



Snohomish County Superior and District Therapeutic Courts and Services

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WHAT IS A THERAPEUTIC COURT

Therapeutic Courts are a specialized courts providing compassionate accountability and therapeutic services to reduce recidivism, reunite families, and strengthen community connection.

Therapeutic Courts

Have operated for over 35
years

Have been heavily
researched and proven to
reduce recidivism

Follow evidence-based
practices and standards

Utilize a screening tool that
matches the participant
with the appropriate level
of supervision, treatment
and services

Provides structure,
accountability and support

Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WISPP)

Drug Courts classified as an evidence-based program for reducing crime

88% Drug Court Participants in Washington have no new felonies at 36 month follow up & 77% no new crimes at any level

All participants- not just graduates!

Drug Courts produce a return on investment 100% of the time

18 months after starting treatment:

231% increase in employment

191% increase in earnings

LEGISLATION AND THERAPEUTIC COURTS

RCW 2.30.101 – Findings – Scope of
Therapeutic Court Programs:

- Trial courts use therapeutic courts to divert cases from traditional proceedings

- Therapeutic courts can reduce repeat offenses, enhance community safety, and improve outcomes for participants and their families

- Legislature recognizes therapeutic court's valuable impact on communities and encourages courts to establish such programs based on local needs

- Legislature recognizes the inherent authority of the judiciary to establish therapeutic courts

Snohomish County's Therapeutic Courts

Superior

- Adult Recovery Court
- Family Recovery Court
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment

District

- Mental Health Court
- Community Court

Municipal

- Bothell – Community Court/Youth Traffic Court
- Edmonds – Community Court
- Everett– Mental Health Alternatives Program (MAP)
- Monroe – Community Court

Tribal

- Tulalip Healing to Wellness



SNOHOMISH COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT
THERAPEUTIC COURTS

ADULT RECOVERY COURT

27

Years

1000+

Graduates

85%

2020
Admissions
No Felony

Provide therapeutic and legal services for adults affected by substance use disorder involved with criminal justice system.

Felony charges dismissed upon graduation

ELIGIBILITY

18 years of age

Snohomish County

Substance Use Disorder/Co-Occurring

Pending Felony Charge

High Risk & High Needs

SERVICES & SUPPORT

10

- **Substance Use Treatment**
- **Mental Health Treatment**
- **Trauma Focused Treatment**
- **Moral Reconciliation Therapy**
- **Recovery Capital Assessment**
- **Education Support**
- **Employment Support**
- **Housing Vouchers**
- **Recovery Support Vouchers**
- **Alumni Group**
- **Community Connection & Outreach**

REQUIREMENTS

- 12-24 Months
- Complete treatment services
- Pay restitution
- 6 months no drug testing violations
- GED/High School Diploma
- Employment/Secondary Education
- Sober Support Meetings

2025 GRADUATES

20

GRADUATES

14,225

**SOBER
DAYS**

FAMILY RECOVERY COURT

18

Years

194

Graduates

88%

2020
Admissions No
New Petition

Provide therapeutic and legal services for families affected by substance use disorder involved with family dependency system.

