

# Partnerships in Corrections



*Community Sentencing Act  
Annual Report 2006*



The purposes of the Oklahoma Community Sentencing Act, according to 22 O.S.S. § 988.3., are to:

1. Protect the public;
2. Establish a statewide community sentencing system;
3. Adequately supervise felony offenders punished under a court-ordered community sentence;
4. Provide a continuum of sanctions to the court for eligible felony offenders sentenced to a community sentence within the community sentencing system;
5. Increase the availability of punishment and treatment options to eligible felony offenders;
6. Improve the criminal justice system within this state through public/private partnerships, reciprocal and interlocal governmental agreements, and interagency cooperation and collaboration; and
7. Operate effectively within the allocation of state and local resources for the criminal justice system.

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**OKLAHOMA COMMUNITY SENTENCING ACT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2006**

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

The Oklahoma Community Sentencing Act was implemented in pilot councils in March 2000. As of June 30, 2006, the Community Sentencing system had been operational on a statewide basis for six full years. At the conclusion of fiscal year 2006:

- 36 funded councils, encompassing 61 counties, were participating
- Each of the 36 funded councils had sentenced offenders to the program

There were 2,766 offenders active in Community Sentencing as of June 30, 2006.

During fiscal 2006, 1,463 qualifying offenders received a community sentence.

In fiscal year 2006, offenders received community sentences for a wide range of offenses:

- Drugs, 54%
- DUI, 13%
- Property, 21%
- Assault, 6%
- Other, 6%

Case type of offenders receiving a community sentence in fiscal 2006:

- Deferred, 48%
- Suspended, 52%

Ethnicity of offenders receiving a community sentence in fiscal 2006:

- Caucasian 68%
- African American 14%
- Native American 13%
- Hispanic 5%

Gender of offenders receiving a community sentence in fiscal 2006:

- Male 68%
- Female 32%

Prior felony convictions of the 1,463 offenders receiving a community sentence in fiscal 2006:

- 13% had 3+ priors
- 11% had 2 priors
- 21% had 1 prior
- 55% had 0 priors

Local planning councils chose private supervision providers for 92% of active community sentenced offenders.

Local community sentencing systems spent \$4,694,728 in appropriated funds in fiscal 2006. Also expended was an additional \$230,841 in statutorily authorized administrative fees collected from offenders participating in the program.

### Annual Average Cost per Offender

Time Period	Average # of Active Offenders	Total Expenditures	Average Cost per Offender
FY 06	2,879	\$4,925.569	\$1,711

Local Community Sentencing system fiscal year 2006 expenditures by service category:

- Treatment services, 50%
- Case management, 41%
- Administrative, 4%
- Assessments, 3%
- Restrictive Housing, 2%

A total of the 10,335 offenders have received a community sentence since the program began. Of that number, 21% failed and were sent to prison.

Recidivism studies in corrections most often identify as a recidivist an offender who is received as an inmate within three years of his release from probation supervision or from prison. Community Sentencing has now been in existence for a period of time adequate to support the conduct of longitudinal outcome studies that utilize the commonly held definition of recidivism.

Community Sentencing proudly reports that 88 percent of participating offenders who successfully completed the program prior to July 1, 2003, remained in the community as of June 30, 2006. Only 12 percent had been received as an inmate of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. This outcome demonstrates that **Community Sentencing is a proven investment in public safety.**



PREFACE

The 2006 Community Sentencing Act annual report was prepared by the Community Sentencing Division of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in compliance with the requirements of 22 O.S.S. § 988.15.13. Pertinent details concerning assessment, sentencing, resource allocation, and prison reception trends are presented. Community sentencing goals are also included.

INTRODUCTION

As of June 30, 2006, the statewide system had been in existence for six full years. The program included 36 funded local systems, all of which had at some point sentenced offenders, and encompassed 61 counties.

Legislative amendments to the Community Sentencing Act passed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 49<sup>th</sup> Oklahoma legislature altered the definition of program eligibility. Beginning July 1, 2004, prosecutors were authorized to consent to a community sentence for offenders scoring outside the moderate range on the LSI-R assessment instrument and with a mental illness, a developmental disability, or a co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorder. Several jurisdictions elected to sentence offenders in accordance with the amended legislation. Typically, those councils had to make budgetary adjustments to provide for the extensive treatment needs of these offenders.

A two day conference for planning council members and service providers was sponsored by the Community Sentencing Division in March 2006. The event, which focused on evidence based practices, was well received and had statewide participation. Attendees indicated their desire for ongoing training. The division plans to hold an annual conference to present current research and trends in the areas of treatment and supervision.

In recent years, the legislature enhanced funding of specialty courts. As a result, many local sentencing systems wrestled with the difficulties associated with the existence of several programs targeting similar offender populations for treatment and prison diversion. Sentencing systems struggled with identifying community sentencing's niche and with developing mechanisms to ensure the program's offender base.

VISION –

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections will create a culture that Empowers Individuals, Encourages Teamwork, Employs Best Practices, Embraces Diversity

MISSION –

To Protect the Public, the Employees, and the Offenders

VALUES -

Professionalism, Rehabilitation, Integrity, Diversity, Excellence

SLOGAN -

Standing Proud



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STATEWIDE GOALS FOR  
COMMUNITY SENTENCING

Justin Jones  
Director

Sharon Neumann  
Deputy Director

Local  
Administrators

Anita Bailey  
Lisa Burlingame  
Carmen Buller  
Vickie Eshleman  
Carmen Jackson  
Jack Kelly  
Becky Lawmaster  
Larry Marshall  
Carla Martin  
Dee Miller  
Pat Sorrels

- I. To Protect the Public
  - By accurately assessing the needs and risks of offenders
  - By matching offenders with appropriate programs, sanctions, and punishments
  
- II. To Successfully Implement and Operate a Statewide Community Sentencing System
  - By providing appropriate training and education to planning councils
  - By creating, implementing, and evaluating contract services
  - By presenting assessment and other data to stakeholders
  - By utilizing community sentencing management information systems
  - By developing local criminal justice systems in accordance with plans of planning councils
  - By securing appropriate funding through appropriations and grants
  
- III. To Reduce Crime
  - By addressing offenders' criminogenic issues
  - By employing a continuum of incentives and sanctions
  - By incapacitating offenders
  - By applying deterrents
  
- IV. To Restore Victims
  - Through restitution
  - By utilizing mediation when appropriate
  - By facilitating victim input into sentencing and sanctions
  - By promoting other reparative options
  - Through community service
  
- V. To Reduce Recidivism
  - By targeting specific offenders for specific punishments
  - By evaluating programs to determine effectiveness
  - By addressing offender criminogenic issues
  - By allocating resources properly



## IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS

The history of the implementation of the Oklahoma Community Sentencing Act reflects legislatively imposed delays in 1997, 1998, and 1999. The program actually began in March 2000 with the designation and funding of six pilot planning councils, encompassing ten counties. A second pilot group consisting of eight planning councils, which represented 15 counties, began operations in May 2000. Statewide implementation was authorized in July 2000, and an additional 24 planning councils comprised of 34 counties became involved in community sentencing and received funding. At the conclusion of fiscal year 2001, only seven councils, which included 18 counties, had opted not to participate in community sentencing and requested no funding.

