

downtown **COMMUNITYCOURT**

Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, British Columbia



The Mission



- Be innovative and problem-solving
- Improve offender accountability
- Address the underlying causes of criminal behavior
- Operate an efficient, cost-effective court
- Ultimately build a safe, thriving & socially-cohesive community



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Welcome to Vancouver's Downtown Community Court



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- Canada's Only Community Court Est. 2008
- Provincial Court of Justice (Summary Offences)
- 2 Courtrooms (currently only 1 in operation)
- 3 Prosecutors; 1 Judge Presides (3 rotate)
- Modern Courtroom Technology
- Pilot Project with Evaluation



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Who do we serve?



Downtown Vancouver & Downtown Eastside of Vancouver

- Extremely dense population
- Home to wealthy and poor
- Over 50% population speak English as second language
- Large urban Aboriginal Community
- Variety of offences (property, violence, breaches of court orders, domestic assault, sexual assault)



Multi-Disciplined & Integrated Team

Judge

Prosecutors & Assistants

Mental Health Social Worker/Forensic Nurse

Psychiatrist

Nurse

General Probation Officer

Mental Health Probation Officer

Mental Health Outreach Workers

Vancouver Police Constable

Victim Services Worker

Housing

Aboriginal Case Worker

Case Management Teams

Volunteer Coordinator

Community Advisory Panel



Mental Health Program (MHP)

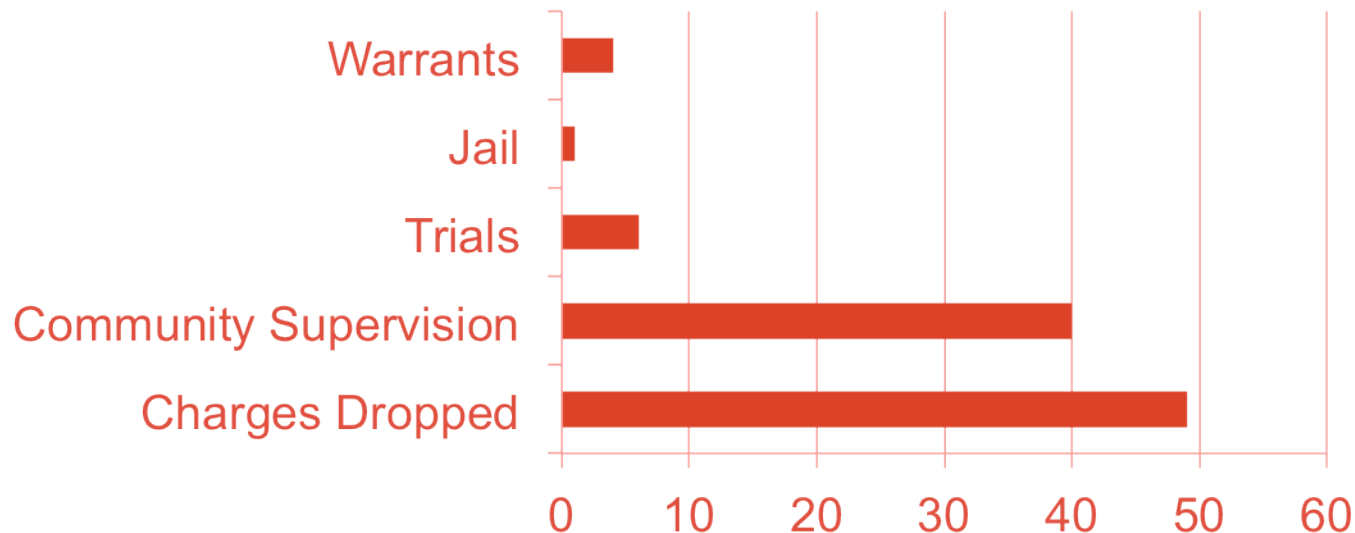
- The objective is to assist the mentally ill and provide integrated case planning for offenders who are chronically mentally ill
- Team is composed of a Forensic Liaison Worker, Probation Officer, Psychiatrist, Two Outreach Workers



