



FY 2019 / 2020 Budget

Pima County Attorney's Office

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Tab 1



Barbara LaWall
Pima County Attorney

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney

Date: May 13, 2019

Re: 2019/2020 Budget Presentation

I am exceedingly proud of the outstanding men and women who are employed by, and volunteer for, the Pima County Attorney's Office. Our Office currently employs more than 375 employees and had approximately 550 volunteers work with us this past year. I would like to summarize for you some highlights of their accomplishments and then discuss our departmental budget and supplemental budget requests.

1. **Highlights of Accomplishments During FY 2018/2019**
 - a. *Civil Division*

During the past year, the Civil Division achieved several important case victories for Pima County, among them the unanimous Arizona Supreme Court ruling in *Ryan v. Napier* that reversed a six-figure verdict against the County. The Supreme Court's opinion in this case established a new rule regarding personal injury suits against law enforcement officers that is applicable statewide. In addition, the Civil Division won another round in Superior Court in the *World View* litigation. The Court upheld Pima County's procurement of contracts to design and build the World View facility. In these and other cases like them, the Civil Division provides top-quality legal services at a fraction of what it would cost the County to hire outside counsel.

Demand for the Civil Division's services is increasing significantly in some areas. Indeed, over the past six months, the Civil Division has seen a dramatic increase of 70% in the number of mental health petitions for court-ordered evaluation and treatment. This has put a strain on resources in the Health Law Unit, and we will be monitoring the situation during the upcoming year.

- b. *Criminal Division*

The Criminal Division has been involved in numerous successful criminal justice reform efforts this year, including various long-standing, recently-implemented, and brand new initiatives. These include diversion programs, which, if successful, result in dismissal of charges. These efforts reduce costs

throughout the criminal justice system, while also giving participants the opportunity to avoid incarceration and continue to contribute to the economy. Additionally, the Criminal Division maintains a focus on seeking prison sentences for the most violent and dangerous offenders, as well as repetitive felony offenders who are convicted of crimes harming victims.

i. Juvenile Diversions Exceed Adjudications

It is particularly noteworthy that, for the first time (as far as we know), the Juvenile Unit diverted more juveniles from the criminal justice system than we prosecuted this past year.

Law enforcement officers referred approximately 5,500 youth to Juvenile Court to be prosecuted and adjudicated as delinquent. But the prosecutors in the Juvenile Unit adjudicated only about 2,100 of those youth. A greater number - approximately 2,500 - were diverted to three juvenile diversion programs: (1) Teen Court (operated by Pima Prevention Partnership); (2) the Juvenile Probation Department's Diversion Program; and (3) our own Community Justice Boards (CJB).

The County Attorney's Office operates 18 Community Justice Boards throughout the geographic area of Pima County with just three staff members and with the help of approximately 100 community volunteers. CJB is now more than 20 years old, and it continues to have a success rate above 90%. I invite any Board member, who may be interested, to observe one of our Community Justice Boards in action. (Tab 2)

ii. More Efficient Misdemeanor Prosecution

We collaborated with the Pima County Consolidated Justice Court to implement new procedures to expedite the disposition of misdemeanor cases, to get defendants referred more often and sooner to our Misdemeanor Diversion programs, to enroll more defendants into Misdemeanor Diversion, and to complete plea agreements at the time of the Arraignment – the first court appearance. Now, we are dismissing some cases prior to Arraignment, and more than 60% of our misdemeanor cases are resolved via Misdemeanor Diversion or plea agreement at the time of the Arraignment - roughly twice as many as before.

As part of the MacArthur Foundation's Safety + Justice Challenge, the Misdemeanor Unit also collaborated with the Justice Court to quash 3,134 outstanding misdemeanor arrest warrants. We received none of the MacArthur Foundation funding; instead, we absorbed the cost of reviewing thousands of case files and preparing the motions necessary to quash warrants for this project.

