

Snohomish County Superior Court 2014 Annual Report



Michael T. Downes, Presiding Judge

Thomas J. Wynne Anita L. Farris Linda C. Krese George N. Bowden Ellen J. Fair Eric Z. Lucas David A. Kurtz
Bruce I. Weiss George F. B. Appel Joseph P. Wilson Richard T. Okrent Janice E. Ellis Marybeth E. Dingley Millie M. Judge

Court Commissioners

Lester H. Stewart Jaclyn D. Brudvik Tracy G. Waggoner Susan C. Gaer Lee B. Tinney

To the Citizens of Snohomish County,

The Snohomish County Superior Court is pleased to present this Annual Report for 2014.

The Snohomish County Superior Court is comprised of 15 judges and 5 court commissioners. 180 employees support the daily operations of the court, including; Superior Court: Juvenile Court; Juvenile Court probation services; Juvenile Court detention services; dependency actions and the court appointed special advocates for children in dependency actions, drug courts for adults, families and juveniles; and an assortment of other programs highlighted in this report.

None of the programs operated under the direction of the Superior Court judges would be possible without funding from federal, state and county resources, or without the professionalism of the Court's employees.

The successes of the various court programs are highlighted throughout this Annual Report. You will see as you read through the report that the programs of the Superior Court involve more than holding civil and criminal trials. The Court is involved on a daily basis in supporting programs which aim to eliminate or reduce future involvement with the justice system.

If you have questions or would like information regarding programs highlighted in this report, please feel free to contact the Superior Court.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Downes

Presiding Judge

Table of Contents

From the Presiding Judge and the Court Administrator.....	4
Superior Court Operations	5
Superior Court Judges and Commissioners	6
Jury Management.....	6
Guardian Ad Litem Program.....	6
Interpreters	7
Guardianship Monitoring Program (GMP).....	7
Drug Treatment Court Programs.....	7
Juvenile Court Operations.....	8
Probation	8
Detention Services	10
Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Program.....	13
Miller Trust	14
Reclaiming Futures	14
Thank You to Our Personnel	15
Service to Our Community: Beyond the Bench.....	16

From the Presiding Judge and the Court Administrator

Judge Michael T Downes and Marilyn J. Finsen

2014 was a year of challenges as the court's workload, budget and community continued to evolve. The Court hosted, for the first time, a legislative informational session to build relationships and discuss issues with the Snohomish County legislative delegation. Our drug courts were awarded a new grant for expanded mental health services. We hosted a countywide court meeting to discuss updating our language assistance plan and to work on enhancements to the interpreter web application. Our staff attended diversity training to increase awareness and skill when navigating the needs of this changing diverse community.

Last year our Drug Court programs participated in several comprehensive evaluations and worked to improve processes. The reports allowed our Drug Court Judges and staff to examine and revise current practices as needed to align our programs with best practices. We are proud of the findings that our Family Drug Court was determined "to be a critical component of the dependency court process and likely contributing to a healthier and safer community" and that Adult Drug Court "is successful in addressing the main goals of recidivism reduction and increased treatment engagement and completion" and enhancing public safety. Drug Court Staff and community partners worked throughout the fall to reconfigure the At Risk Youth Drug Court. The resulting new program, "Connections", has begun working with youth and their families. "Connections" has set measures and outcomes to allow the program to be evaluated in 18 months.

Our Court Administrator, Bob Terwilliger, worked with a peer group across the state to develop the implementation of GR31.1 (a rule regarding public records access). Bob was a panelist at the Spring Judicial Conference regarding the topic. He discussed the work needed to successfully fully implement this rule.

Superior Court Commissioners began holding additional Involuntary Treatment Act hearings with the opening of the new Fairfax Hospital at the Providence Hospital in Everett.

The Court continued to work closely with the County Council and Executive in the development of a new courthouse. Judges and staff have participated on various committees to ensure that the design meets that needs of our citizens and staff in the administration of our justice system. We strive to align this project with the Court's mission. At the close of the year the schematic design phase of the project was completed.

Finally, we said farewell to a wonderful public servant when Bob Terwilliger retired as Court Administrator after more than 34 years of service with Snohomish County. Bob came to the Court in 2007 after serving as the Elected Auditor. He provided strong leadership to Superior Court during difficult economic times. We credit him for helping guide the Courthouse Project during his administration. Bob is well respected by all. He will be missed.

