



February 2024 Newsletter



JCOD News



Rapid Diversion Program Partners and Staff

Rapid Diversion Program Hits Milestone

We are happy to share the news that our Rapid Diversion Program (RDP) achieved a milestone this past month recording 2,000 case diversions.

On Jan. 25, five participants graduated from the program and were recognized at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center. These five graduates, who completed the program, brought the total number of diversions through RDP to 2,000 cases since its inception in 2019.

There were a lot of heartfelt words shared. “RDP gave me stability, confidence and the ability to push forward,” said one graduate. “I’ll do better today than I did yesterday, and I’ll do better tomorrow than I did today.”

“A lot of people turned their back on me but RDP didn’t,” said a second graduate. “Any time I needed my case manager for anything – any type of problem I had, he was there.”

Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.) addressed the court and said in part, “What’s most exciting about the program is that 93% of the folks that go through the program do not have additional contact with law enforcement. So that means we are stopping the cycle of folks coming in and out of the justice system.”

RDP is a pretrial mental health diversion program under California Penal Code 1001.36 designed to support and provide care for individuals with a mental health diagnosis or substance use disorders. Participants receive housing resources, case management services and support. The program lasts six months to two years, based on the severity of the charge and individual needs of each participant.

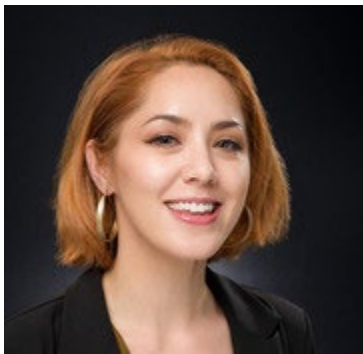
RDP is a collaborative effort among JCOD, public defenders, prosecutors, courts and clinical providers. To date, as the Judge noted, 93% of graduates have had no further involvement in the criminal justice system.

As of September 2023, RDP is available across seven courthouses in Los Angeles County which includes Airport Courthouse, Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Compton Courthouse, Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse, Michael Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse, Pasadena Courthouse and Van Nuys Courthouse West. Thank you to all of our providers and partners!



Staff Spotlight

Erica Webster - Program Manager



Erica Webster works with JCOD's partner organizations to manage JCOD's Rapid Diversion and Pre-Filing Diversion programs. These programs serve individuals with housing needs, mental health or substance use disorder diagnoses. The Rapid Diversion Program connects individuals with mental health, substance use, housing, and case management.

Cases are dismissed for individuals who successfully complete the program. Meanwhile, individuals in the Pre-Filing Diversion program participate in programming and receive housing resources and case-management in lieu of charges being filed.

Erica brings a spirit of service to her work throughout her career in a variety of public policy and advocacy roles. She completed a master's degree in public policy at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs as part of her desire to have a broader impact. She brings years of experience working on diversion programs, and her experience at a Bay Area nonprofit building coalitions with formerly incarcerated organizers was pivotal in shaping her approach.

"I've learned that to do this work, we have to be in coalition with people in the communities we serve," she said. "They're already empowered to solve the issues they're seeing. It's why we operate community-based steering and advisory committees to help lead this work. Our role as a County Department is to facilitate the technical assistance and funding to make sure the people who are already doing the work have a greater impact."



Organization Spotlight

Project 180



Project 180 is a Los Angeles-based diversion and re-entry program aimed at reducing recidivism rates. It is one of JCOD's two clinical case management providers for the Rapid Diversion Program. Project 180 oversees five rapid diversion courthouses, helping to connect people to services, doing case management, and helping them to be successful in the programs so that their cases can be dismissed.

"Clients used to wait in custody for a long time to even get screened for a program like this," said Emily Bell, Division Director with Project 180. "Now we're expediting that process so that people get the services they need much more quickly. We've gone from being a scrappy pilot project to getting dozens of people into the services they need each week."

Project 180 provides a comprehensive approach to address the complex issues faced by people in the program. They often face challenges such as substance abuse, mental health issues, homelessness, and a history of trauma. Through personalized connections, Project 180 fosters personal transformation by building relationships based on respect and trust. Project 180's holistic approach to client care ensures that individuals receive the necessary tools to remake their lives and reintegrate into their communities, leading to lasting change.

Project 180's programs focus not only on addressing the immediate needs of their clients but also on providing them with the skills and support to build a foundation for future success. With a relentless commitment to innovation and compassion, Project 180 strives to keep individuals out of the criminal justice system and provide them with practical solutions and comprehensive care to help them thrive.



Upcoming Meetings & Events: Save the Date

[CFCI Advisory Committee Regular Meeting, Thursday, 2/15/2024, 4pm](#)

Agenda and supporting documentation will be provided at a later date.

Meeting Location:

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381-B

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

To participate via computer or smart phone: [Click Here For Access](#)

To participate via telephone only: Dial-In: +1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 861 0182 2883# Passcode: 437765

JCOD's Public Convening, Wednesday, 2/21/2024, 9am

The next Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) public convening meeting will be Wednesday, February 21st from 9 am – 10:00 am.

You can join the public convening in Microsoft Teams or via phone:

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 254 609 948 613 Passcode: QQzRbS

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-776-6996, 698559739#](#) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 698 559 739#

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Primary Presidential Election Day is on March 5, 2024



It is almost Primary Presidential Election Day! Did you know most Californians have the right to vote, even if they are in jail, on parole, or on probation? Access

resources about your democratic rights and information about the upcoming March 5th election here:

<https://toolkit.lavote.gov/free-the-vote-resources/>

Reminder from JCOD and Mike Tyson to Get Out and Register to Vote! YouTube Video



Save the Date! Women's Leadership Conference



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