Finally, using grant funding described in more detail below, in order to serve repetitive misdemeanants who suffer from the dual diagnosis of both mental illness and substance use disorder (addiction), we helped develop the new, regional Consolidated Misdemeanor Problem Solving (CMPS) Court, in collaboration with the Superior Court, Justice Court, Tucson City Court, City Prosecutor's Office, City Public Defender's Office, and Pima County Public Defense Services, as well as community-based service providers. The CMPS Court is in a pilot implementation phase at this time. I look forward to reporting to you on its results next year.

iii. Focusing Felony Prosecution on Dangerous and Violent Offenders

The policy direction given to all felony prosecution units has been to focus our prosecutorial resources on violent and dangerous offenders. The percentage of our felony trials involving violent and dangerous offenders was at an all-time high of 81% in 2018. I am proud that this percentage has continuously increased since I was first elected when it was less than half that rate. The conviction rate *at trial* for my felony prosecutors was 90%. The overall conviction rate is even higher.

An example of our focus on dangerous and violent offenders is our collaboration with the Tucson Police Department (TPD) to investigate and prosecute cold cases involving sexual assault, along with providing services to victims. TPD obtained grant funding for us to assign a full-time victim advocate to these cases. In partnership with TPD and this victim advocate, the prosecutors in the felony Special Victims Unit recently obtained multiple convictions at trial against serial rapist Nathan Loebe whose victims numbered more than 40. And we have more cases in the pipeline.

Finally, prosecutors and victim advocates from the County Attorney's Office have been leaders in providing better and smarter victim services by developing and implementing the new Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System (APRAIS) for Domestic Violence crimes. Since April 2, 2018, when we commenced implementation, there have been more than 4,000 risk assessments completed at crime scenes with victims of intimate partner domestic violence. We led a coalition of local prosecutors, victim advocates, law enforcement agencies, and community-based service providers in obtaining grant funding of \$1 million for this project from the local, private Tucson Foundations and the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance at the Department of Justice. Using this grant funding, we can better assess which victims of domestic violence are at elevated risk or high risk of re-assault that will result in serious physical injury or death and then provide additional services to those victims.

iv. Combatting Mass Incarceration

1. Who is Sent to Prison from Pima County?

There has been a lot of attention paid nationally and statewide to the issue of mass incarceration in prisons and jails. In order to combat this problem, as explained above, I have directed felony prosecutors to focus requests for prison sentences on the most violent and dangerous offenders, as well as repetitive felony offenders who are convicted of crimes involving victims.

In an effort to ascertain whether these efforts have proven successful, we made a special request to the State Department of Corrections (DOC) for data specific to Pima County. DOC provided us a snapshot of data last July regarding who is in state prisons *from Pima County only*.

The data provided by DOC reveals that our focus is working—Pima County sends a lower percentage of its population to prison than do other counties, and those who are sentenced to prison from Pima County are there for violent or otherwise serious offenses.

The data provided by DOC shows that 12% of the inmates in Arizona State Prisons (5,206 out of a total of 42,167) were from Pima County. Pima County has 14% of the State's total population. This data reflects that Pima County has a relative rate of incarceration lower than our relative overall population.

The DOC data reveals that 95% of all prisoners in Arizona State Prison from Pima County are convicted felony offenders who harmed victims. (Tab 4) Also, 71% of those from Pima County are incarcerated for violent and dangerous offenses, including homicide, sexual assault, and serious domestic violence. Another 14% are incarcerated for serious and repetitive property crimes that have victimized our community. And, 10% are incarcerated for drug trafficking and sales, which prey upon and exploit individuals suffering from addiction. Only 5% are incarcerated following repeat convictions for possession of dangerous drugs, such as methamphetamines, and/ or narcotic drugs, such as heroin and fentanyl. Contrary to a common narrative that most incarcerated individuals are low-level drug-possession offenders, only a miniscule fraction of a percent, a mere 0.09% - just five individuals out of 5,206 - are incarcerated from Pima County on convictions for marijuana possession (and their cases all involved additional felony crimes).

2. Felony Deflection and Diversion Programs

Many of those who would otherwise be eligible for prison sentences instead end up with no conviction at all thanks to deflection or diversion. We have played a key role in supporting law enforcement's deflection practices and in expanding opportunities for diversion from prosecution for those charged

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with felonies, providing treatment in lieu of prosecution or prison for those charged with drug possession. (Tab 3)

Deflection occurs when law enforcement officers, rather than arresting a person, instead take that person to treatment or other services. Our Director of Specialty Court Programs has played a critical role in increasing deflection by presenting 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training several times each year to law enforcement officers with TPD and the Sheriff's Department who will be encountering mentally ill individuals as they patrol our community. Those law enforcement officers can use that training to better deflect mentally ill individuals to treatment.

