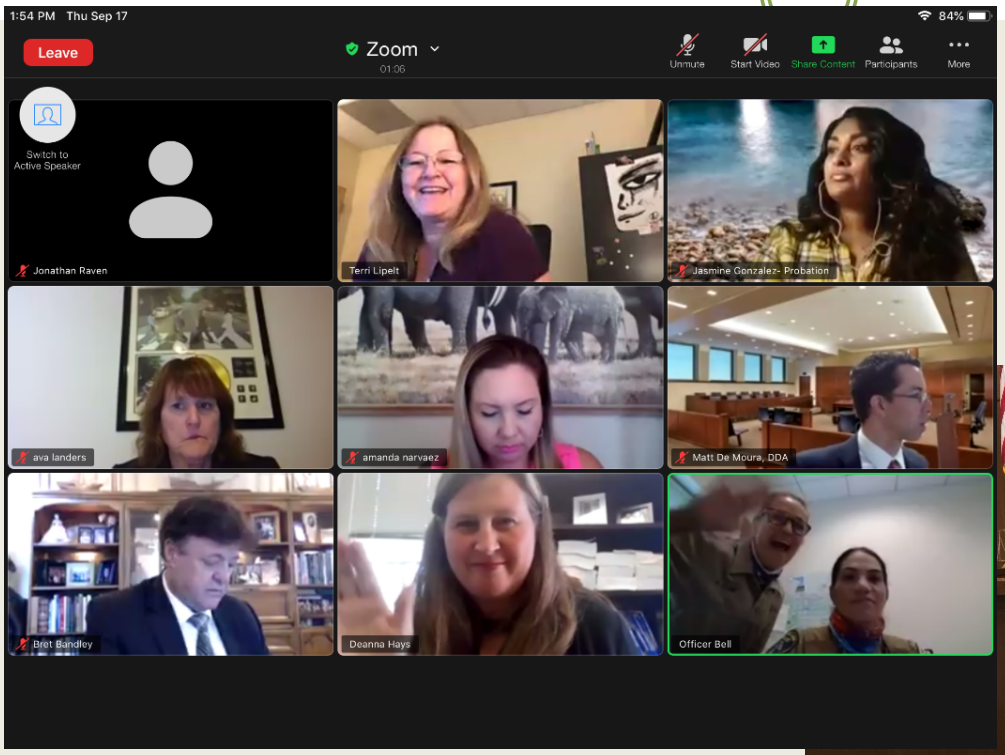
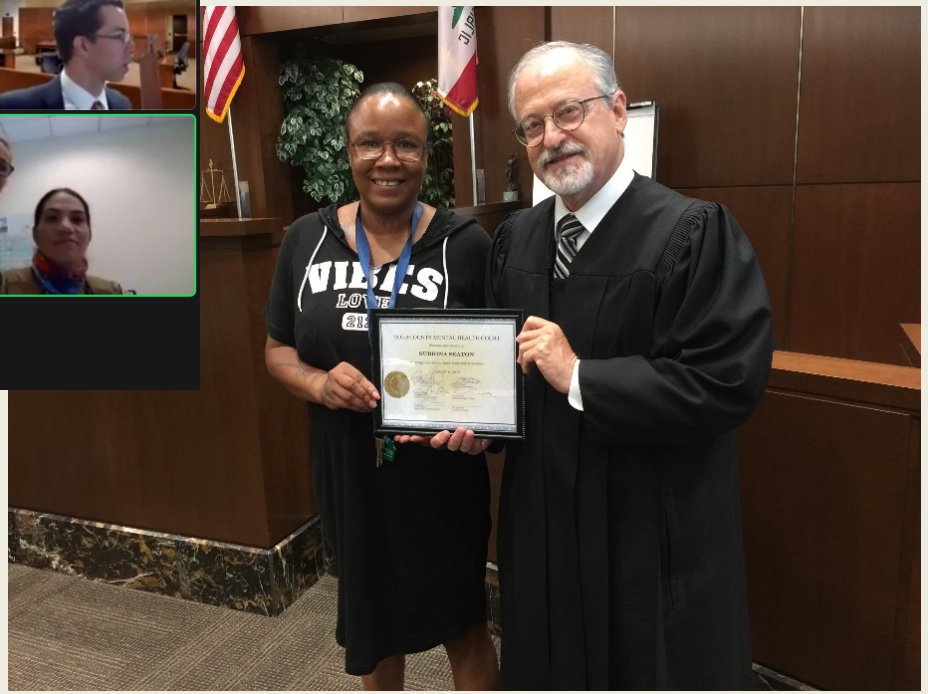