Mental Health Program Results for 2011

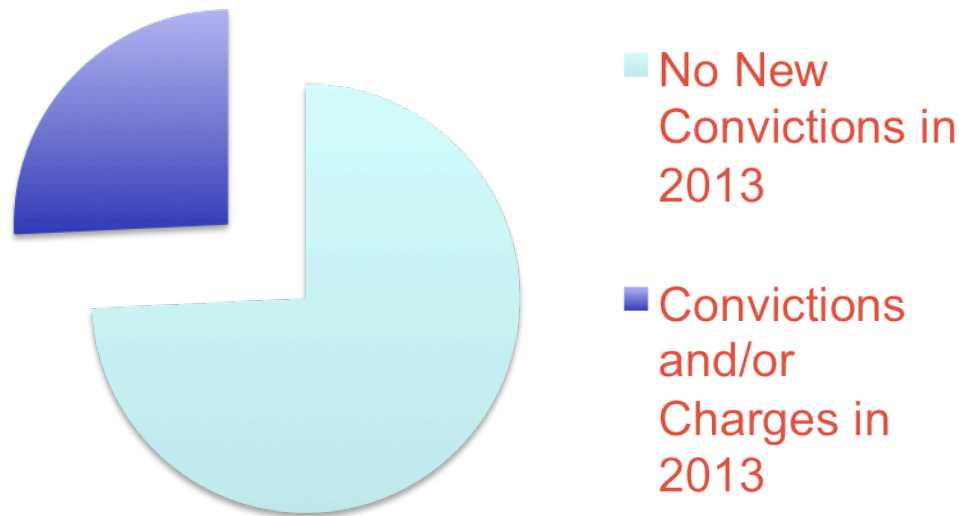
- 90 Referrals to the Program in 2011
- Average of 4.2 court appearances to close case

2011 Outcomes



Mental Health Program 2012 Results

- 101 Referrals to the Program in 2012
- 75 of the 101 referrals were not convicted of a new offence since being placed on the Mental Health Program



Aboriginal Justice Program

- The goal is to provide a restorative justice process which focuses on repairing the relationship between the victim, offender and community (consistent with Aboriginal culture & history)
- Native-specific Counseling
- Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice (diversion & potlatch, elder-mediation)
- 75% success rate in 2011



Case Management Team (CMT)

The objective is to provide comprehensive and integrated support to offenders who are vulnerable, marginalized, drug-addicted, with limited access to social services in order to address their criminogenic factors

- 4 teams consist of probation officer and health worker (nurse, social worker)
- Provide direct updates to prosecutors and court
- CMT is supported by other agencies (Police, Employment Assistance Worker, Aboriginal Caseworker, Housing Support Worker)



Chronic Offender Program

Chronic Offenders are defined as those who have attracted 10+ criminal charges over a 12 Month Period

- Estimated that 60% of crime committed by 10% of criminal population (i.e. Chronic Offenders)
- Vancouver Police Chronic Offender Unit
- Case Management Team
- Reaching Out Recovery House
- Example of public/private partnership



Interesting Numbers for 2011

New Individuals who appeared in Community Court	2,549
New Cases	4,651
Individuals Receiving Legal Aid	488
Alternative Measures/Diversion Referrals	406
Mental Health Program (MHP)	91
Aboriginal Diversion Program	70
Forensic Mental Health Reports Produced	172
Individuals who received Medical Assessments	242





Program Facts for 2011

Health Program Participants	1,120
DCC Community Program Participants	706
Community Services Project Hours	2,073
Community Services Street Working Crew Hours	4,145
Individuals Housed at Emergency Shelters	191
Number of Days Housed	2,279
New Income Assistance Applications	64
Number of Victims Involved	1,199



Health Programs Offered at Community Court

- Acupuncture
- Addiction, Education & Discussion
- Harm Reduction (drug use)
- Health Screening (medical care)
- Relationship With Alcohol and Drugs
- Life Skills Series
 - Cooperative Communication skills
 - Values & Goal Setting
 - Self Esteem and Community Resources
 - Time Management
 - Managing Stress



Other Programs Offered at Community Court

- Aboriginal Front Door - Elder Mediation
- Anger Management
- Conflict Resolution & mediation
- Crime Addicts Anonymous
- Crime & Consequences
- Women's Support Program
- Native Court worker & Counseling Association - Alcohol & Drug Counseling, Individual Counseling (Co-Ed & Women Only)
- Restorative Art Program
- Open Door Employment & Education Program



Community Service Program

- premised on principles of restorative justice
- offender pays debt to community
- Tailor offender's needs to their placement
- Offender is connected to social programs and the community fabric



Probation: The Cornerstone to Community Court

- Co-located
- Teamed with health, police & other agencies
- Recognition of expertise
- Significant outreach
- Direct input into prosecution's submissions and court orders governing offenders



Probation at Community Court

Keys to Success

- Accessible to prosecutors, court and defence
- Specialized training for program
- Educate and learn from other agencies
- Collaborate with other agencies
- Creative with
- Consistent assignment



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Building a Community: Summer Lunch at Community Court



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