Along with other members of the Justice Coordinating Council and the Safety + Justice Challenge, I have advocated for the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) at local law enforcement agencies to deflect individuals who are mentally ill and/or suffering from substance use disorder to treatment at the Crisis Response Center, CODAC, or Community Bridges instead of booking them in the jail. And I am pleased that law enforcement leaders have assigned their MHST officers to engage in this type of Law Enforcement Assisted Deflection.

When a drug possession arrest is made, many defendants will qualify for the new prosecutor-led Felony Drug Diversion Program, implemented by the County Attorney's Office just over a year and a half ago. (Tab 2) Approximately 200 felony defendants entered our program the first year. Those who succeeded had the felony charges against them dismissed, avoided the negative collateral consequences that come with a felony conviction, and got their lives back on track. We had a success rate of 47% - exceeding the expectations of our clinical partners. And those who successfully completed the Felony Drug Diversion Program had a recidivism rate of only 4%. This program is operated in partnership with Community Bridges and the Public Defender's Office. Both have been good partners.

We have been successful in pursuing grant funding to pay for these alternative programs. We obtained a state appropriation at the end of 2017 to fund Felony Drug Diversion over several years, and two large federal grants in 2018 to fund treatment courts in Pima County to assist those suffering from substance use disorder (addiction). The first is a grant of \$2 million over five years awarded by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The SAMHSA grant funds a portion of the services provided to participants in our Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP) Program, a portion of the services provided to participants in the standard felony Drug Court, and a portion of the services provided to the

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new, regional Consolidated Misdemeanor Problem Solving (CMPS) Court. The second is a grant of \$750,000 over three years awarded by the federal Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The BJA grant funds the remaining services needed to operate the new CMPS Court.

Meanwhile, we are seeking additional funding from the state this year to fully sustain our diversion and problem-solving court treatment programs. Our request is pending in the ongoing state legislative budget process.

We manage these diversion and specialty court treatment programs with very few staff. Almost all of the funding is pass-through funding that goes directly to treatment and wraparound recovery support services for criminal defendants. We use this pass-through funding, obtained from sources outside Pima County, to save lives, save money, and reduce crime.

2. Budget Breakdown

Almost one quarter of the County Attorney's Office budget (which totals approximately \$40 million) is pass-through funds that our Office administers but that are spent on services for crime victims as well as services for criminal defendants suffering from substance use disorder and mental illness. (Tab 5)

Here is a breakdown of how our budget is allocated:

a. Criminal Division (felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile prosecution) and Victim Services Division (60%) (\$24 million)

b. Pass-through Funds (24%) (\$9.3 million)

i. Anti-Racketeering Funds belonging to other law enforcement agencies (over \$6.8 million)

Note: We created a new Bureau in our budget for non-Pima-County Attorney Anti-Racketeering Funds. These funds belong to outside law enforcement agencies. We sought to more clearly indicate that these funds do not belong to our department. This results in a more accurate picture of our budget than has been presented in prior years.

ii. CMPS Court, Felony Drug Diversion, Drug Court, DTAP (\$1.5 million)

iii. Victim Compensation (over \$900,000)

c. Civil, Administration, and Other Divisions (16%) (\$6.5 million)

3. Supplemental Budget Requests

We have submitted four supplemental budget requests, as well as a general request regarding compensation increases for our employees. I am well aware that the County has many competing needs for funding, so I am pleased that the County Administrator has recommended partial funding of one of our supplemental budget requests, as well as a small increase in employee compensation.

The first and second supplemental budget requests both relate to the need for additional support staff and attorneys to expedite disposition of felony cases, particularly for defendants who are in pretrial custody in the jail. We believe that spending money on these positions will ultimately save the County money.