Increase child safety and reunite families

ELIGIBILITY

18 years of age

Snohomish County

Substance Use Disorder/Co-Occurring

Dependency Order

High Needs

SERVICES & SUPPORT

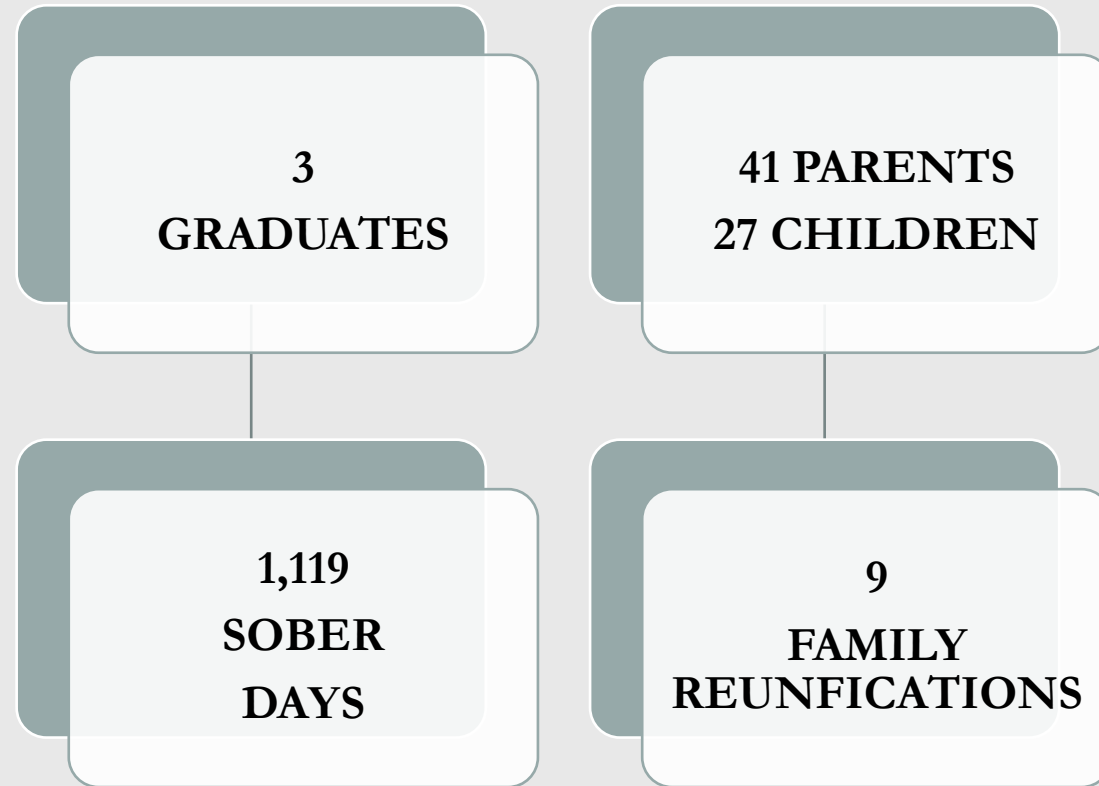
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- **Substance Use Treatment**
- **Mental Health Treatment**
- **Trauma Focused Treatment**
- **Recovery Capital Assessment**
- **Education Support**
- **Employment Support**
- **Housing Vouchers**
- **Recovery Support Vouchers**
- **Alumni Group**
- **Community Connection & Outreach**

REQUIREMENTS

- 9-18 months
- Complete treatment services
- Pay restitution
- 90 days no drug testing violations
- Sober Support Meetings
- Stable and Supportive Housing

2025 PARTICIPANTS



ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

1

Year

19

Petitions

14

Admissions

Evidence-based form of Less Restrictive Alternative treatment designed to provide court-mandated intensive community-based treatment as an alternative to involuntary hospitalization.

ELIGIBILITY

18 Years of Age

Snohomish County

Severe Mental Illness Diagnosis

Historical Lack of Compliance with Treatment

High Needs- Concerns with Safety & Care

SERVICES & SUPPORT

20

- **Mental Health Treatment**
- **Substance Use Treatment**
- **Medication Management**
- **Peer Support**
- **Court Monitoring**
- **Coordination of Care**

REQUIREMENTS

- Up to 18-month court order
- Compliance with treatment plans
- Court monitoring



SNOHOMISH COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT
THERAPEUTIC COURTS

Mental Health Court

100 Graduates
since the pilot in
October of 2012

83% remain
charge-free 36
months post-
graduation

Since 2023, jail
has not been used
as a sanction

2025 Participants

14
participants

3 graduated

9 currently
participating

Eligibility

18 years of age

Live in Snohomish County

Severe and persistent mental health condition

Legally competent and willing to engage in all mental health treatment requirements