Superior Court Operations

Shane Nybo – Assistant Administrator, Superior Court

Superior Court Administration historically plays the role of interfacing between the public and judges by providing select services and programs to meet the goal of the administration of law. From this foundation, the Judges are able to carry forth their mission and actively manage the business of the court to provide fair, prompt, and efficient resolution of disputes, to provide due process and individual justice in each case and to maintain independence and parity as an equal branch of government.

Superior Court Operations facilitates a variety of programs and services that meet the many challenges that arise from the arena of public court administration. A few highlights in 2014 were, managed 470 Arbitration cases that provide an avenue for parties to resolve their cases before one embarks on a formal case track process; staff provided scheduling of interpreters, and facilitated our citizens who serve (i.e. sent on panels) as Snohomish County Jurors. Staff continued to provide services for adoptees to facilitate communication with their birth parent through a registry of Confidential Intermediaries. Assisted in referral for parenting classes for family law matters, also, provided for Guardians Ad Litem, and completed over 1800 criminal history background checks prior to finalization of permanent parenting plans in family law, beyond meeting the public need for court information and referral.

Superior Court Administration is responsible for the successful management of four drug courts; two adult and two juvenile. Snohomish County DOSA (Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative) calendar is a fifth calendar which serves as a model for the State. This calendar provides oversight to individuals sentenced to prisons seeking treatment for the substance abuse issues. These treatment courts are led by judges that volunteer for these programs and work within the framework of national models to break the cycle of repeated arrests, prosecutions, and incarcerations of drug users in Snohomish County.

In addition, Court Administration is responsible for assisting judges with case management, framework and development of programs, policies, administrative orders, local court rules, civic education by speaking in schools, providing school tours and serving in various capacities on governmental committees as representatives for the court.

The Superior Court managed a budget of over \$28,826,000 in 2014. The funding includes county general revenues, local sales tax for drug court operations and treatment, federal funds, state funds and donations. Over 70 contracts and amendments were managed in 2014 providing attorney services, treatment and other programs and services.

Superior Court has dedicated resources as an early adopter of the statewide Odyssey case management system to be rolled out in Snohomish County June of 2016.

Superior Court Judges and Commissioners

In 2014 The Court's Commissioners successfully managed the line item allocation for Pro Tem Judges and Commissioners by combining family law calendars and covering calendars that would have otherwise incurred expenditures through scheduling a pro tem. Our Superior Court Judges continued to cover Juvenile Court Judge's calendars when necessary, and together with our Commissioners initiative to consolidate their calendars, we successfully maximized our resources.

In June 2014, Superior Court welcomed Lee B. Tinney as Superior Courts fifth Commissioner.

Jury Management

A total of 211 jury trials were held in 2014. Of those, 175 were criminal jury trials, 35 were civil and 36 were Everett Municipal Court jury trials. In order to meet the court's needs, 7,198 jurors were summoned with 6,205 being selected for panels (5,740 for Superior Court and 456 to Everett Municipal Court). In 2014, we reviewed policies on the number of jurors to call to ensure we were working as efficiently as possible and "right sizing" the number of jurors summoned. The resulting efficiency not only reduced unnecessary costs, but also resulted in more productive use of our jurors' time. Based upon juror feedback regarding internet connectivity to allow them to stay connected to work and other responsibilities while waiting in Jury Assembly, we added tables and outlets where available. We continue to get positive feedback from jurors who are pleasantly surprised that they had fast and easy internet access in the Jury Assembly room.

Guardian Ad Litem Program

Each year over 3,000 new family law cases are filed in Snohomish County with an approximately equal number of such cases resolved. In cases involving minor children, the Court may appoint a Title 26 (family law) Guardian ad Litem (GAL) to ascertain the best interests of the children. If the parties to a family law matter are found indigent, the Court may appoint the GAL at public expense, although most goals in family law matters are appointed at private expense. Court Administration actively monitors cases after a family law GAL is appointed in order to report the parties' compliance state to the Bench to more efficiently move cases toward disposition. In 2014, there were 216 cases monitored for family law GAL compliance by Court staff. In addition, the Court appoints Title 11 (guardianship) GALs in matters involving alleged incapacitated persons (AIPs), and if an AIP is found to be indigent, the Court is mandated to appoint a GAL at county expense. If an indigent AIP then also requests representation by counsel and/or is in need of a medical evaluation, such expenses must also be paid by the County. In 2014, the Court covered GAL fees for 150 guardianship matters, an increase of approximately 30% over similar cases filed in 2013.