A brief explanation of the process may assist understanding how funding these supplemental budget requests to expedite disposition of felony cases should provide a significant net savings to the County in the long run. (Tab 6)

Felony defendants held in jail custody following their arrest and Initial Appearance are indicted by the Grand Jury within 10 days and then have their Arraignment within the following 10 days – which is 20 days following arrest. It is my policy and the general practice in my felony units that we extend a plea offer at the time of the Arraignment, with the condition that the plea offer is to be accepted by the time of the first Case Management Conference 30 days later – a total of 50 days following arrest.

It also is my policy to disclose all evidence to defense counsel immediately following the Arraignment, so that defense counsel has the information they need to assess the plea offer and to confer with their client, then to complete negotiations regarding the plea offer, and to reach a final plea agreement before the first Case Management Conference.

When this process works, a plea agreement can be reached and entered before or at the first Case Management Conference. The defendant can then be sentenced within a matter of weeks and released from the jail either to community supervision on probation, or to DOC if the sentence is to prison.

Unfortunately, the significantly increased use of body-worn cameras by local law enforcement agencies has greatly increased the demands on our staff. By law, certain confidential information must be redacted from the video before it is disclosed to the defense. But, due to inadequate staffing, my Office is unable to redact and disclose body camera footage and other digital evidence in a timely manner immediately following the Arraignment.

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Accordingly, defense counsel is unable to review the evidence, advise their client, and achieve a final plea agreement by the time of the first Case Management Conference. Typically, the judge will schedule another Case Management Conference in another 30 days – which means that now a total of 80 days has passed following the arrest, and the defendant remains in jail. More than 95% of all felony cases are resolved by way of plea agreements, but most of those plea agreements are not entered until the third or fourth Case Management Conference – 110 to 140 days following arrest. This is an unconscionable and very costly delay.

As you know, a bed in the jail costs approximately \$100 per day, or approximately \$3,000 per month. So, for every defendant held in pretrial custody, every month of delay results in the cost of another \$3,000 just for the jail costs alone, not including other costs.

i. Digital Evidence Disclosure (affects felony cases brought by TPD and other local police departments)

We receive 1,500 hours or more of body camera footage per month. We currently have 10 legal processing support staff who perform redactions of body camera footage as well as other digital media during approximately 75% of their work time. This staffing is not sufficient to keep up with the volume of digital recordings that must be redacted prior to disclosure. We have a backlog of video footage waiting to be redacted. We need more staff to perform these redactions to get fully caught up to enable us to disclose the redacted body camera footage immediately following Arraignment.

We appreciate the County Administrator's recommendation of funding for four more staff positions at this time and hope the Board will approve this recommendation. We believe the net savings that will be achieved by adding these staff members will outweigh the costs, as detailed in our budget transmittal memo and our memo in response to budget questions posed by the County Administrator. (Tab 8)

ii. Expedited Plea Negotiation Team

Another factor that delays our ability to complete plea agreements with defense counsel before the first Case Management Conference is the need in many cases for face-to-face or telephonic conversations to engage in effective negotiations. We transmit our plea offers at the time of Arraignment. We transmit the evidence available for disclosure at that time. And then we transmit the redacted body camera footage and other digital media as soon as it is ready for disclosure. At that point, in some cases, defense counsel soon emails acceptance of the plea offer. However, in other cases, defense counsel emails questions or a counter-offer. There is then a

need for a conversation or multiple conversations to achieve a mutually acceptable plea agreement.

Unfortunately, inadequate staffing makes it nearly impossible for our prosecutors to find the time to engage in face-to-face or telephonic conversations to negotiate efficiently. Generally, they must communicate via email after hours or during very short breaks between meetings with law enforcement officers who are scheduled back-to-back all day long for issuing appointments. Because there are inflexible legal deadlines for issuing and charging cases, that function must take precedence over negotiation of plea agreements when there is not time in the day to do both.

Our felony attorney staffing level in the County Attorney's Office is much, much lower than felony attorney staffing level for Public Defense Services. (Tab 7) We have 49 felony prosecution attorneys; whereas, the three Public Defense Services agencies have 78 felony defense attorneys. That does not include contract felony defense attorneys paid for by the County (of which there are 48), nor does it include private felony defense attorneys.

The average felony caseload for public defenders is 28. The average felony caseload for our felony prosecutors is 67 – more than double that of their defense counterparts.