The number of planning councils was static in fiscal year 2002 with 38 community sentencing systems, representing 59 counties, requesting funding. The seven councils not participating in the program in fiscal year 2001 remained uninvolved in 2002.

During the course of fiscal year 2003, several planning councils reorganized and/or changed status. At year's end, 36 funded councils represented 63 counties. A total of ten councils chose not to seek funding for services to implement local community sentencing systems.

Reorganization in fiscal year 2004 resulted in two single county inactive councils, Comanche and Cotton, joining to form a new multi-county active council. The addition of that council brought the statewide program to 37 funded local sentencing systems, of which 22 were single county councils and 15 were multi-county councils, involving 65 counties. A total of eight councils remained inactive. Those councils, six single county and two multi-counties, represented 12 counties.

During fiscal year 2005, several changes occurred in the structure of planning councils. The Choctaw/McCurtain/Pushmataha active multi-county council split with Choctaw and McCurtain counties becoming single county active councils while Pushmataha County became an inactive council. One multi-county council, Craig/Mayes/Rogers, split into three single county councils with each receiving funding. Two single county councils, Kay and Noble, combined to form a multi-county council. Thus, the year ended with 39 funded councils, 14 single county and 25 multi-county, encompassing 64 counties. Inactive were nine councils, seven single county and two multi-county, representing 13 counties.

“Community Sentencing by DOC has been one of the most effective programs the State of Oklahoma has offered to criminal defendants in a long time. We have had numerous success stories here in Craig County and very few failures. The citizens of Oklahoma should be proud of this program.”

Honorable  
Gary Maxey,  
Associate District  
Judge,  
Craig County



In FY 2006, 36 funded councils encompassed 61 counties.

“Our Community Sentencing program is an integral part of the local justice system and helps us be good stewards of scarce resources while implementing effective community based strategies that balance the needs of the public and the offender.”

Mark Battershell,  
Citizen,  
Hughes/  
Pontotoc/  
Seminole  
counties

Fiscal year 2006 brought additional reorganization to the council structure. Two single county inactive councils, Atoka and Coal, became an active multi-county council and received funding. The Choctaw, Muskogee, and Okmulgee single county councils and the Delaware/Ottawa multi-county council became inactive. The year concluded with community sentencing active in 61 counties through the funding of 36 councils, 22 single county and 14 multi-county. Unfunded were 16 counties organized into 12 inactive planning councils, 10 single county and two multi-county. *Figure 1* depicts the counties involved in community sentencing.

### Community Sentencing Participation by County

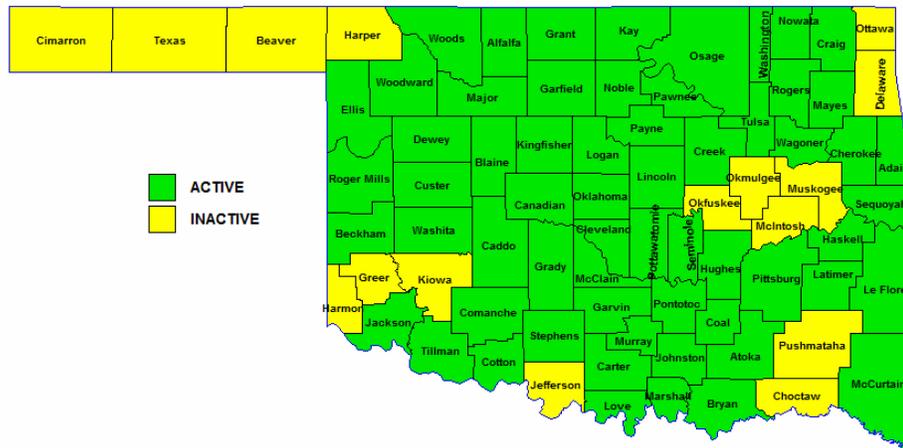


Figure 1

### ASSESSMENTS

From the program’s inception, the Community Sentencing Division has used the Level of Services Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) instrument to assess offender eligibility for the program and to identify criminogenic needs. The Adult Substance Use Survey (ASUS) enhances the information obtained through administration of the LSI-R and guides the selection of appropriate levels of substance abuse treatment for participants.

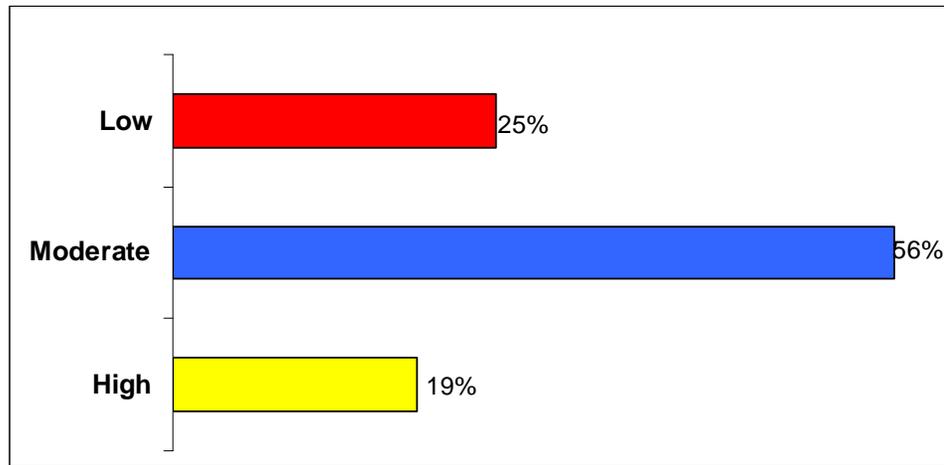
Quality assurance measures ensure the integrity of the assessment process. The LSI-R is conducted only by individuals trained and certified to do so. Further, the Community Sentencing Division requires that assessors annually demonstrate proficiency in the process.



Data obtained during the administration of the LSI-R/ASUS instruments is retained in the EZAssess information management system, which was introduced in November 2001. EZAssess also captures LSI-R reassessment statistics. The Community Sentencing Division uses this extensive data base to manage the assessment/reassessment process as well as to measure the reduction of risk and criminogenic needs of offenders participating in the program.

EZAssess records show that the number of assessments conducted for the purpose of determining community sentencing eligibility declined slightly in recent years. However, the proportion of those scoring within the statutorily qualifying moderate range of the LSI-R remained consistent. The 3,680 assessments completed between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006, resulted in a moderate score for 56 percent of those assessed. Data further indicated that 25 percent of LSI-R's conducted reflected a score in the low range and that 19 percent produced an outcome in the high range. The results, by percentages in each scoring range, of LSI-R assessments conducted to determine eligibility for the community sentencing program are summarized in *Figure 2*.

