



**ALTERNATIVE  
COURT PROGRAMS**  
TULSA COUNTY

---

# Reentry Court

An Overview

# Today's Learning Objectives

- What is a Reentry Court?
- How does a Reentry Court Work?
- Who Benefits from a Reentry Court?



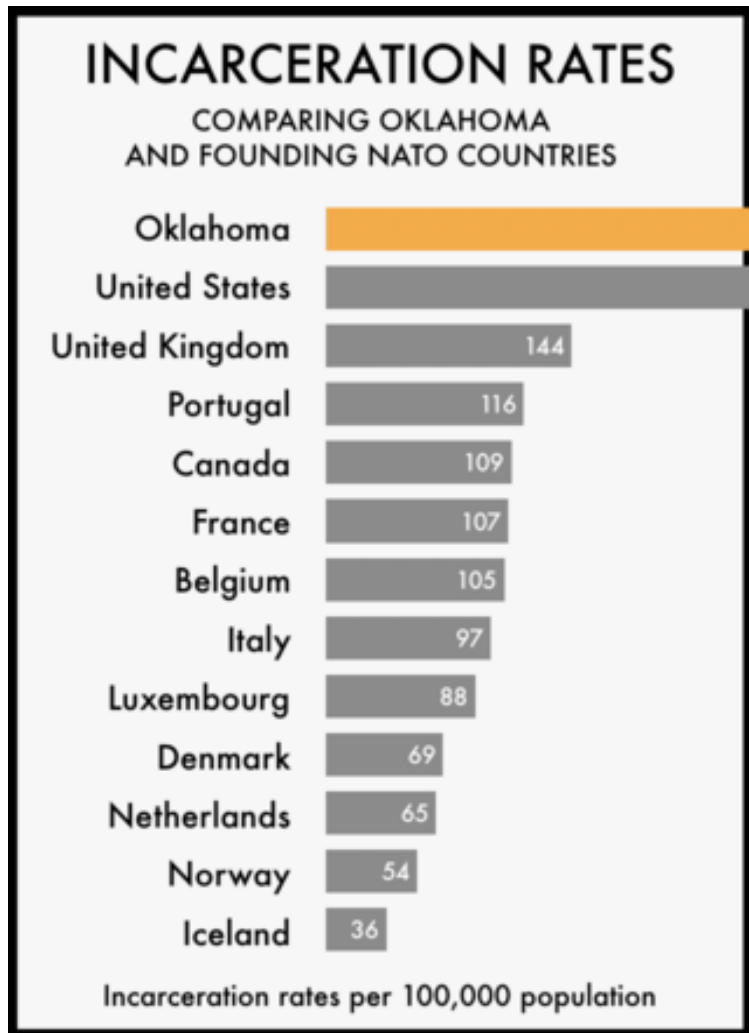


## But First...Who We Are

- Tulsa County Alternative Court Programs (TCACP)
  - Operate multiple treatment court programs:
    - Drug Court
    - DUI Court
    - Mental Health Court
    - Veterans Treatment Court
    - Reentry Court

**ALTERNATIVE  
COURT PROGRAMS**  
TULSA COUNTY

# Oklahoma's Overall Incarceration Rate



905 – Oklahoma

614 – U.S. avg

# Common Barriers to Reentry that Contribute to Recidivism

- Housing
- No support
- Limited skills
- No treatment
- Stigma
- Fines and Fees



# Reentry Affects Us All



- Reentry provides a step-down approach
  - They go from full 100% structure to no structure and should also somehow be completely well adjusted and law abiding
- Addresses Trauma
  - Often released without intensive treatment or trauma education
  - Learning maladaptive behaviors as coping skills
- 95% will be released
  - These individuals will be out on the road, at the register, making your food, working on your HVAC

# What is Reentry Court?

---

- The Tulsa County Reentry Court aims to support individuals returning to Tulsa County after incarceration, facilitating effective community reintegration.
- This program emphasizes intensive case management and evidence-based treatment practices, combined with judicial monitoring and community supervision strategies focused on reducing recidivism.
- Reentry Court is a voluntary, 12-month program divided into 3 phases.
- Official pilot program started in July 2023
  - Previous experience with successful Veterans Treatment Court participants



# Reentry Court Goals



- Reduce prison population
- Support transitioning back into the community
- Provide case management, housing, and job support
- Treatment for mental health and substance use disorder

# Reentry Court Model

- **Early Release**
  - Sentence Modification for conditional early release w/suspended balance
- **Judicial Supervision**
  - Monthly reviews with a dedicated judge
- **Treatment Focused**
  - Individualized treatment for trauma, substance abuse, and mental health
- **Heavy Case Management**
  - Immediate help with Housing, Jobs, Basic Needs



# Success Stories: Chris

- 2nd Participant
- DUI-Manslaughter
- Victim-Support
- Sentenced to 8 years with a judicial review after 1 year
- Completed in 12 months
- Established career in construction, foreman
- Regained custody of child
- Benefitted from treatment after initially being treatment-resistant