We have requested funding for two more felony attorneys plus support staff to enable us to assign two prosecutors to devote their time to expediting plea negotiation in cases very likely to be resolved via plea agreements. This would resolve cases more quickly, saving \$3,000 per month per felony defendant in jail custody. We believe the net savings that could be achieved by adding these attorneys and staff would outweigh the investment with an annual rate of return exceeding the annual cost. (Tab 8)

***iii. Ensure Adequate Victim Services Staffing for
Domestic Violence 24/7/365 (contingency)***

We need additional victim advocates to adequately serve the recent tsunami of domestic violence victims in our community who are identified at elevated or high-risk for being re-assaulted in a manner likely to cause serious physical injury or death. We have asked for contingency funding for two victim advocates, in the event our pending grant application to fund these positions is not approved. Even if these positions are funded, the demand for services is vastly outpacing our staffing level and the capacity of our staff to recruit, train, and supervise additional volunteers, resulting in less advocacy for victims of crime. We will be monitoring the need for additional victim advocate positions over the coming year.

iv. DTAP Funding (County Administrator contingency) – pass-through

Unfortunately, the federal grant funding we received for the various drug courts may not be sufficient to fully sustain the DTAP program. We have urged our state legislators to include funding for DTAP and Diversion in the state's budget this coming year. However, we do not know whether that lobbying effort will prove successful. Accordingly, I have asked that contingency funds be allocated in the County's budget for DTAP in case such funds are needed again this year, as some contingency funds were needed last year. Independent studies have shown that DTAP saves lives, saves money, and reduces crime.

v. Salaries for Attorneys and Staff

Finally, and importantly, funding for increased compensation for my attorneys and other employees is critically necessary to address employee turnover and increase the number of applicants for our positions.

Other urban counties like Yavapai County and Maricopa County are paying their prosecutors 15-20% more than Pima County is paying our prosecutors. Our mid-level prosecutors handling cases involving serious, violent crimes, including homicides, sexual assaults, and domestic violence make less than detectives in the police and sheriff's departments and owe as much as \$100,000 or more in student loans from college and law school. Maricopa County not only has higher salaries for its prosecutors; it also has a student loan forgiveness program.

We appreciate the County Administrator's recommendation of a 2% compensation increase across the board and an additional 1% for some employees. We hope the Board will approve this recommendation. Much more is needed, though, to address not only the 2.8% cost of living increase in 2019, but also the under-market salary ranges in many of our classifications that is affecting our ability to compete effectively in the highly-competitive job market.

4. Conclusion

I want to thank the Chairman and Members of the Board of Supervisors for your consideration and attention to the accomplishments of the outstanding men and women who are employed by and volunteer for the County Attorney's Office. Although you have many competing priorities, I hope that you will realize the value and importance of my budget requests, particularly the need for increased compensation for our hard-working and high-performing employees.

Tab 2

Join Us

Because of the importance of the role, potential volunteers:

- Complete an application and interview
- Complete a background check

If chosen, volunteers must:

- Commit to one year of service
- Attend regular meetings, twice a month, for 3-4 hours a night
- Complete training requirements

What the Research Shows

- 94% Program Completion
- 98% Parent Satisfaction
- 5% Recidivism

What Volunteers Have to Say

"Creative consequences that motivate the youth to become competent, empathic, and productive community members. The success of the program is further supported by its remarkably low recidivism rates."

Cheryl Brown, Ed. D, Board Member

"The Justice Boards are a rare case of an authentic win/win situation. Youths are given guidance and tools to steer them toward a more positive future academically and vocationally."

Chris Segrin, Board Member

"I feel blessed to have worked with Tucson's youth for over 11 years through the Community Justice Board Program. Guiding these kids and being in a position to help them believe in themselves is extremely rewarding."

Teri Moorhead, Board Member

Contact Us



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www.pcao.pima.gov/communityjustice.aspx

The Pima County Attorney's Office

Community Justice Boards



Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney

Neighborhoods
coming together.

Changing the lives of
juveniles.

Changing the future
of our community.



www.pcao.pima.gov





The Pima County Attorney's Office is committed to reducing juvenile crime, but we cannot do it alone. We need your help.

