

Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee
Annual Agenda¹—2026
Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: [Date]

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Hon. Charles A. Smiley, III, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, District One
Lead Staff:	Ms. Carrie Zoller, Supervising Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts Ms. Emily Chirk, Senior Analyst, Criminal Justice Services
<p>Advisory Body's Charge/Membership:</p> <p>Rule 10.56(a) of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee, which is to make recommendations to the Judicial Council on criteria for evaluating and improving adult and youth collaborative programs that incorporate judicial supervision, collaboration among justice system partners, or rehabilitative services.</p> <p>Rule 10.56(b) sets forth additional duties of the advisory body:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make recommendations to the council on best practices and guidelines for collaborative programs;2. Assess and measure the success of collaborative programs, including assessing and recommending methods for collecting data to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs;3. Identify and disseminate to trial courts locally generated and nationally recognized best practices for collaborative programs, and training and program implementation activities that support collaborative programs;4. Recommend to the Center for Judicial Education and Research Advisory Committee minimum judicial education standards on collaborative programs, and educational activities to support those standards;5. Advise the council of potential funding sources, including those that may advance collaborative programs;6. Make allocation recommendations regarding Judicial Council-administered grant funding programs that support collaborative programs; and7. Identify and disseminate appropriate outreach activities needed to support collaborative programs, including but not limited to collaborations with educational institutions, professional associations, and community-based organization.	

¹ The Annual Agenda outlines the work an advisory body will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

[Rule 10.56\(c\)](#) sets forth the membership position of the advisory body. The Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee currently has 23 members (nine judicial officers, two court administrators, one district attorney, one criminal defense attorney, one law enforcement officer, one treatment court coordinator, one probation officer, one treatment provider, one treatment court graduate, one representative from the mental health field, one social services representative, one non-profit community organization representative, and two public members). The current advisory body [roster](#) is available on the advisory body’s webpage.

Subgroups of the Advisory Body²:

1. Juvenile Subcommittee
2. Mental Health Subcommittee (including the joint subcommittee with the Criminal Law Advisory Committee to review mental health legislation)
3. Veterans in the Court and Military Families Subcommittee
4. Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2026³

- Videoconferences every fourth Wednesday of the month.
- Subcommittee meetings as needed.

☐ Check here if in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

² For the definition of “subcommittee” see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); for “working group,” see rule 10.70; for “workstream,” see rule 10.53(c); and for “education curriculum committee,” see rule 10.50(c)(6).

³ Refer to section IV. 2 (Meeting frequency) of the [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

Note: Because of the current budget and staffing constraints, advisory body chairs and staff must first consider meeting remotely. The chair of the Executive and Planning Committee is extending the suspension of advisory body in-person meetings for the 2025–2026 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek approval from their advisory body’s internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2025, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Please review the following instructions, key, and project guide before drafting your committee projects. All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda.

Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key:

Refer to the following key for populating your project priority levels and branch goals. For each Priority Level 1 proposal, the advisory body **must** provide a specific reason why it should be done this year and how it fits within the identified category. If an advisory committee is interested in pursuing any Priority Level 2 proposals, please include justification as to why the proposal should be approved at this time.

Priority Levels for Non-Rules/Forms	
1	Must be done
2	Should be done
Priority Levels for Rules/Forms Proposals	
1a (Legal Compliance)	Proposal urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law.
1b (Council Directive)	Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms.
1c (Urgent Remedial Action)	Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public.
1d (Financial/ Legal Risk Mitigation)	Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk.
2a (Useful Changes in Law)	Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law.
2b (Responsive to Concerns)	Responsive to identified concerns or problems.
2c (Helpful Advancing Branch Goals)	Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

Judicial Branch Strategic Plan—Branch Goals	
I.	<u>Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion</u>
II.	<u>Independence and Accountability</u>
III.	<u>Modernization of Management and Administration</u>
IV.	<u>Quality of Justice and Service to the Public</u>
V.	<u>Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence</u>
VI.	<u>Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence</u>
VII.	<u>Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch</u>