Commissioner Lee B. Tinney

Interpreters

In 2014, the average number of jobs posted per month was 94 for a total of 1,131. Court Administration schedules interpreters for attorney/client meetings, victim interviews, all types of court hearings, parent classes, court-ordered therapeutic treatment sessions and arbitration hearings. There were 40 different languages requested in 2014; the top five, in terms of cost, were Spanish, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese-Mandarin. The use of our interpreter scheduling website allows our staff to track and report costs to the State's Administrative Office of the Courts so that we may recoup a portion of these costs from state funds each year.

Guardianship Monitoring Program (GMP)

Retired Judge Robert G. Bibb continued to lead the GMP for his 14th year, along with retired judges Richard J. Thorpe, Kenneth L. Cowser and their dedicated group of approximately 14 volunteers. This program provides oversight for cases whose guardians are non-professionals (lay guardians) and works to bring cases which have lapsed into delinquent status back into compliance with the Court. Our volunteers have contributed 2,272 hours in 2014, and have generously assisted prospective guardians with mandatory training. Snohomish County sends reminder notices to lay guardians to notify them several months in advance when their triennial reports are coming due in order to prevent delinquency. We thank our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly on this important program.

Drug Treatment Court Programs

Judges' Drug Court Committee Chair & Adult Drug Treatment Court Judge— Joseph P. Wilson
Juvenile Offender Drug Treatment Court – Bruce I. Weiss
Family Drug Treatment Court—Ellen J. Fair
ARY Drug Court—Richard T. Okrent
Programs Administrator—Janelle Sgrignoli

In 2014, we had numerous participants meet all drug court requirements and graduate from our programs. Graduation requirements include: successfully completing treatment, extended sobriety as demonstrated through random drug testing, education and or employment, paying all fines and restitution, completing other required programming such as Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), parenting classes, mental health counseling, etc., and having a plan for ongoing recovery and relapse prevention.

Several evaluations on our drug courts were completed in 2014. Our two juvenile drug treatment courts were evaluated over a 3-year period by the National Center for State Courts. Overall, our juvenile drug treatment courts are following best practices as outlined in *Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice*. Recommendations in the report were implemented during 2014 including adding more mental health services, Moral Reconciliation Therapy and Functional Family Therapy, as well as a review of our At-Risk Youth Drug

Treatment Court to see if the model is appropriate given the population we're serving. At the end of November, the At-Risk Youth Drug Court was closed and a new program, CONNECTIONS was implemented. We'll be evaluating the progress of CONNECTIONS into 2016 to see if the changes are meeting the needs of our population.

Our Adult and Family drug treatment courts were evaluated by Washington State University. Overall, both courts are meeting the 10 key components and national best practice standards for drug courts. We are successful in addressing goals of recidivism reduction and increasing treatment engagement and completion. Recommendations for improvement included reducing the use of jail as a sanction, offering a more formal training process for drug court team members, improving incentive and sanction models and expanding ancillary services. Three of the four recommendations have been addressed and we'll be working on developing a comprehensive training program for team members in 2015.

Similarly, our Family Drug Treatment Court needed to work on incentives and sanctions (this is a common area nationally for drug courts) and a more formal training process for drug court team members. Incentives and sanctions were addressed in 2014 and we will be working to develop a comprehensive training program in 2015. Our family drug court outperforms traditional court in treatment completion rates, dependency status and length of dependency. It's considered a critical component of the dependency court process with a cost savings of \$5,969 over the child welfare system.

Juvenile Court Operations

Brooke Powell, Assistant Administrator, Juvenile Court Operations

Mike Irons, Program Manager, Probation

Margie Holloway, Program Manager, Detention

Probation

As a key member of the Reclaiming Futures Leadership team, Probation has implemented internal staff development trainings across probation and detention, which include; cultural competency, Motivational Interviewing and additional substance abuse and recovery training. We also secured funding for the implementation of the GAIN-I (Intensive) assessment for youth in need of a Chemical Dependency Disposition Alternatives (CDDA) assessment. The GAIN-I is a comprehensive and standardized evidence-based assessment tool that is accepted by many of Snohomish County's treatment providers. By adopting this universally accepted evidence-based tool in 2014, we have reduced the likelihood of over-assessing justice-involved youth while also improving assessment accuracy.