**LSI-R Assessment Results**



*Figure 2*

Sentencing dispositions contained in EZAssess for the 56 percent of offenders scoring in the moderate range of the LSI-R in 2006 revealed that 57 percent received a community sentence. The proportion of offenders with a moderate score on the LSI-R and a disposition other than community sentencing was: 22 percent, "other," which included outcomes such as specialty courts and county jail time; 12 percent, traditional probation; and nine percent, incarceration. Most noteworthy was the

"Community Sentencing in Oklahoma County has diverted hundreds from prison, many of whom have become productive members of the community."

Bob Ravitz,  
Public Defender,  
Oklahoma  
County



considerable increase in “other” dispositions, which have doubled since 2004 when only 11 percent of moderate scores resulted in that sentencing outcome. *Figure 3* summarizes 2006 sentencing dispositions for offenders scoring in the moderate range of the LSI-R.

### Dispositions of Moderate LSI-R’s Conducted in FY 2006

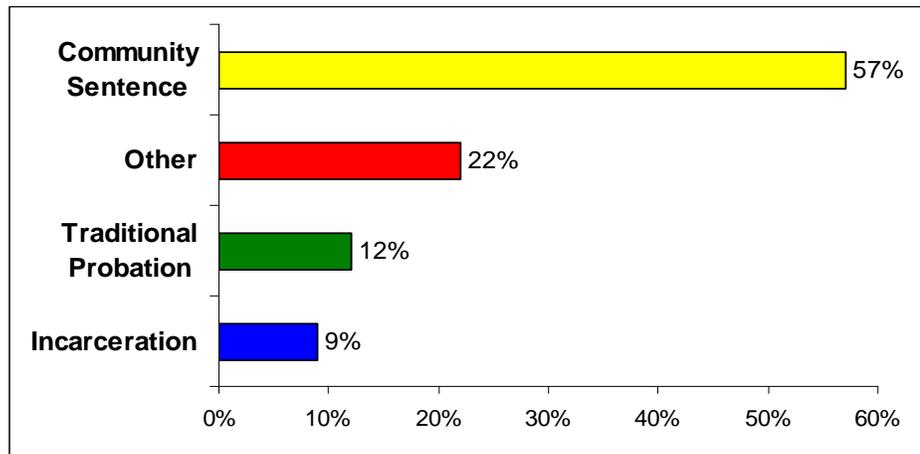


Figure 3

### 2006 SENTENCING PRACTICES

In fiscal year 2006, a community sentence was received by 1,463 qualifying offenders, those individuals with a moderate score on the LSI-R or with a mental health exception. *Figure 4* shows the number of offenders receiving a community sentence each month.

### FY 2006 Community Sentences Ordered per Month

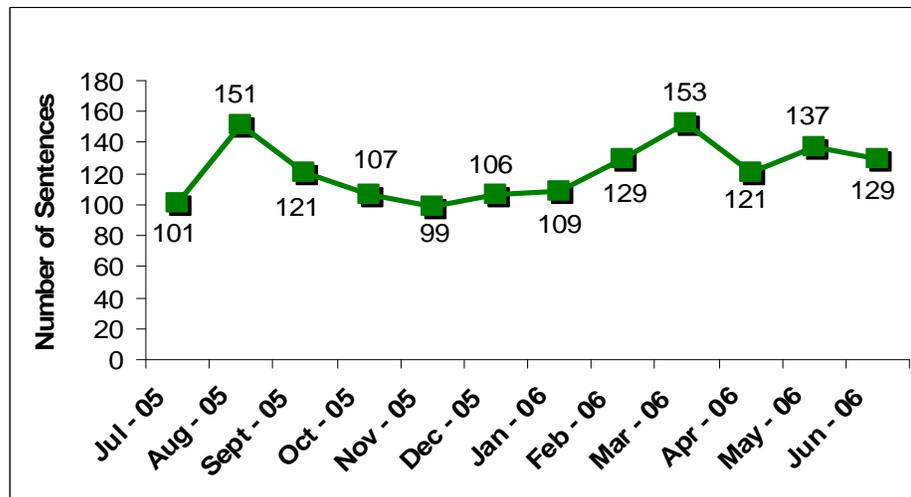


Figure 4

“I have been a prosecutor for many years, and Community Sentencing was the first program to provide funding to allow us to focus on crime prevention in this manner. Community Sentencing enables us to require offenders to receive treatment and services which are specifically designed to prevent them from re-offending.”

Cathy Stocker,  
District Attorney,  
Blaine/Canadian/  
Garfield/  
Grant/Kingfisher/  
counties



“I have enjoyed serving on the community sentencing council in Stephens County. The Community Sentencing program has served as an alternative form of sentencing for our non-violent offenders. It allows offenders to pay their debt to society while keeping them employed, at home with their families, and contributing to their community. This is a program that could be utilized more. As you know, the high cost of prison is a great burden on our taxpayers.”

Jimmie Bruner,  
Sheriff,  
Stephens County

Of the 36 funded systems, 33 sentenced offenders to the program during the year. Only the counties represented by the Alfalfa/Major/Woods, Jackson, and Comanche/Cotton local systems reported no additional community sentences ordered in FY 2006. *Figure 5* indicates the number of statutorily eligible offenders receiving a community sentence in each local sentencing system during fiscal year 2006.

**Qualifying FY 2006 Community Sentences  
by Planning Council**

Planning Council	Total	Planning Council	Total
Adair	18	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	35
Alfalfa, Major, Woods	0	Jackson	0
Atoka, Coal	5	Kay, Noble	38
Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	14	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	84
Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	14	Logan, Payne	124
Bryan	24	Mayes	5
Caddo	11	McCurtain	4
Canadian	3	Nowata, Washington	36
Carter, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray	43	Oklahoma	291
Cherokee	39	Osage	23
Cleveland	20	Pawnee	2
Comanche, Cotton	0	Pittsburg	34
Craig	7	Rogers	46
Creek	43	Sequoyah	42
Dewey, Woodward	1	Stephens	2
Garvin, McClain	32	Tillman	3
Grady	1	Tulsa	372
Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore	7	Wagoner	40

**TOTAL 1,463**

*Figure 5*

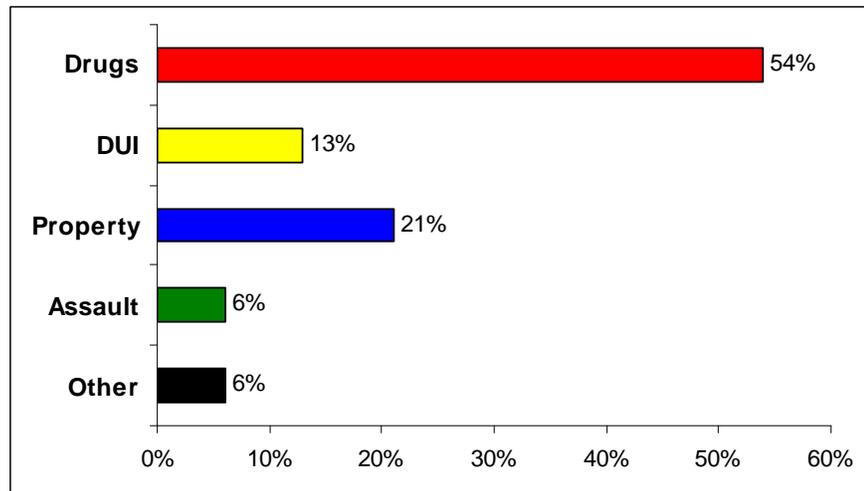


The Honorable Candace Blalock, District Judge, Gavin/McClain counties, presides over a Community Sentencing graduation.