#	New or One-Time Projects <i>To add a project, highlight the entire row you wish to copy (e.g., the #1 project), then press Ctrl + C or right-click and select Copy. Next, click underneath the row you want to add projects to and press Ctrl + V or right-click and select Paste. Group the projects by priority number for better organization.</i>													
1.	Project Title: Juvenile Behavioral Health Judicial Resource Guide (New)						Priority: 2							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: Select the branch goal(s) of the Judicial Branch Strategic Plan that the project most closely aligns with.														
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<p>Project Summary: This project is to develop a user-friendly guide for judges and court professionals working in juvenile collaborative courts that educates them about the various types of mental health therapies and services and where in their community those resources would be available for youth. The objective of the project is to help courts working with youth and families better serve those populations.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: This project will begin January 2026 and is anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2026.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: This work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing from the Center for Families, Children & the Courts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Juvenile courts and justice system partners.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>														
2.	Project Title: Monitor Opportunities to Enhance the Role of Collaborative Programs in Connecting Participants to Treatment and Rehabilitation Services (One-Time)						Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:														
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	<p>Project Summary: This project is in response to requests from courts for information about state and federal-level changes to mental health, substance use, and other behavioral health services impacting collaborative court and division programs. The committee will monitor these changes and, if appropriate, develop informational resources for the courts. State and federal changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Medicaid policy and guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; • Medi-Cal transformation under California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) and its Justice Involved Initiatives; • Drug Medi-Cal; • Proposition 1 (approved by voters in March 2024), Modernizing Our Behavioral Health System & Building More Mental Health Housing. Prop. 1 revises the distribution and use of Behavioral Health Service Act funds, a funding source regularly leveraged by local justice partners to provide services to collaborative court and diversion participants; and • Proposition 36 (approved by voters in November 2024), Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act, which made changes to penalties for certain drug and theft crimes, among other provisions. <p>This project was started as part of the 2024 annual agenda. It remains in progress to monitor the ongoing state and federal reforms impacting behavioral health services and funding availability.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: This work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing from Criminal Justice Services, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, and Governmental Affairs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Local trial courts and justice system partners, California Department of Health Care Services, California Department of Health and Human Services, and County Behavioral Health Directors Association.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>						
3.	Project Title: Update Standards of Judicial Administration (One-Time)						Priority: 1
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:							
	I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>

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	<p>Project Summary: The advisory committee will update standard 4.10 of the Standards of Judicial Administration (Guidelines for diversion drug court programs), to fulfill the requirements of Senate Bill 910 (Stats. 2024, ch. 641). SB 910 requires the Judicial Council to amend Standards of Judicial Administration to reflect state and nationally recognized best practices and guidelines for adult collaborative treatment court programs.</p> <p>This project was started as part of the 2024 annual agenda prior to the introduction of Senate Bill 910. It continues in progress to incorporate the statutory requirements specified in the bill.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Anticipate circulating for comment in winter 2025, for an effective date of July 1, 2026.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: This work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing from Criminal Justice Services and Center for Families, Children & the Courts; the Joint Rules Subcommittee of Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executive Advisory Committees (TCPJAC/CEAC JRS) will review proposals for court operations impacts as necessary.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Trial courts and justice system partners.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Criminal Law Advisory Committee and Rules Committee.</p>

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
1.	Project Title: Substance Abuse Focus Grant Allocations	Priority: 1							
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I Access <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">II Independence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">V Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		I Access <input type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<p>Project Summary: Implement the directives of the Judicial Council to allocate and administer the Collaborative Justice Substance Abuse Focus Grant (SAFG), a legislatively mandated grant program, distributing funds from the State budget that are earmarked for collaborative and drug court projects that support local collaborative justice and drug courts throughout California, as well as supplementing dependency drug courts with federal funding from the Court Improvement Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to the Judicial Council on grant activities. • Recommend to the Judicial Council grant allocations to local courts based on the Judicial Council approved allocation methodology. • Review biannual reports regarding funding distribution, invoicing, budgets, and deliverables reports from local courts. • Recommend methods of allocation and grants administration, if needed, for next annual funding cycle. <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Funded through external earmarked funding for collaborative and drug courts. Resources include council staff from the Judicial Council's Budget Services and Branch Accounting and Procurement.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Local courts and collaborative court coordinators.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>								
2.	Project Title: Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Allocation	Priority: 1							
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	<p>Project Summary: Make recommendations for the allocation and administration of the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP). Byrne SCIP provides federal funding for the creation and/or implementation of specialized court-based programs, such as drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans treatment courts that address the behavioral health needs of individuals likely to commit or become victims of gun violence. Byrne SCIP funding will be awarded annually over a four-year program period and will allow the Judicial Council to provide funding, training, and technical assistance to local courts. This funding is authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117- 159, 136 Stat. 1313, 1339); 28 U.S.C. 530C.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Approximately \$15 million will be allocated to the courts and Judicial Council to implement the program. Resources include council staff from Criminal Justice Services, Budget Services, and Branch Accounting and Procurement.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Local courts and the California Board of State and Community Corrections.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>								
3.	<p>Project Title: Assist Local Courts with Obtaining Funding and In-Kind Assistance for Local Collaborative Programs, such as Federal or State Grants or Ongoing Funding.</p>	<p>Priority: 1</p>							
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<p>Project Summary: Distribute information on grants and other funding opportunities and assist local courts, upon their request, to obtain funding and other assistance for local collaborative programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify funding and support efforts to increase funding for courts in collaboration with partners that may include, but are not limited to, the California State Legislature, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Juvenile Court Improvement Program, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance to support existing and planned collaborative courts. Assist local courts in identifying appropriate federal grant opportunities and preparing applications for funding of collaborative programs through the federal funding cycle. Share findings from collaborative court outcome and cost studies, as well as compiled reports and studies from local collaborative courts, with collaborative court coordinators in quarterly meetings to assist courts in seeking local, federal, and private funding. 									