# How Do Offenders Come to Reentry: Identification & Staffing of Candidates

- Reentry Team reviews offenders with upcoming judicial reviews
  - Statutory Eligibility
  - Charge Type
  - Criminal History
  - DOC Conduct Record
  - Completed Programs
- Reentry Team
  - Judge
  - Defense Council
  - Assistant District Attorney
  - DOC
  - Coordinator
  - Treatment Providers






## How Do Offenders Come to Reentry Court: Pre-Release Planning

- Defense Attorney communicates with potential participants
- Creation of release plan
  - Vital Records
  - Housing
  - Employment Placement
  - Release Pick-up
  - Treatment Provider Assignments
- Release plan and DOC report provided to sentencing Judge

# How Do Offenders Come to Reentry Court: Judicial Review Hearing and Release

- Candidate attends Judicial Review. If granted sentence modification:
- Report to probation immediately following release
  - Probation reporting schedule
- Treatment intake and plan development
- Given Arrival/1st Review Date and Time



A photograph showing a woman with her back to the camera, sitting at a wooden table. Across from her is a man with white hair, wearing a black judicial robe over a pink shirt, sitting at the same table. They appear to be in a courtroom setting. The background is a wood-paneled wall.

# How Does Reentry Court Work: Initial Arrival Hearing

- Occurs within two days of release
- Formal Welcome from the Court
- Meets Reentry Court Judge
- Program Orientation
- Review Rules and Conditions with Defense Attorney
- Participant Q&A with court
- Review initial progress on requirements
- Follow-up review in two weeks
- Order Staying Costs and Fines

# How Does Reentry Court Work: Status Review Hearings

- 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month
- Monthly minimum review of participant progress
- Team staffing occurs within 48 hours prior to review to assess progress
- Judicial Oversight
- Graduated Incentives and Sanctions
- Phase Advancement



# Phases of Community Transition

## Phase 1

(3 months approx)

- Bi-Weekly reviews for first month
- Treatment assessment and therapy planning
- Stabilization of needs
- Housing
- Employment placement
- Randomized drug testing
- Weekly supervision reporting
- Electronic monitoring

## Phase 2

(6 months approx)

- Monthly reviews
- Continued substance use disorder, criminogenic thinking, trauma therapy, or other treatments as needed
- Continued supervision reporting
- Continued drug testing
- Community engagement

## Phase 3

(3 months approx)

- Monthly reviews
- Focus on long-term community engagement
- Reduced supervision reporting
- Reduced drug testing
- Maintain treatment as necessary
- Graduation

***Intensive Stabilization Period***



***Therapeutic Engagement***



***Maintenance & Graduation***



# Participant Stats

- Median Age: 33 years old
  - Median Time Served: 16.3 months
  - Median Balance Suspended: 5 years, 4 months
  - Longest Time Served: 6.5 years
  - Longest Balance Suspended: 19 years
  - Women make 42% of participants
  - More racially diverse than other treatment court programs
-



## Immediate Barriers

- All have Felony Convictions and Prison Time stigma
- Over 50% had no family or friends they could reside with upon release
- Over 60% had no immediate previous work experience in the 3 years leading up to incarceration
- Higher proportion (35%) lacking a High School Diploma/GED
- Fines and Costs

# What Do Participants Bring to the Table?

- Unlike other treatment court models, participants tend to be highly motivated and more compliant
- Tend to be Highly-Motivated
  - Appreciation of regained freedom
  - Ready to seize the day (with support)
- Higher Compliance
  - Prison is a very recent experience
  - Remaining balance of time
- Periods of sobriety under their belt



# What Does the Team Bring to the Table?

- **Dedicated Team Members and Judge**
  - Same Judge, ADA, Probation Officer for those in the program
- **Treatment Court Perspective**
  - Progress, not perfection
  - Probation Officer and ADA with SUD-training
- **Treatment Provider Perspective**
  - Support system to process transitions, family dynamics, trauma
- **Network of Services**
  - Case management, Housing/Employment providers

# Reentry Services Collaborators

## Resonance Center for Women

- Prison In-Reach
- Employment/Vocational Services – Take 2
- Transitional Housing

## Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

- Employment exclusively to people recently released
- Job-Readiness Training
- Immediate Transitional Employment
- Job Coaching & Placement
- Retention Services





# Success Stories: Imani

# Cost-Reductions

---

- 30 Graduates
- Combined **182 years suspended**
- Combined Savings of **\$3.82 Million** compared to incarceration
- Avg of \$127,247.00 per graduate in savings





## Contact Information

Ericka N. Jeffords, BS

Program Director  
Tulsa County Alternative  
Court Programs  
Tulsa County District Court  
918-596-8595  
[ejeffords@tcacp.org](mailto:ejeffords@tcacp.org)

Sean Presley

Operations Manager  
Tulsa County Alternative  
Court Programs  
Tulsa County District Court  
918-313-8975  
[spresley@tcacp.org](mailto:spresley@tcacp.org)

**Website:  
TCACP.org**