During 2006, community sentences were ordered for a wide range of offenses. Substance abuse related offenses comprised 67 percent of sentences ordered with drug offenses accounting for 54 percent and DUI 13 percent. Property offenses, which consisted of crimes such as Uttering a Forged Instrument and Larceny of Merchandise, were reported for 21 percent of sentences. While community sentencing is a program for non-violent offenders, those committing certain violent crimes are statutorily eligible with the prosecutor’s consent. Assaultive offenses such as Assault and Battery, Domestic Abuse, and weapons related crimes were reported for six percent of community sentences. “Other” offenses comprised the remaining six percent of community sentences and encompassed crimes including Perjury, Harboring a Fugitive, and False Impersonation. *Figure 6* reflects the offense categories, by percent, for which a community sentence was ordered during FY 2006.

**FY 2006 Offense Category**



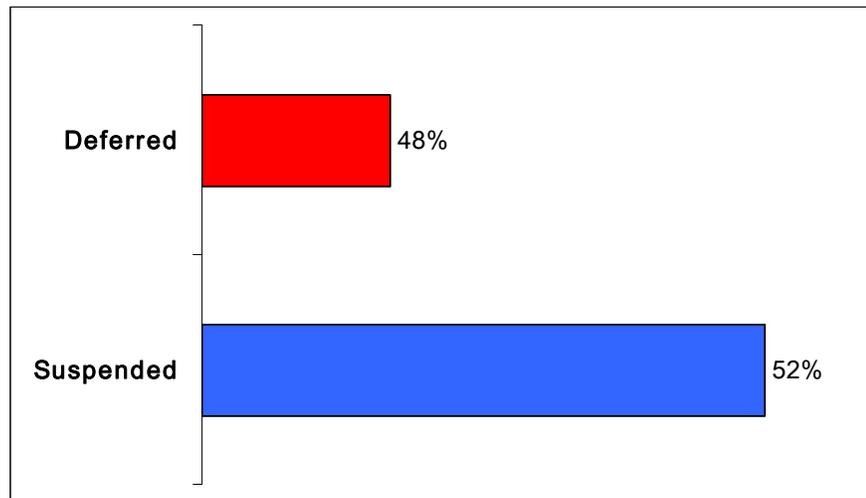
*Figure 6*

In FY 2006, 67% of community sentences ordered were for substance related offenses.



A community sentence is statutorily a condition of a probationary sentence. In fiscal year 2006, a community sentence was ordered as a condition of a suspended sentence in 52 percent of cases. *Figure 7* further demonstrates that the community sentence was a condition of a deferred sentence for 48 percent of the offenders sentenced to the program.

**FY 2006 Case Type**



*Figure 7*

“The Community Sentencing program in Tulsa County has attempted to reduce prison and jail populations while maintaining a safe environment for the citizens we serve.”

Dave Been,  
Chief,  
Tulsa Police  
Department

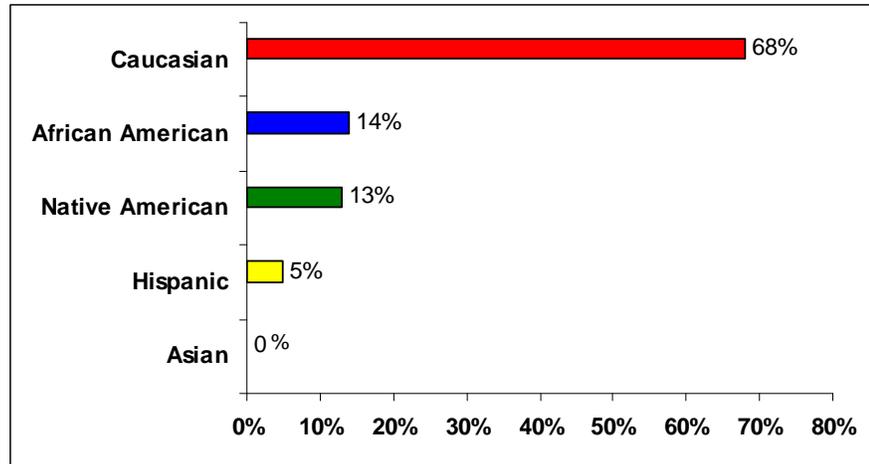
The demographics of offenders receiving a community sentence in fiscal year 2006 are presented in the following charts. *Figure 8*, FY 2006 Ethnicity, indicates that Caucasians comprised 68 percent of the total community sentences ordered. The ethnicity of the remaining community sentenced offenders and the percentage of total sentences represented by each group was: African American, 14 percent; Native American, 13 percent; Hispanic, five percent; and Asian, only a fraction of a percent. *Figure 9*, FY 2006 Gender, reveals that males comprised 68 percent of all offenders receiving a community sentence and that females represented 32 percent.



Caucasians comprised 68% of community sentences; minorities totaled 32%.

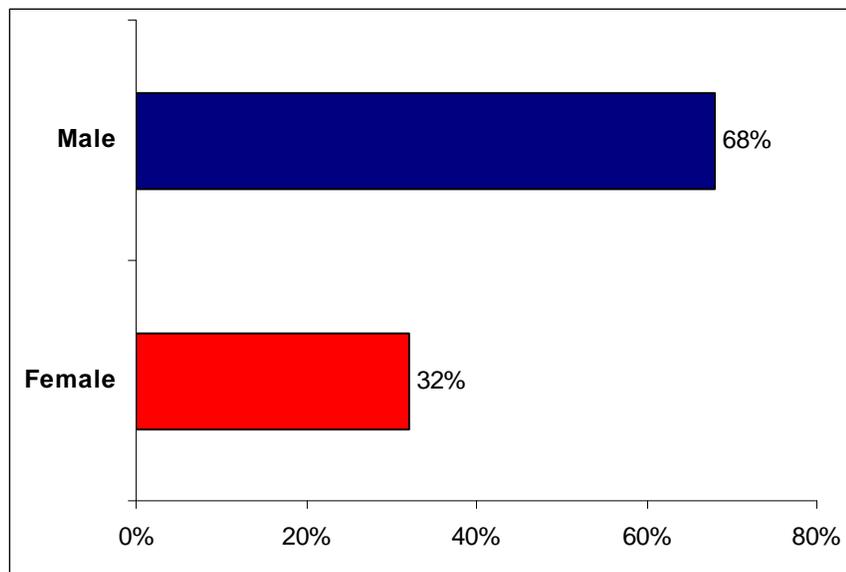
Males were represented more frequently in the community sentencing population than in the general population.