In 2014 the Juvenile Probation Department was involved with implementing the GAIN SS as a screening tool for all youth coming into contact with the court system. The GAIN-SS was administered to all youth being booked into the detention center as well as all youth who had criminal charges filed against them. We are working on a method to systematically review the GAIN-SS results for all youth placed on community supervision and to track what type of follow-up is taking place. Funding for the GAIN-Core has been secured and we are currently utilizing the GAIN-Core as a screening tool for Chemical Dependency Disposition Alternatives (CDDA) cases. The GAIN-Core is utilized by both of our contracted treatment providers as well as many additional treatment providers in the community.

Juvenile Court continued its support of both the Promising Artists In Recovery (PAIR) and Music Futures programs in 2014. Additionally, we forged a partnership with the University of Washington and Pierce County to lay the groundwork for the Girls Only Active Learning (GOAL) program. This program is modeled after the well-established Aggression Replacement Training (ART) program, but seeks to provide a gender-specific intervention aimed at addressing coping skills for young women who enter the juvenile justice system. The pilot for the GOAL program is scheduled for March 2015.

Also in 2014, the matrix established to guide Juvenile Probation Counselors (JPCs) in making recommendations for sanction in probation violation hearings was revised and updated. The original matrix was established approximately 5 years ago. Since that time, there has been a significant evolution of the Case Management Assessment Process (CMAP) model for youth placed on community supervision. The new matrix reflects this evolution and clarifies some aspects of the original matrix. The use of a matrix, or “grid”, in establishing a standard for the sanctions that are requested by JPCs is a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) recommendation.

Total Juvenile Offender Filings for 2014 continued the downward trend established in previous years. In 2013 the total number of filings was 1,288 and in 2014 that number was reduced to 1,227. The Probation Department was responsible for screening 1178 cases for Diversion eligibility. In 2014, the following numbers of diversion youth were served in these programs:

Anger Reduction Clinic:	119
Drug/Alcohol Clinic:	139
Shoplifting Prevention and Awareness Clinic	169

Additionally, in 2014 the Probation Department applied our commitment to Evidence Based programming by embracing the Legislative change allowing youth to sign a third diversion contract. We sought and received permission to refer eligible youth to evidence-based programs via a Diversion contract. A large number of the participants in evidence-based programs are Diversion contracted youth. This allows youth to benefit from evidence-based programming without a public record.

Snohomish County has seen a decrease in offender filings: over the past five years, Snohomish County juvenile felony case filings are down 36%, while total filings are down 32%.

	Felony	Misdemeanor/Gross Misdemeanor	Total Juvenile Offender Filings
2009	408	1112	1520
2010	308	940	1248
2011	324	870	1194
2012	282	756	1038
2013	260	642	902
2014	281	609	890

*Snohomish County Juvenile Offender Filings (Felony, Misdemeanor/Gross Misdemeanor, and Total Offender Filings. Does not include ‘non charges’).

Detention Services

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

In 1992, the Annie E. Casey Foundation established the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Using detention as an entry point strategy, its primary target is overall juvenile justice system improvement. Beginning with a handful of jurisdictions, the JDAI core strategies were proven to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate secure detention, reduce costs, increase system fairness, and improve the juvenile justice system overall without compromising public safety.

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is designed to address the efficiency and effectiveness of juvenile detention across the United States. JDAI demonstrates that communities can improve their detention systems without sacrificing public safety. The goals of JDAI are to:

- decrease the number of youth unnecessarily or inappropriately detained;
- reduce the number of youth who fail to appear in court or re-offend pending adjudication;
- redirect public funds towards effective juvenile justice processes and public safety strategies;
- reduce the disproportionate minority confinement and contact of the juvenile justice system; and improve the juvenile justice system overall.

JDAI is currently being replicated in over 150 jurisdictions in 32 states, including Snohomish County Superior Court.