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore and pursue potential avenues for permanent funding, including the potential submission of a Budget Change Proposal, and encourage the expansion of local treatment and evaluation capacity, as appropriate <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Increases funding for local courts.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Local trial courts and justice system partners, California Association of Collaborative Courts, California Association of Youth Courts, and National Center for State Courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>								
4.	Project Title: Mental Health: Identify Priority Issues and Best Practices	Priority: 1							
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	<p>Project Summary: Identify priority policy issues and best practices for improving court responses to individuals with mental illness in the court system through legislation tracking, continued support for education, research, and the improved dissemination of information as outlined below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track and review proposed legislation that impacts mental health in adult criminal, family law, dependency, and juvenile justice cases; identify emerging mental health legislation, policies, and best practices in areas such as competency restoration, diversion, and conservatorship cases to advocate for improvements, as appropriate. Track, review, and comment, as appropriate, on all proposed rules and regulations of State departments and agencies that relate to individuals with mental illness who become court involved. Continue to support education, research, and the improved dissemination of information, including increasing the accessibility and relevancy of mental health resources on the California Courts website, and identify training and program implementation needs that support collaborative programs. Assist in identifying emerging issues and needs for litigants with mental illness, such as accommodation needs, issues related to incompetence to stand trial, informed consent, confidentiality, accessing services, and serving veterans and military families. Identify opportunities for collaboration with mental health stakeholders, programs, and initiatives (e.g., Stepping Up Initiative and Words to Deeds). 								

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities													
	<p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: This work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing. <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Local courts and California Association of Collaborative Courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Criminal Law Advisory Committee and Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee.</p>													
5.	Project Title: Juvenile Collaborative Justice Courts: Identify Priority Issues and Best Practices						Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:														
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<p>Project Summary: Identify priority policy issues and best practices regarding juvenile collaborative justice courts in areas such as juvenile mental health courts, truancy, youth courts, trafficking, girls' court, and delinquency and family treatment courts. Continue work in support of youth and peer courts, including holding the annual Youth Summit in partnership with the California Association of Youth Courts, and providing local assistance to courts seeking to implement or improve their peer court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide subject matter expertise and guidance by developing and maintaining updates of briefing papers on evidence based practices on assessments, juvenile collaborative courts, and human trafficking. Create webinars and other online education that will assist judicial officers, court staff, attorneys, and others working in juvenile collaborative courts. Support local efforts to provide appropriate behavioral health screenings, access services, and medication assessments. Consult with Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee on ways juvenile collaborative courts can help meet the needs of the juvenile court. Continue to provide subject matter expertise on educational and training programs that focus on substance use disorders and enhanced educational support in delinquency and dependency cases. Assist in branch coordination efforts to address permanency for children in foster care by providing subject matter expertise and guidance to promote and expand the use of Family Treatment Courts as a best practice model. Provide education and technical assistance in the area of the needs of homeless youth and families, including educational rights and issues of disproportionality. Provide subject matter expertise to the National Center for Youth Law for their work developing juvenile mental health related bench guides, information sheets, and webinars on accessing services. Consult with youth and those with lived experience in identifying priorities and development of tools and resources. 														