**FY 2006 Ethnicity**



*Figure 8*

**FY 2006 Gender**



*Figure 9*



Discussing  
Community  
Sentencing  
offenders are:  
(L to R)  
Honorable  
John Michael,  
District Judge;  
Cathy Stocker,  
District Attorney,  
Blaine/Canadian/  
Garfield/  
Grant/Kingfisher/  
counties; and  
Chris Frech,  
Assistant District  
Supervisor, DOC.



The Oklahoma Community Sentencing Act permits each local system the option of providing supervision for its offenders by State probation and parole officers or by another qualified source of the council's choosing. State probation and parole supervision services were available to the councils at no cost. Local community sentencing systems choosing, instead, to contract with a private provider for supervision and case management services were required to pay the contractor from the planning council's allocated funds. Some local systems elected to combine the options by selecting State probation and parole officers to supervise certain offenders and a private entity to monitor others. Typically, offender assignment was based on factors such as risk level, programmatic need, or demonstrated compliance with the terms of probation. One council opted for an initial period of case management services by a private entity to establish treatment regimens followed by State probation and parole monitoring. Private supervision providers were grouped into the following categories: a governmental agency such as a county probation department, a sheriff's department, or a prosecutor's office; a non-profit corporation; or a for-profit business. At the conclusion of fiscal year 2006, private providers supervised 92 percent of active offenders as shown in *Figure 10*.



Private contractors supervised 92% of community sentenced offenders.

Offenders with a mental illness, a developmental disability, or a co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse issue were eligible to receive services even if they scored outside the moderate range of the LSI-R.

### Supervision Provider of Active Community Sentencing Offenders

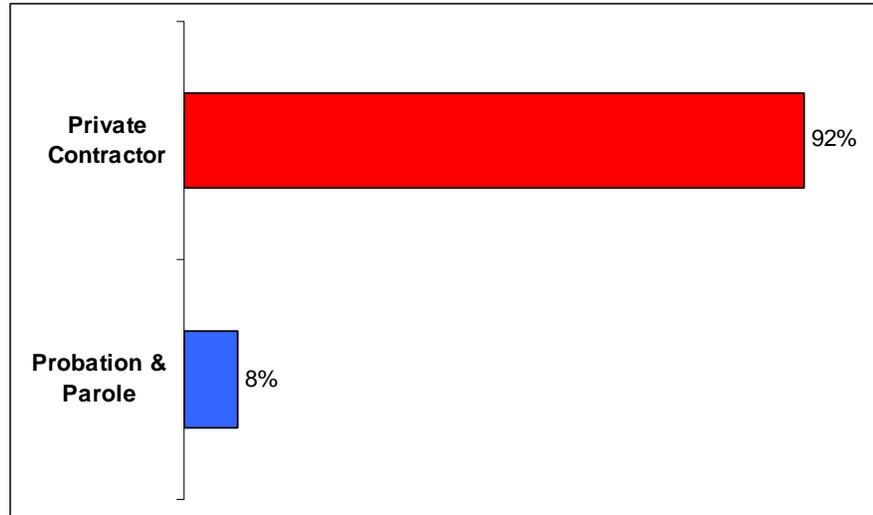


Figure 10

### SENTENCING DATA SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION, MARCH 2000 TO JUNE 2006

On June 30, 2006, community sentencing completed its sixth full year of statewide operation. It was an established sentencing option as well as an effective alternative to costly incarceration for non-violent offenders.

The number of offenders receiving a community sentence each year has diminished since the fiscal year 2002 peak of 2,162 sentences ordered. *Figure 11* shows the statewide total number of community sentences ordered annually from the program's inception in March 2000. By planning council, *Figure 12* reflects the number of community sentences ever ordered for offenders with a qualifying moderate score on the LSI-R or with a mental health exception since each council began participating in the program. Some of the councils for which sentences are indicated no longer remain active. Additionally, the number of active offenders at the conclusion of fiscal year 2006 is indicated.



The annual number of community sentences ordered peaked in FY 2002.

### Community Sentences Ordered per Year

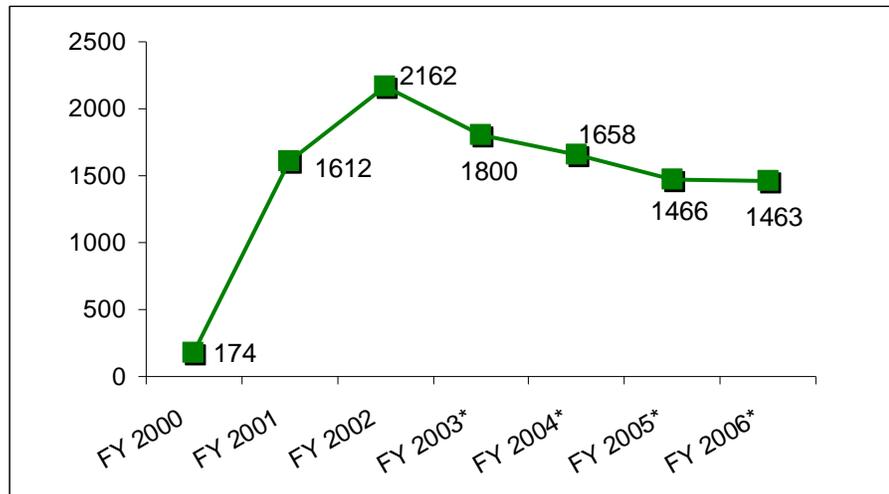
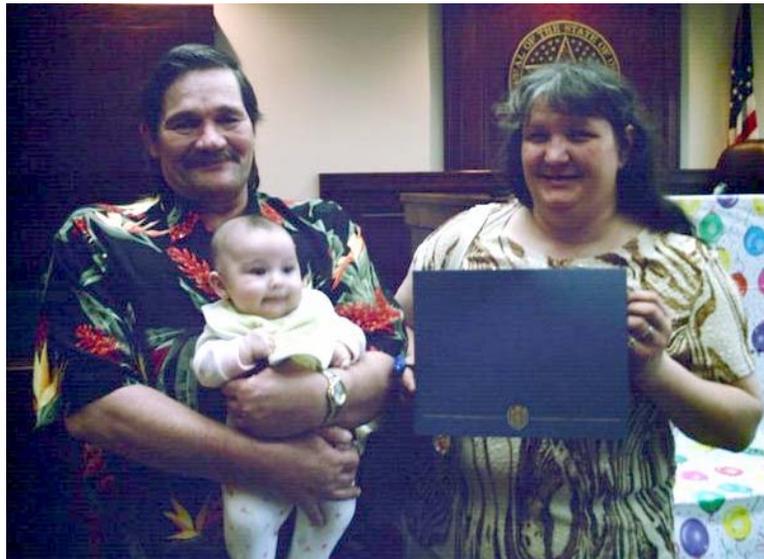


Figure 11

\*The number of sentences may vary slightly from that reflected in previous publications because of delayed notification of sentencing.

James Southworth, his wife, and granddaughter pose for a picture to commemorate his successful completion of Community Sentencing.





