

NDCRC Newsletter
Featured State – California

California

California currently has more than 400 collaborative courts with many jurisdictions having four or more types of collaborative courts. The most numerous types of collaborative courts include adult drug courts, adult mental health courts, veterans' courts, juvenile drug courts, DUI courts, reentry courts, homeless courts and juvenile mental health courts. Most drug court caseloads average between 75 and 100 participants while other collaborative courts tend to have smaller caseloads.

The US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance recently awarded to Judicial Council of California a grant to implement the California Collaborative Court Data Improvement Project. Project staff will conduct research on the data-related needs of adult drug and other collaborative courts to support local and statewide capacity for data collection and performance measurement. A primary objective involves identifying key shared data elements and uniform data definitions, enabling better statewide reporting on the impact collaborative courts have in their communities and their adherence to the Drug Court Best Practice Standards.

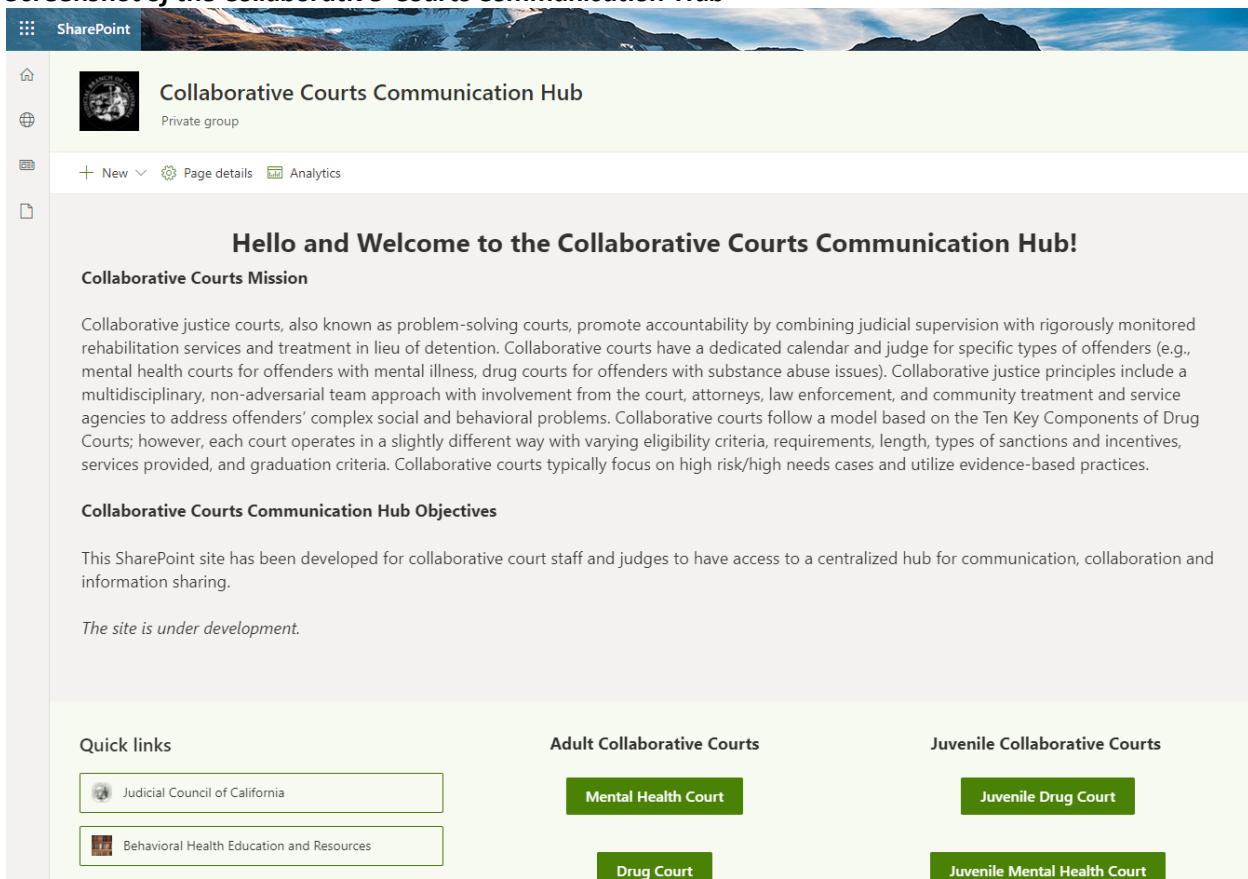
In this first phase of the project, staff are conducting interviews to identify well performing case management systems that are facilitating efficient and accurate collection of data. Many courts struggle to manage paper forms, disparate excel spreadsheets, and conflicting data from multiple partners. Information gleaned from these interviews will document best practices for replication.

The project also focuses on the often-neglected needs of California's rural collaborative courts by identifying a simple, low cost, relatively easy to adopt collaborative court case management solution. With the goal of identifying a variety of effective data collection tools and procedures in the interviews, those that could meet the needs of rural courts will be documented and shared.

Finally, the project will implement a digital information repository and virtual workspace for collaborative justice court coordinators throughout the state. Initial research led staff to develop a prototype site on the Microsoft SharePoint platform. It includes sections on news, program resources, upcoming events, webinars and other educational opportunities. The communication hub is in the initial stages of development and will continue to grow as feedback from a small set of initial users provides essential information on how the communication hub could be best utilized.

Upon finalization, the communication hub will be used by court staff to connect, share program manuals, best practices, innovative techniques, review materials on current and past webinars and more. Users will have access to pending legislation that could impact collaborative courts. Court staff will use the site as a one stop shop for all their criminal justice and collaborative court needs. Improved communication will aid court staff to understand what other countries are doing related to issues affecting them and others.

Screenshot of the Collaborative Courts Communication Hub



SharePoint

Collaborative Courts Communication Hub
Private group

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Hello and Welcome to the Collaborative Courts Communication Hub!

Collaborative Courts Mission

Collaborative justice courts, also known as problem-solving courts, promote accountability by combining judicial supervision with rigorously monitored rehabilitation services and treatment in lieu of detention. Collaborative courts have a dedicated calendar and judge for specific types of offenders (e.g., mental health courts for offenders with mental illness, drug courts for offenders with substance abuse issues). Collaborative justice principles include a multidisciplinary, non-adversarial team approach with involvement from the court, attorneys, law enforcement, and community treatment and service agencies to address offenders' complex social and behavioral problems. Collaborative courts follow a model based on the Ten Key Components of Drug Courts; however, each court operates in a slightly different way with varying eligibility criteria, requirements, length, types of sanctions and incentives, services provided, and graduation criteria. Collaborative courts typically focus on high risk/high needs cases and utilize evidence-based practices.

Collaborative Courts Communication Hub Objectives

This SharePoint site has been developed for collaborative court staff and judges to have access to a centralized hub for communication, collaboration and information sharing.

The site is under development.

Quick links

[Judicial Council of California](#)

[Behavioral Health Education and Resources](#)

Adult Collaborative Courts

[Mental Health Court](#)

[Drug Court](#)

Juvenile Collaborative Courts

[Juvenile Drug Court](#)

[Juvenile Mental Health Court](#)