With community support, our office has successfully developed and implemented the Community Justice Board (CJB) Program in Pima County. Together we will continue to make a difference.

Barbara Lawall
Pima County Attorney

What are Community Justice Boards?

The CJB Program is a unique alternative to the traditional Juvenile Court process. The program is comprised of caring volunteers who are specially trained using a restorative justice philosophy.

Volunteers help youth understand the impact of their actions and gain strategies and skills that will help them make better decisions for their future.

"They helped me understand that nothing was wrong with me or my family and that I could do better and have a good life."- youth

Be Our **Partner** in Restorative Justice

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is about balancing the needs of the offender with those of the victim and community.



Restorative justice is not about punishment but about fostering meaningful relationships and helping youth repair the harm done by their offense.

How the program works

When a youth commits a first or second time minor offense, instead of being processed through juvenile court they can be referred to a Community Justice Board.

Volunteers use a team approach to assign specialized and unique consequences for each youth. They meet twice a month for up to 90 days with the youth and family to monitor progress.

Consequence plans may include:

- Letters of apology
- Community Service
- Educational Programs
- Empowerment Groups
- Goal Setting
- Creative & Career Based Projects



Who are Community Justice Board Volunteers?

They are dedicated community members who reside throughout Pima County. Volunteers are at least 18 years old, and range from college students to retired professionals.



Photos shown are creative projects made by CJB participants.

A message from the Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall

Those who suffer from drug addiction should have the opportunity for treatment as the primary consequence of committing the crime of felony drug possession.

My office is committed to helping these individuals rebuild their lives. My diversion program gives individuals a chance to avoid a felony conviction and receive the treatment and support they need to live a life free from crime and addiction.

Barbara LaWall

Barbara LaWall
Pima County Attorney's Office

A new approach through treatment

Combating Addiction

Getting help can be one of the hardest things to do. We understand and are here to help individuals remain crime free and provide them with the resources needed to live a life free from addiction.

Rebuilding Lives

Through services, including treatment in lieu of prosecution, those who possess illegal drugs have a better chance to rebuild their lives free from addiction and to restore relationships and family connections.

Restoring Hope

As a community, we all thrive when we work together to help those who may need some extra support through prevention education, treatment, and rehabilitation. We are making a positive investment in a safe and healthy community.

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The Pima County Attorney's Office

Felony Drug Diversion

Program



Combating Addiction

Rebuilding Lives

Restoring Hope

The Pima County Attorney's Office

What is the Felony Drug Diversion Program?

Diversion



A pre-prosecution opportunity for first time felony arrestees charged with felony drug possession for personal use.

The County Attorney will not prosecute if the arrestee agrees to complete treatment, counseling, or education – as clinically indicated based upon a professional assessment.

Why we need this program

State law makes personal-use possession of dangerous or narcotic drugs, such as heroin, methamphetamines, fentanyl, cocaine, and

other similar drugs, a **Class 4 felony**. (Marijuana is not a dangerous or narcotic drug. State law affords prosecutors greater discretion to deal with

simple marijuana possession.) Under state law prosecutors do not have discretion to treat dangerous or narcotic drug possession as a misdemeanor; it may only be prosecuted as a felony.

In order to help individuals avoid a felony conviction and the collateral consequences that would burden their lives, and to help those who suffer from addiction, the Pima County Attorney has established the Felony Drug Diversion Program. The program's primary focus is treatment for those arrested for simple possession of dangerous or narcotic drugs.

How it works



Criminal charges are suspended upon enrollment and are dismissed upon successful completion.

Felony Diversion Program

Community Bridges, Inc.
Screening and Assessment

Level of Addiction			
No Addiction	Low Level Addiction	Moderate Level Addiction	High Level Addiction
Diversion Options			
Attend 1 class or Prevention Program	Outpatient Treatment	Intensive Outpatient Treatment with wraparound services	Residential Treatment with wraparound services
Diversion successfully completed with a clean drug test.			

For those who successfully complete Felony Drug Diversion, there is no felony conviction and no sentence. Those who fail are prosecuted and, if convicted, typically receive Standard Probation or Drug Court Probation.