**Ever Sentenced and Currently Active  
Offenders by Planning Council**

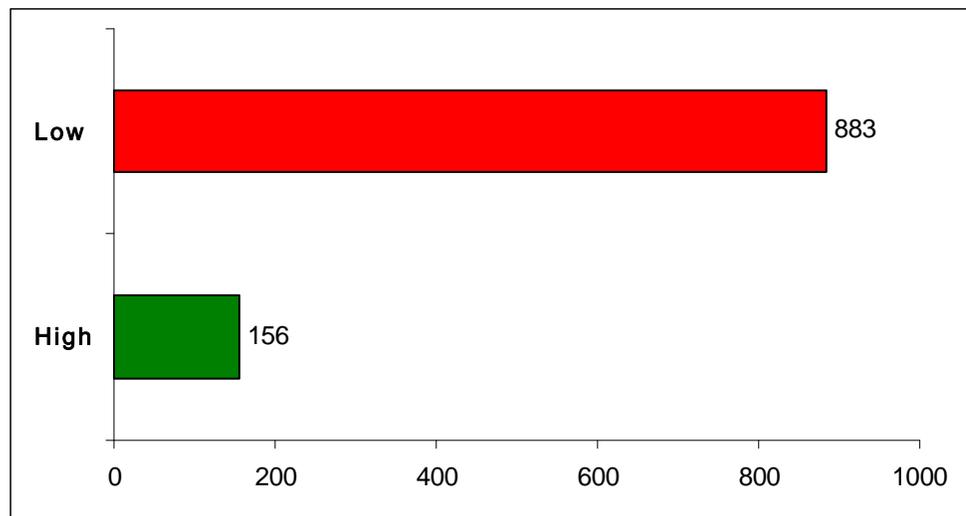
Planning Council	Ever Sentenced	Currently Active
Adair	91	35
Alfalfa, Major, Woods	23	2
Atoka, Coal	5	4
Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	72	24
Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	123	23
Bryan	169	39
Caddo	100	30
Canadian	31	4
Carter, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray	102	80
Cherokee	295	74
Choctaw, Pushmataha	16	0
Cleveland	232	51
Comanche, Cotton	4	1
Craig	34	10
Creek	594	137
Delaware, Ottawa	3	0
Dewey, Woodward	40	2
Garvin, McClain	168	51
Grady	230	26
Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore	42	13
Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	354	50
Jackson	9	2
Kay, Noble	226	90
Lincoln, Pottawatomie	242	100
Logan, Payne	424	193
McCurtain	121	11
Mayes	61	15
Muskogee	6	0
Nowata, Washington	152	79
Oklahoma	2943	635
Okmulgee	1	0
Osage	58	42
Pawnee	25	9
Pittsburg	281	60
Rogers	262	79
Sequoyah	114	74
Stephens	26	10
Tillman	23	3
Tulsa	2312	649
Wagoner	321	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,335</b>	<b>2,766</b>

Figure 12



The Oklahoma Community Sentencing Act clearly defines an offender eligible for participation in the program (22 O.S.S. § 988.8.A.) and provides for the purchase of services with state funding for offenders meeting the established criteria. Yet, several systems continued to order community sentences for ineligible offenders. If services were not available in the community at no cost, non-qualifying offenders receiving a community sentence were responsible for the cost of participation in any court-ordered treatment programs. Records maintained by the Community Sentencing Division since the inception of the program indicate, as depicted in *Figure 13* by scores in the low and the high ranges of the LSI-R, the total number of non-qualifying offenders who have received a community sentence.

**Total Number of Non-Qualifying Community Sentences by LSI-R Level Since Inception**



*Figure 13*

Review of sentencing information from the inception of community sentencing in March 2000 through June 30, 2006, revealed minimal differences among the data sets. Consistently, community sentences were ordered most frequently for substance abuse related crimes followed by property offenses as shown in *Figure 14*. However, there has been a decline in the percentage of community sentences ordered for DUI offenses. The percentage of assaultive offenses remained fairly stable. In fiscal year 2006 there was a slight increase in the percentage of community sentences ordered for “other” offenses.

“...Community Sentencing permits participants to adjust their lives in such a way that imprisonment will not ultimately be ordered.”

Honorable Ray Dean Linder, District Judge, Alfalfa/Major/Woods counties



Councils consistently targeted offenders with substance related offenses.

### Historical Comparison of Offense Category

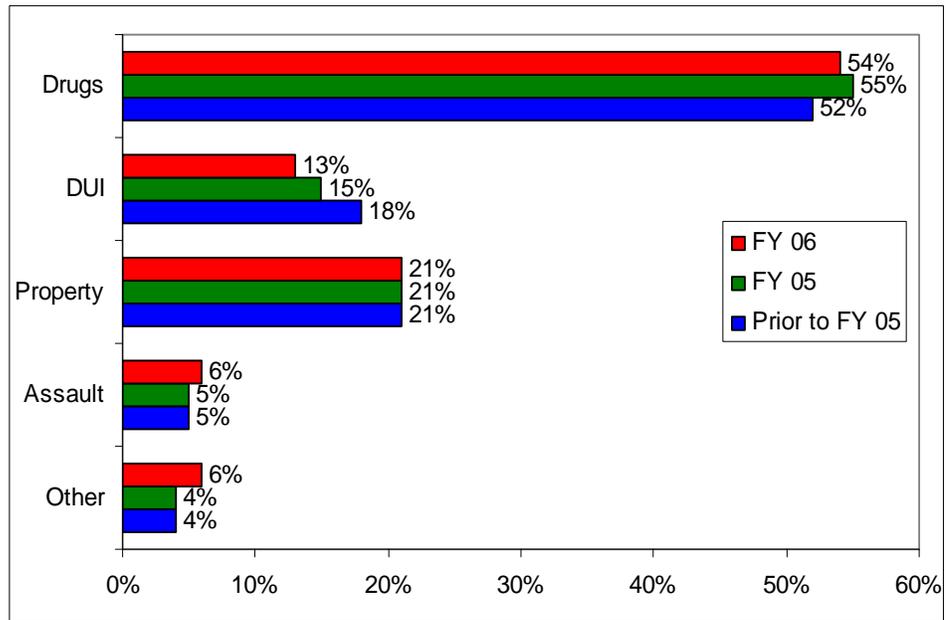


Figure 14

A community sentence is attached as a condition to a suspended or deferred probationary sentence. *Figure 15* demonstrates that, over time, the percentage of suspended sentences declined as deferred sentences increased. This presented programmatic concerns because offenders with a deferred sentence would not normally be considered prison-bound.

Sentencing practices have changed.

