

ORANGE COUNTY COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

Orange County Court Diversion (OCCD) is a community based restorative justice program, offering cost effective alternatives to the criminal and civil court system. Our primary focus is the Court Diversion program for eligible adult and juvenile offenders referred by the State's Attorney. Other programs include the:

- **Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program (YSASP)** for youth receiving civil complaints for underage alcohol or marijuana possession;
- **Driver's License Suspension Program**, helping Vermonters reinstate their licenses through income-sensitive fine repayment plans;
- **Pre-Trial Services Program**, providing support and services related to mental health and substance abuse for adults facing charges in criminal court.

The heart of our organization is Court Diversion. A Restorative Panel, comprised of volunteers from Orange County, works with clients to address the harm they caused to victims and the community, while working on underlying factors that contributed to the criminal act. Clients must take responsibility for their actions and be accountable for completing a contract that they develop with the Restorative Panel. Approximately 90% of the clients successfully complete our Court Diversion program. Those who fail have their cases returned to court for prosecution.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017, 183 clients were referred for services. Of those, 85 were referred from juvenile and adult court for criminal offenses, and 98 were referred for YSASP. With few exceptions, all cases involved offenses that occurred in Orange County. In FY17, OCCD worked with 3 cases in which the offender either resided in and/or the offense occurred in Fairlee.

OCCD's FY17 operating budget was \$110,930. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. Fairlee appropriated \$200 for FY17 to support OCCD. OCCD requests the same appropriation for FY18.

Thank you for your continued support. For additional information contact Jessica Schmidt, Executive Director, Orange County Court Diversion at 802-685-3172 or jessie@occdp.org.