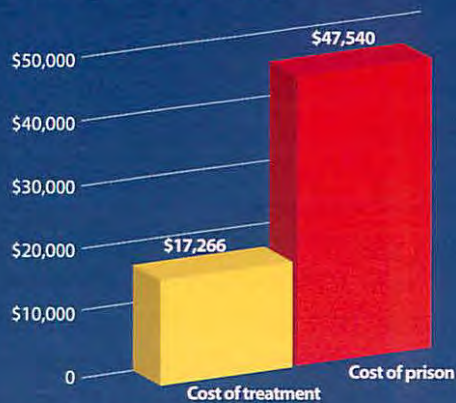
Reducing Crime, Combating Addiction



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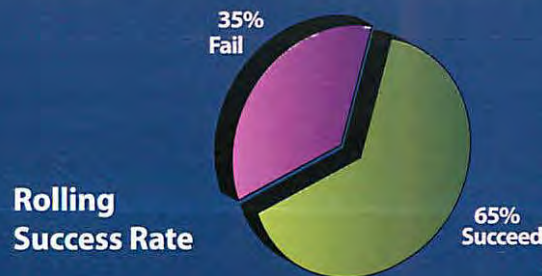
Saving Money.

In Pima County the cost for a defendant to successfully complete the DTAP Program is shown to be less than half the cost of incarceration in Arizona.



Saving Lives.

DTAP is changing and saving lives. 65% of participants are successfully participating or have completed the program and leave with life skills and the tools needed to become contributing members of the community.



Reducing Crime.

A growing body of research shows that drug treatment can reduce recidivism twice as much as in jail or prison.

"This program saved my life"

Michael K.
DTAP Graduate

"DTAP helped me discover things about myself and learn how to cope with everyday problems and my addiction. I don't know where I would be without this program."

Denice H.
DTAP Graduate

"Without everything that DTAP made available to me, I would not have been able to change who I was on the inside. I am eternally grateful for this program."

Daniel L.
DTAP Graduate

"This program works, I am living proof."

Shandrelle N.
DTAP Graduate

Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison Program
Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney
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32 N. Stone Avenue
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The Pima County Attorney's Office

DTAP

Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison



SAVES LIVES
SAVES MONEY
REDUCES CRIME

What is DTAP?

The Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP) Program enables drug addicted criminal defendants to plead guilty to an offense and then enter a residential, therapeutic community treatment system for three years as an alternative to a prison sentence.

The Program begins with months of in-patient, residential or intensive out-patient drug treatment followed by wraparound recovery support services managed by a resources specialist, including transitional housing, literacy services, higher education, job training and placement services, and counseling, accompanied by drug testing, probation monitoring and regular court hearings.

Pima County's DTAP Program is currently the only one of its kind in Arizona.

Whom does DTAP help?

Prison bound felony offenders who have:

- Drug addiction
- Mandatory prison sentence if convicted at trial
- No violent history
- No sex crime history
- Legal status in the U.S.

DTAP has a 100% success rate in placing participants in the workforce.

DTAP saving lives



Daniel L.
DTAP Graduate



Denise H.
DTAP Graduate



Shandrelle N.
DTAP Graduate



Michael K.
DTAP Graduate



SAVES LIVES
SAVES MONEY
REDUCES CRIME

Why we need DTAP

✓ DTAP saves lives

Defendants who successfully complete the program have become productive members of the community, with **gainful employment**, housing, **improved health**, and repaired relationships with their families, children and loved ones.

✓ DTAP saves money

The average cost of placing a defendant through the DTAP Program, including the costs of residential treatment, transitional housing, vocational training, counseling, and other support services is \$17,266 – **less than half the average cost of imprisonment** for the average term of 18 months, which would be \$47,540.

✓ DTAP reduces crime

Meanwhile, the recidivism rate for all DTAP participants was less than half that for the control group of individuals who were sent straight to prison. Even including those who ultimately failed the DTAP Program and were sent to prison to complete their consequences, the recidivism rate for DTAP participants was 5.6% compared with the recidivism rate for the control group that was sent straight to prison, which was 12%.

By contrast, DTAP participants are more than twice as successful in staying drug free and crime free. DTAP has saved millions of dollars.