### Historical Comparison of Case Type

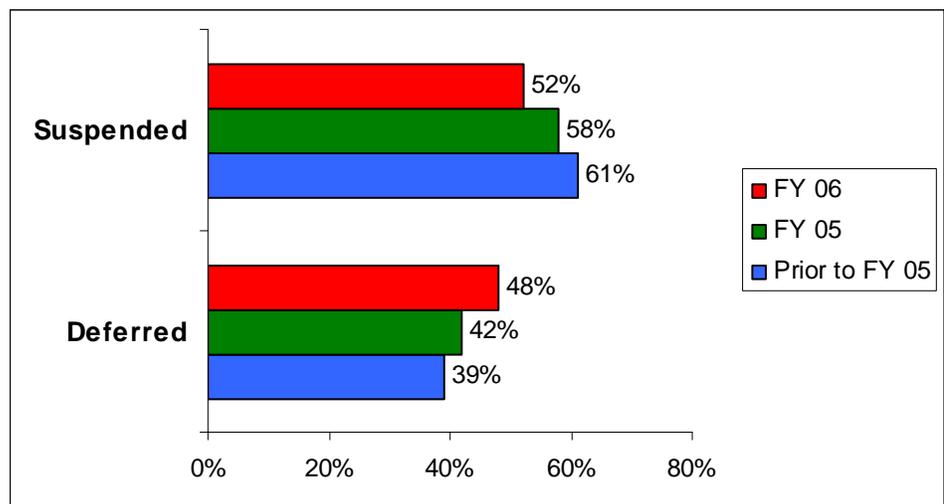


Figure 15



Figure 16 and Figure 17 reflect the demographics of offenders receiving a community sentence since the program began. Caucasians were the most frequently represented ethnic group. The percentage of offenders with African American ethnicity progressively declined as the Native American and Hispanic populations slightly increased. Historically, community sentenced offenders were more likely to be male than female.

“Community Sentencing is one of the more useful programs that the Department of Corrections has developed in a long time. The program gives people a second chance, gets them treatment for alcohol/drug issues, and decreases the DOC population.”

Jim Ely, Assistant District Attorney, Craig County

Historical Comparison of Ethnicity

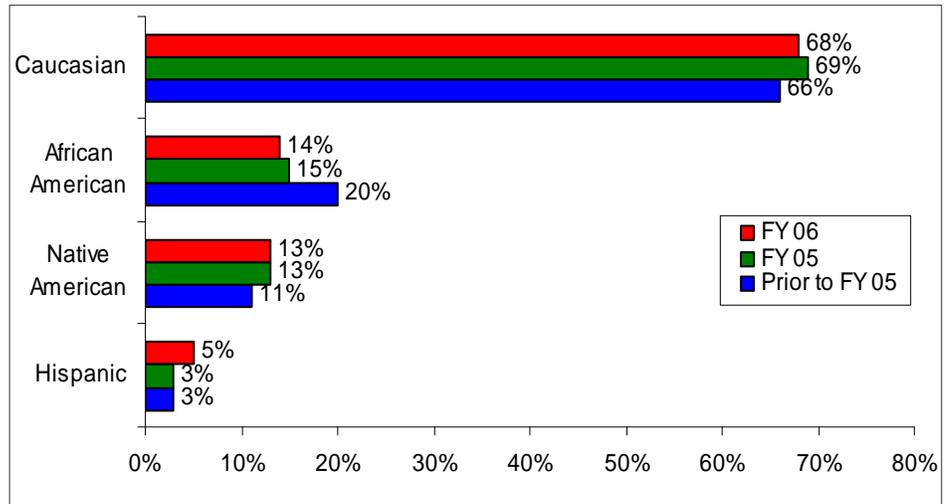


Figure 16

Historical Comparison of Gender

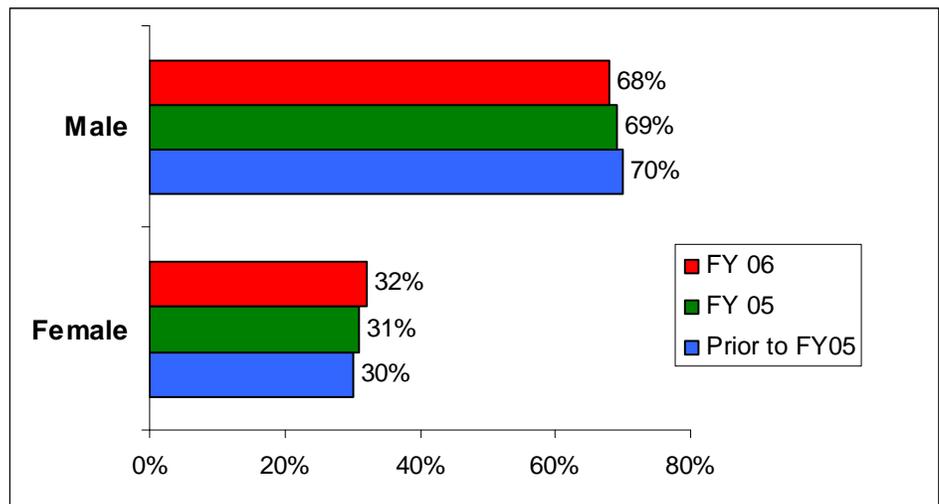


Figure 17



Holding a meeting are Adair County planning council members: (L to R) Kevin Rumbler, Deputy Sheriff; Ralph Keen, Citizen; Rev. Barry Hayes, Citizen; Karen Horn, Citizen; Russell Turner, County Commissioner; Steve Morton, Citizen; Dan Collins, Citizen; the Honorable Elizabeth Brown, Associate District Judge; and Mike Winninger, Citizen.



### RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Funding for community sentencing was no longer a line itemed legislative appropriation. However, the Department of Corrections continued to demonstrate commitment to the program by including it within the agency's budget. Community sentencing funding in fiscal year 2006 remained stable at \$6 million.

The Community Sentencing Division executed 446 contracts on behalf of local sentencing systems in 2006 to provide various services for offenders. The majority of contracts continued to be for substance abuse services such as detoxification, in-patient and outpatient treatment, group and individual counseling, and substance testing. Over the years, councils, particularly those with smaller budgets, authorized residential substance abuse treatment for offenders only in very limited circumstances. It was difficult to justify the expensive treatment because of the deleterious impact on funding available for other services. To make residential treatment more readily available, in FY 2006 the Community Sentencing Division allocated funds for statewide residential treatment contracts. Regardless of the council to which an offender was assigned, funds were made available for residential treatment if assessment and/or behavior supported the need for such service.

Local community sentencing systems spent \$4,694,728 in appropriated funds in FY 2006. Also expended was an additional \$230,841 in statutorily authorized administrative fees collected from offenders participating in the program. By planning council, *Figure 18* details fiscal year 2006 expenditures totaling \$4,925,569.