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	<p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: This work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Local courts, California Association of Collaborative Courts, National Center for Youth Law, and California Association of Youth Courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee.</p>								
6.	<p>Project Title: Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion: Identify Priority Issues and Best Practices</p>	<p>Priority: 1</p>							
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	<p>Project Summary: Identify best practices and priority policy issues for improving racial justice, equity and inclusion in collaborative programs through legislation tracking, continued support for education, research, and the improved dissemination of information as outlined below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track and review proposed legislation that impacts equity and inclusion within collaborative courts and diversion programs. • Identify emerging legislation, policies, and best practices impacting areas such as participant eligibility, program access, participation in rehabilitative treatment and social services, and participant outcomes. • Continue to support education, research, and the improved dissemination of information, including best practices for addressing racial and other inequities within collaborative programs. • Create webinars and other online education that will assist collaborative programs in adhering to best practice standards, including best practices on equity within program operations. • Support court efforts to implement best practices for collaborative court and diversion programs that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. • Provide subject matter expertise on educational and training programs pertaining to collaborative programs to ensure equity and inclusion are embedded in learning objectives. <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: This work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing.</p>								

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: Local courts and the California Association of Collaborative Courts. AC Collaboration: Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, and Tribal Court-State Court Forum.								
7.	Project Title: Veterans and Military Families: Identify Priority Issues and Best Practices	Priority: 1							
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	<p>Project Summary: Identify priority policy issues and best practices regarding Veterans and Military Families in areas such as legislation tracking and continued support for the Veterans Treatment Court Strategic Plan developed in coordination with the Center for Court Innovation and the California Association of Collaborative Courts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, track, and provide comment on legislation that impacts veterans treatment courts and involves veterans and military families, as appropriate. Leverage judicial education programs to disseminate training materials, resources, and education job aids to assist judges, court staff, and veterans' stakeholders to better serve justice involved veterans and military families. Continue to support the improved dissemination of information relevant to veterans and military families by updating the veterans treatment courts webpage on the California Courts website. Update and review veterans treatment courts roster to ensure accuracy of information. Coordinate with system partners including, American Bar Association, the State Bar, California Lawyers Association, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, California Department of Veterans Affairs, local veterans agencies, veterans advocacy and affinity groups, and homeless groups to follow trends and developments regarding court-involved veterans and military families, and to seek opportunities to collaborate in providing education and resources to court staff and partners. <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: This work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: Local courts, California Association of Collaborative Courts, and California Judges Association.								

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
	<i>AC Collaboration:</i> None.								
8.	Project Title: Conduct Multidisciplinary Education to Support Effective Practices and Beneficial Outcomes in Collaborative Programs; Identify and Distribute Information on New or Pending Policy Changes	Priority: 1							
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<p>Project Summary: Continue to develop and execute educational and training programs that support the development of effective practices and beneficial outcomes in collaborative programs. Outreach activities may include notifying collaborative programs of policy changes that may be of impact (mental health or competency issues, diversion, or human trafficking, etc.) and identifying promising practices developed in response to the changes. Educational and training activities include developing educational recommendations and assisting in the implementation of judicial and multi-disciplinary education curricula in areas related to collaborative justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborative with justice system partners on training activities. Partners may include, but are not limited to, California Association of Collaborative Courts, California Lawyers Association, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, County Behavioral Health Director Association, All Rise (formerly the National Association of Drug Court Professionals), National Drug Court Institute Justice for Vets, the California Association of Youth Courts, the Department of Veterans Affairs, California Judges Association, Center for Justice Innovation, and the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, and ABA Judicial Committee on Human Trafficking. Continue to work with the CJER Advisory Committee to make recommendations for and assist in the implementation of judicial and multidisciplinary education curricula in the area of collaborative justice. This includes providing guidance to committee staff regarding the preparation of collaborative justice-related educational toolkits and job aids and identification of faculty. Continue to distribute information on effective practices through regular webinars, and hosting listservs for collaborative court and mental health professionals. <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Provides distance and in-person education for local courts at a reduced cost; provides information regarding effective/efficient court practices to reduce case processing costs and recidivism. Resources include council staff from Public Affairs and CJER.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p>									

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities
	<p><i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> Local courts, California Association of Collaborative Courts, California Judges Association, and All Rise (formerly the National Association of Drug Court Professionals).</p> <p><i>AC Collaboration:</i> CJER Advisory Committee.</p>