# AIC Graduations



# MHC Graduations



# Mental Health Court Graduate to Peer Support Workers

# MHC Outcome Measures
# Fiscal Year 2019-20

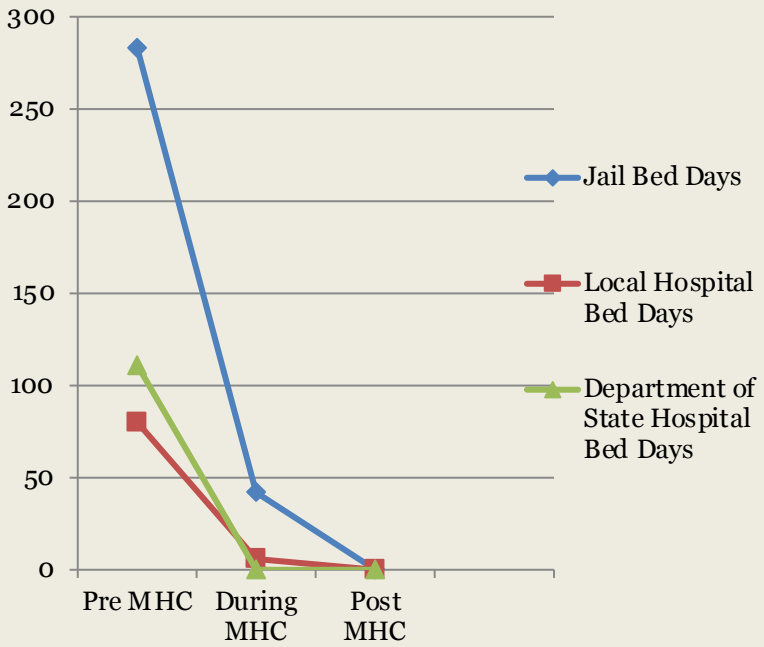
- Jail bed days decreased by 37.7 % 12 months post-MHC

- **Arrests decreased by 86.6% 12 months post-MHC**

- Local Hospital Bed Days decreased by 31.3% 12 months post-MHC

- State Hospital Bed Days decreased by 100% 12 months post-MHC

# MHC Statistics FY 19/20 Graduates




- Jail bed days decreased by 100 % 12 months post-MHC
- Arrests decreased by 100% 12 months post-MHC
- Local Hospital Bed Days decreased by 100% 12 months post-MHC
- State Hospital Bed Days decreased by 100% 12 months post-MHC

# Show me the money?

- Department staff contributions
- JMHC Grant
- Department of State Hospitals Grant