Juvenile Education Transition Services (JETS)

Detention Alternatives has been offering the Juvenile Educational Transitional Services (JETS) program for the past three years. This program focuses on GED completion followed by employment assistance or continuing education. JETS offers help in preparing youths for the GED exam; practice testing, assistance in meeting all requirements in order to take the exam, and providing the extra encouragement sometimes needed. During the last three years, the JETS program has successfully helped over 275 youths obtain their GED! Upon completion of the GED tests, JETS participants then focus on two different pathways: continuing education and job placement. An in-house advocate from the NWESD 189 (North West Educational Service District) works with a Juvenile Community Corrections Officer to assist youth toward their chosen post-GED goal. Successful school placements this past year have included: Shoreline Community College, Lake Washington Technical College, Everett Community College and the Everett Beauty School.

Girls Only Active Learning (GOAL)

In January 2012, the Assistant Administrator of Juvenile Court Operations asked two Detention Alternatives juvenile community correction officers to research gender responsive programming and how it could affect the juvenile justice-involved youth in Snohomish County. After the need for this type of programming was identified, Journey was born. Superior Court obtained grant funds from the State of Washington and the Tulalip Tribes to send two employees to train on the Once Circle Foundation's Girls Circle program. In the three sessions we held, Journey served 21 juvenile justice-involved girls. Of those 21 girls, 18 successfully completed and stated they had a high level of satisfaction with the class. Using the girls' positive response to Journey, coupled with the current research on juvenile justice involved girls, staff partnered with Pierce County, King County and the University of Washington Research and Development to develop and research a more evidence-based gender responsive program. GOAL (Girls Only Active Learning) is based on the cognitive behavior triangle and is designed to teach girls' skills and reframing techniques for their thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Snohomish County and Pierce County will run a pilot of GOAL simultaneously beginning in March, 2015.



Youth at Work

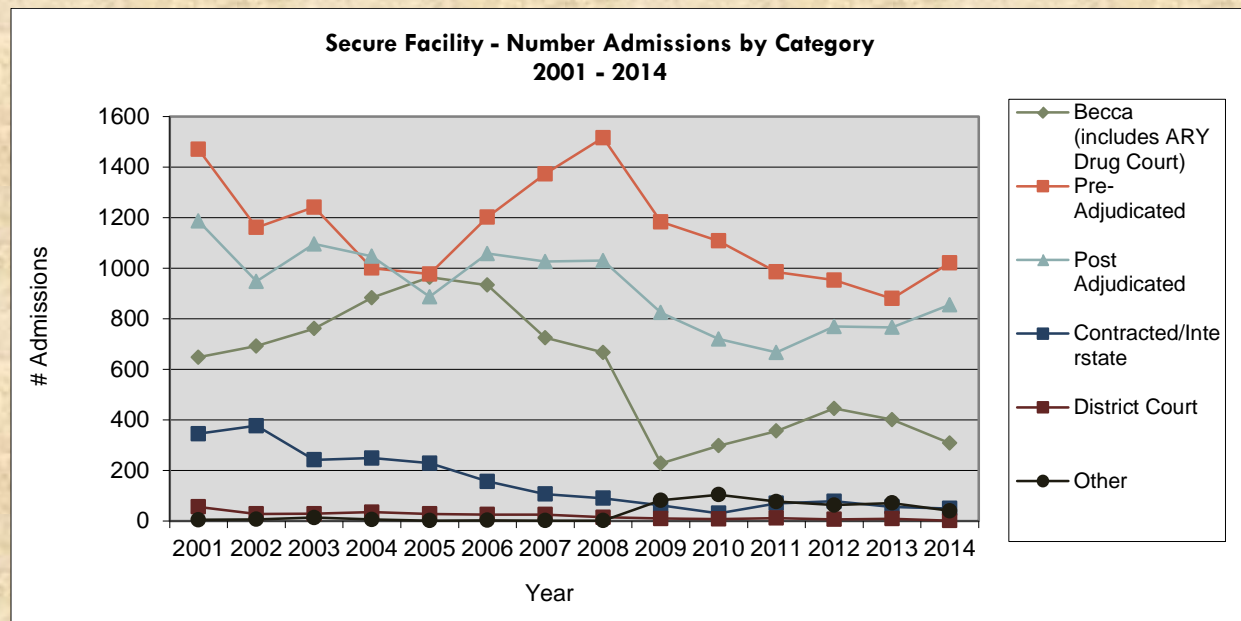
Garden PATH Program

In early 2014, the Detention Alternatives programs were granted the use of a small parcel of land with a defunct greenhouse on it located near the Denney Juvenile Justice Center. A group of youths in the Detention Alternatives programs, along with a team of volunteer community mentors and Juvenile Community Corrections Officers, formed a greenhouse club and named it the Garden PATH (Positive Alternatives Through Horticulture) project. Over the course of a year, the plot of land has been cleared and the greenhouse has been completely rebuilt. This progress represents hundreds of hours of community service not only from the youth of the Detention Alternative Programs, but also those of a dedicated team of community volunteers.