Score within eligible range on risk/needs assessment tool

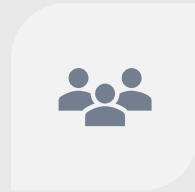
Services and Support



MENTAL HEALTH
TREATMENT



SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER
TREATMENT



PEER SUPPORT



COURT
MONITORING



HOUSING SUPPORT

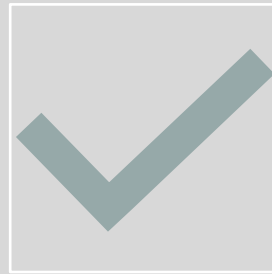


EDUCATIONAL
AND VOCATIONAL
SUPPORT

Requirements



Complete all stages of
program



Comply with
treatment plans



Appear for court as
required

Community Court

Pilot began
in March of
2026

12
participants
currently

Eligibility

18 years of age

Live in Snohomish County

Charged with a Quality-of-Life Crime

Willing to engage in services to include
substance use and mental health

High risk/high needs

No felonies

Services and Support



SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER



MENTAL HEALTH
TREATMENT



MORAL
RECOGNATION
THERAPY



RELICENSING
ACCOUNTABILITY
PROGRAM



EDUCATIONAL
AND VOCATIONAL
SUPPORT



RECOVERY
SUPPORT



EMPLOYMENT
AND HOUSING
NAVIGATION



COURT
MONITORING

Requirements



12-month court order



Engage in substance use and/
or mental health treatment and
show substantial compliance



Engage in other participant
centered services as designated
by the risk/needs assessment



Appear at court as required

Funding

RCW 82.14.460 - Sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts

(3) "Money's collected under this section must be used solely for the purpose of providing for the operation or deliver of chemical dependency or mental health treatment programs and services and for the operation or delivery of therapeutic court programs and services." "Every county that authorizes the tax provided in this section shall, and every other county may, establish and operate a therapeutic court component for dependency proceedings designed to be effective for the court's size, location, and resources."

(4)(d) "Notwithstanding (a) through (c) of this subsection, moneys collected under this section may be used to support the cost of the judicial officer and support staff of a therapeutic court.

Funding

- Mental Health Court and Community Court are funded partially through the 1/10th of 1% sales tax.
 - Drug Testing
 - Therapeutic Services
 - Participant transportation fee's
 - Some court personnel costs
- Grants supplement personnel and other costs of these courts

Funding

- Adult and Family Recovery Court funded through the 1/10th of 1% sales tax.
 - Therapeutic Services
 - Drug Testing
 - Behavior Modification Services
 - Housing and Recovery Support Services
 - Coordinators, Administrative, and Court Costs
- State funding (CJTA)- Adult Recovery Court housing and recovery support
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment funded through North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Office

NEXT STEPS

Referrals

Screening
Tool

Collaboration

Awareness



Participant Quote

**“Recovery Court
has taught me
patience,
resilience, and
courage because
recovery is life
long and growth
takes time.”**



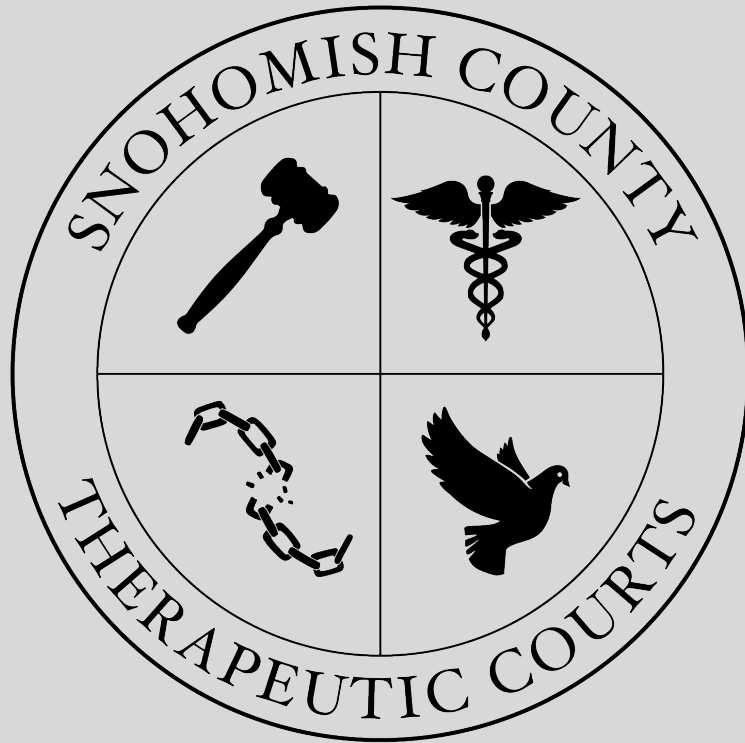
Providing collaborative services to support people

A court participant was to be released from jail.

- Jail
- In-patient treatment
- Housing
- Medical Insurance
- Outpatient Treatment

Six months later, he remains sober, stably housed, engaged in treatment, and fully compliant with court requirements.

THANK YOU



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**Snohomish County
District Court**

MENTAL HEALTH COURT



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