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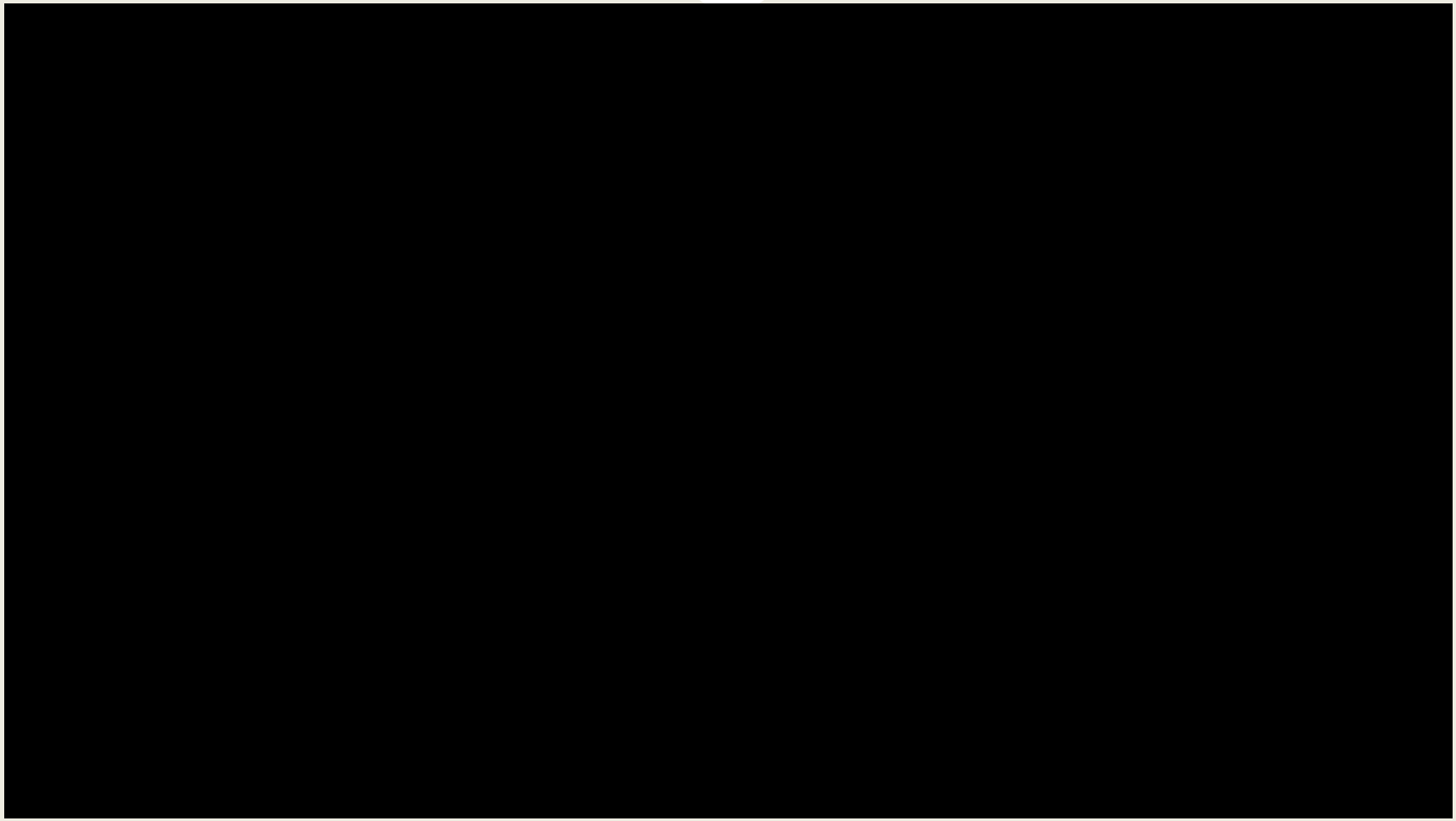
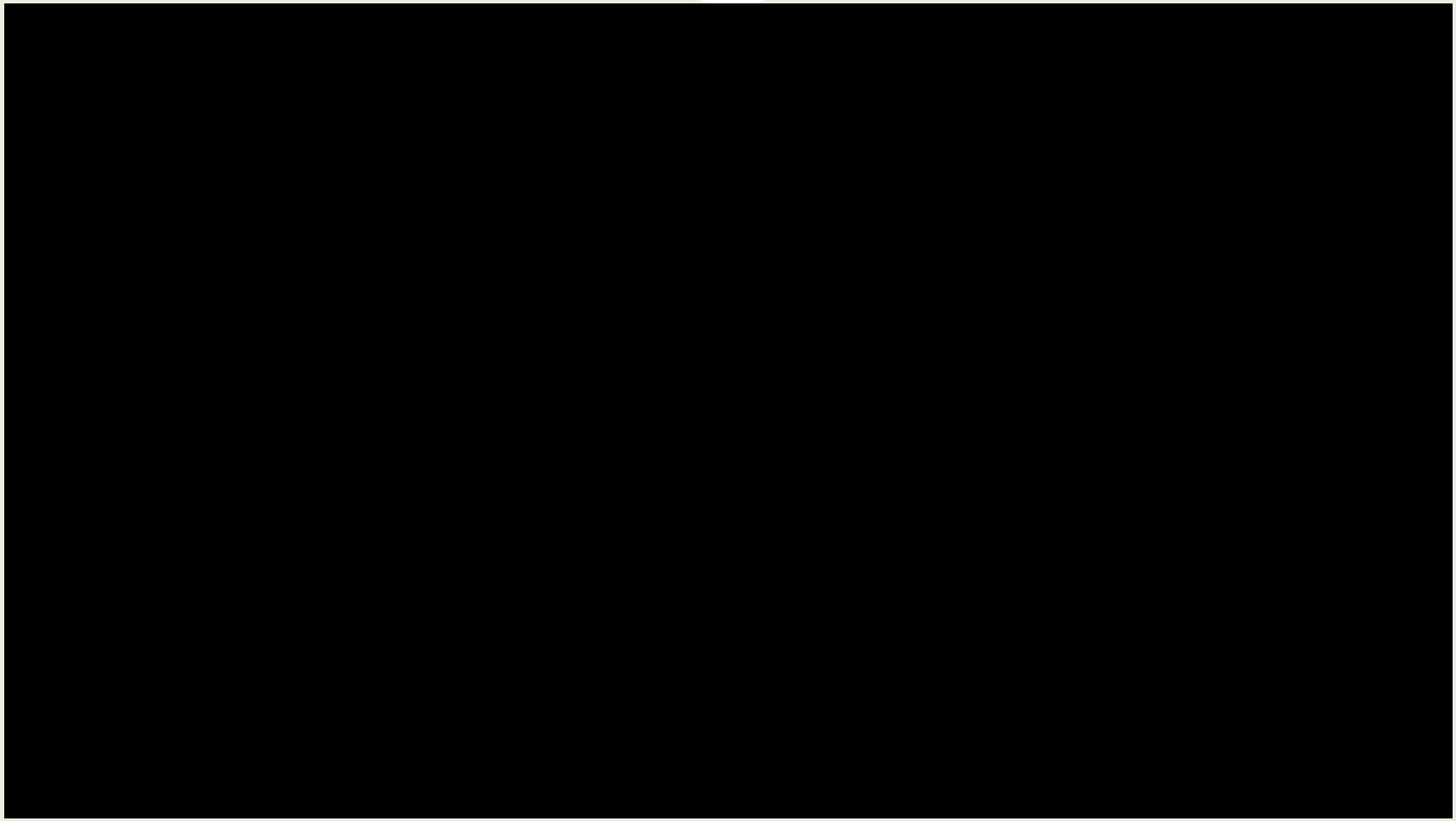
# Jessie's Story



# Courtenay's Story



# Questions?

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