One full growing season has concluded and has been found to be a great success. The harvested food has been donated to the local Volunteers of America (VOA) food bank in Everett and also given to youth in-need in the Detention Alternatives Programs. In 2015, a portion of the food grown will be donated to the secure detention facility at the Denney Juvenile Justice Center for incarcerated youth's meals. Also in 2015, the Garden PATH program will include an outdoor Fine Arts curriculum. This hands-on horticultural, arts and self-esteem building program has been a great success with those youth who have taken part in it and those who benefit from its production.

Trends in Confinement

The chart below shows the trends in admissions to secure detention and detention alternatives programs. As research emerges regarding the most effective way to address juvenile crime and rehabilitate youth, our county remains in the forefront for developing alternatives to secure confinement. In 2014, 54% of youth were in secure detention and 46% were in detention alternatives (average daily population was 27 youth in detention and 23 youth in detention alternative programs.) In contrast, back in 2001, 88% of youth were housed in secure detention and 12% were in detention alternative programs (average daily population: 84 youth in detention; 11 youth in detention alternatives). In terms of demographics, our population of justice-involved youth was 63% white, 14% Hispanic, 15% black, 4% Native American, and 3% Pacific Islander with a gender division of 70% male and 30% female. These percentages have remained fairly unchanged over time.



Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Program

In 2014, the Snohomish County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (VGAL) Program took its “35 Years of Advocacy” by storm increasing the number of children represented by 21%, with a total of nearly 900 children represented in 2014.

The VGAL Program is a Superior Court-funded volunteer organization that empowers everyday citizens, appointed as representatives of the court, to make a lifelong difference in the lives of children who have been removed from their homes due to allegations of abuse and/or neglect on the part of their caretakers. Appointed by judges, VGALs typically commit to staying on a case until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. The community volunteers who give their time to serve as VGALs come from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds. However the common thread they all share is a willingness to listen, concern for families in our community, and the determination to come forward to make a difference in the life of a child. While others may come and go, the VGAL provides that one constant that children need in order to thrive.

Snohomish County Superior Court’s budget support, coupled with an incredible investment on the part of the community volunteers, is a powerful example of our community’s commitment to its children and families. VGALs are the pillars of the community and the dependency program in Snohomish County. VGALs freely give their time, hearts, energy, and advocacy skills. Many work long hours visiting children and talking with parents, foster families, relatives, and other parties involved in the dependency process. Because they receive no compensation for their services, it is important to recognize their hard work and their level of genuine concern for the abused and neglected children of Snohomish County.

Dependency

Snohomish County has worked diligently on improving our dependency court system for children in foster care. In 2014, we succeeded in safely returning more children to their homes more quickly than in previous years. For children who are not able to be returned home, Snohomish County was 1st in the state for large counties (6th overall) for timeliness for children to be adopted. Snohomish County was 1st in the state for large counties (3rd overall) for timely filing of termination petitions. The courts have improved on timeliness for all children in foster care.



May 2014 VGAL Swearing-In Ceremony with Judge Ellis

Miller Trust

Miller Trust is a valuable resource for court-involved youth who benefit from services and activities that may not be funded through other court resources. Probation and Detention Alternatives staff continues to apply to the grants in aid portion of the Miller Trust Fund to cover unique costs for youth such as, but not limited to, summer camp, tattoo removal, interview clothes, band instrument rental, Food Handler cards, bus passes, etc. Academic and skill training scholarships in the name of Judges French and Thibodeau are available through the Miller Trust for Drug Court youth.

Miller Trust money was awarded to the Detention Alternatives' JETS Program to pay for youth to take the GED test. Also funded was the TEA program (Therapeutic Educational Alternative), a program for low-risk juvenile sex offenders for whom there are few services available. Probation staff is working with researchers and state officials to make the TEA program a promising practice, in the hopes that it may actually become a state-funded program in the future.

Reclaiming Futures

Reclaiming Futures (RF) is a national juvenile justice systems reform initiative, which began in 2000 in 10 communities nationwide with grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and has since grown to 41 communities nationally. This initiative specifically targets youth in the juvenile justice system that have substance abuse and/or mental health issues, to strive towards "More Treatment, Better Treatment, Beyond Treatment." It uses a proven 6-step model to unite the court, probation, treatment, and the community to reclaim our youth in order to reduce relapse and recidivism.

Snohomish County became an RF site in 2010 through federal grants. The initiative's structure locally is comprised of a leadership team (Fellows) who represent the various systems, and a community coalition (Change Team) which meets monthly.

2014 was a year of transition for RF. Our grant funding expired in 2014, leaving us without the ability to fund staff necessary to maintain the previous level of community commitment. The RF Fellows continue to support the RF initiative and engage our community partners.

Accomplishments in 2014:

- Cultural Competency training for the community and staff
- Juvenile Justice Youth Partner Program expanded to serve additional youth (mentor program created by Youth for Christ)
- Systems 101 Community Conference—to help our professionals & community collaborate and better understand our systems
- Increased capacity via sales-tax funds to position a Catholic Community Services staff inside DJJC Detention to more quickly assess our kids and connect them to treatment

Thank You to Our Personnel

A special thank you to all of our Superior Court and Juvenile Court staff for your service, dedication and professionalism in 2014.

We had a number of personnel transitions this year ~

We said good-bye to some, welcomed new staff, and congratulated others on their advancement within the Court.

Retirements:

Laurel Olson, Court Reporter, Retired 1/31/14, 15 years
Beth Blosten, Human Resources Manager, Retired 4/1/2014, 8 years
Nikki Casey-Carlson, Legal Process Assistant II, Retired 4/4/2014, 12 years
Sandra Rogers, Legal Process Assistant II, Retired 4/30/2014, 16 years
Arden Bedle, Commissioner, Retired 4/30/2014, 31 years
Dennis Erickson, Court Reporter, Retired 5/30/14, 28 years
Rick Finkbonner, Juvenile Corrections Officer, Retired 6/22/2014, 16 years
Kathleen Morris, Drug Court Supervisor, Retired 7/24/2014, 5 years
Bob Terwilliger, Court Administrator, Retired 12/31/2014, 31 years

New Hires:

Jessica Vasques, Accounting Specialist, 3/17/2014; Ana Maria McCleary, Juvenile Probation Counselor, 3/24/2014; Christie Leatiota, Court Reporter, 3/26/2014; Rhea Reynolds, Human Resources Manager, 4/9/2014; Janine Bombach, Judicial Coordinator, 5/1/2014; Annaliese Forgey, Juvenile Corrections Officer, 4/21/2014; Sherilynn McKay, Court Reporter 206/16/2014; Lee B. Tinney, Commissioner, 7/1/2014; Joelle (Alex) Kelly, Juvenile Program Coordinator, 7/7/2014; Sharon Smith Elsayed, Family/Juvenile Court Improvement Project Manager, 7/8/14; Kellye Estep, Legal Process Assistant II, 7/28/14; Jared Baldwin, Juvenile Corrections Officer, 8/11/14; Marta Lomeli, Office Assistant II, 9/4/14; Britt Romero, Secretary Senior, 10/13/14

Promotions:

Christine Liebsack, Case Flow Manager, 5/1/2014; Margaret Davey, Legal Process Assistant II, 5/1/2014

In memory:

Tone Knapp, 11/16/1956 – 8/4/2014

Service to Our Community: Beyond the Bench

The Snohomish County Bench participates in both law-related and other extrajudicial activities which help to integrate judges into our community and furthers general understanding and respect for the courts and the judicial system, to the extent that time permits, and judicial independence and impartiality are not compromised. Many judges are active members of community Rotary Clubs, participate in leadership roles within the YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs, volunteer for Sierra Club Inner City Outings, were speakers for Youth Development Awards, Prodigies for Peace Celebration, spoke to assemblies and classes for local schools, and several facilitated and volunteered to judge for student and new law student mock trials. Many of the judges are members of boards and committees through state associations that work on pressing issues related to the courts.