**FY 2006 Allocations and Expenditures**

Planning Council	Allocation	Allocation Expenditures	Admin. Fee Expenditures	Total Expenditures
Adair	\$63,141	\$41,799	\$20,005	\$61,804
Alfalfa, Major, Woods	\$10,400	\$6,425	-	\$6,425
Atoka	\$10,000	\$735	-	\$735
Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	\$30,000	\$12,360	-	\$12,360
Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	\$42,350	\$20,940	-	\$20,940
Bryan	\$64,671	\$37,680	-	\$37,680
Caddo	\$42,736	\$20,336	\$5,712	\$26,048
Canadian	\$5,000	\$870	-	\$870
Carter, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray	\$40,000	\$45,479	-	\$45,479
Cherokee	\$97,793	\$76,125	-	\$76,125
Cleveland	\$125,000	\$84,130	\$6,200	\$90,330
Comanche, Cotton	\$5,000	-	-	-
Craig	\$10,000	\$14,113	\$600	\$14,713
Creek	\$300,000	\$213,595	-	\$213,595
Dewey, Woodward	\$10,400	\$320	-	\$320
Garvin, McClain	\$90,000	\$95,650	\$320	\$95,970
Grady	\$110,000	\$26,337	\$7,284	\$33,621
Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore	\$27,000	\$42,215	-	\$42,215
Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	\$75,000	\$63,071	-	\$63,071
Jackson	\$5,000	-	-	-
Kay, Noble	\$65,000	\$47,942	-	\$47,942
Lincoln, Pottawatomie	\$90,093	\$117,236	-	\$117,236
Logan, Payne	\$150,000	\$167,054	\$13,035	\$180,089
McCurtain	\$25,025	\$7,758	-	\$7,758
Mayer	\$40,000	\$35,117	\$808	\$35,925
Nowata, Washington	\$87,000	\$56,246	\$4,124	\$60,370
Oklahoma	\$1,523,486	\$1,192,515	\$89,601	\$1,282,116
Osage	\$40,000	\$29,835	-	\$29,835
Pawnee	\$10,000	\$3,687	-	\$3,687
Pittsburg	\$78,927	\$52,621	\$1,000	\$53,621
Rogers	\$130,000	\$172,343	\$3,698	\$176,041
Sequoyah	\$108,957	\$105,699	\$15,265	\$120,964
Stephens	\$20,000	\$670	\$70	\$740
Tillman	\$5,000	\$7	-	\$7
Tulsa	\$1,000,000	\$990,659	\$63,119	\$1,053,778
Wagoner	\$118,199	\$58,605	-	\$58,605
Statewide Residential Contracts	\$1,344,822	\$854,554	-	\$854,554
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$4,694,728</b>	<b>\$230,841</b>	<b>\$4,925,569</b>

Figure 18



Figure 19 displays the percentage of total expenditures associated with the various services purchased by the local systems in fiscal year 2006.

### FY 2006 Expenditures by Service Category

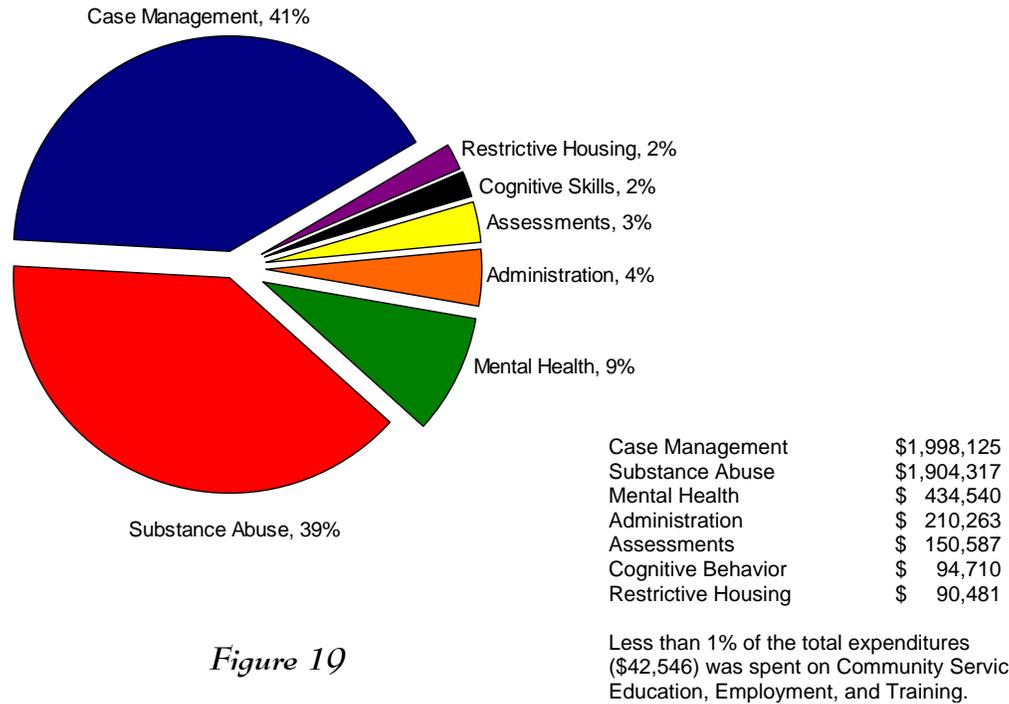


Figure 19

“Community Sentencing is an alternative that allows the courts to use community resources to treat the offender. This saves the taxpayers millions of dollars each year.”

Ted Logan,  
Council Member,  
Oklahoma  
County

The purchase of treatment services, which included substance abuse/mental health treatment and cognitive behavioral skills training, accounted for 50 percent of FY 2006 local sentencing system expenditures. Case management services totaled 41 percent of monies spent by councils. The remaining expenditures by category and percentage were: administration, four percent; assessments, three percent; and restrictive housing, two percent. Monies spent for community service, education, and employment services comprised less than one percent of total expenditures.

These patterns were similar to those of FY 2005 although funds expended for treatment increased three percent in 2006 while those spent for case management decreased three percent. As noted previously, there has been a steady decrease in the number of assessments conducted, which resulted in a one percent decrease, from four percent in fiscal year 2005 to three percent in 2006, of total expenditures.

Each council was statutorily required to provide a range of services to meet the needs of the court for sentencing eligible offenders to the program. To assist judges in imposing appropriate punishments, the assessment process identified the criminogenic needs of each offender. Offenders were then



referred to contracted programs and services. *Figure 20* demonstrates the number of community sentenced offenders whose participation in various treatment services during fiscal year 2006 was funded with appropriated monies and documented in the division’s fiscal data base. Some offenders participated in multiple programs.

**FY 2006 Program Participation**

Service Type	# of Participants
Substance Abuse Residential Services	327
Substance Abuse Outpatient Services	2,613
Mental Health Services	849
Cognitive Behavioral Programs	768

*Figure 20*

The substance abuse and mental health services categories included assessments as well as treatment programs. Cognitive behavioral programming encompassed courses such as life skills, anger management, and counseling to address domestic violence and family/parenting issues. With the exception of mental health, there were more offender participants in 2006 than in 2005 in each category of treatment service.

Not reflected in *Figure 20* is the number of offenders who participated in treatment with their own resources. Also not included are those involved in services, such as education, available in the community at no charge.

Sentencing practices and associated expenditure rates for fiscal year 2006 resulted in an annualized cost of \$1,711 for each of the 2,879 average active offenders per month. *Figure 21* depicts the average number of active offenders as well as the cost per offender for the six fiscal years community sentencing has been operational on a statewide basis.

**Annual Average Cost per Offender**

Year	Average # of Active Offenders	Total Expenditures	Average Cost per Offender
FY 01	1,293	\$3,127,606	\$2,419
FY 02	2,800	\$5,766,029	\$2,059
FY 03	3,045	\$4,849,880	\$1,593
FY 04	3,760	\$4,859,630	\$1,292
FY 05	3,562	\$4,869,664	\$1,367
FY 06	2,879	\$4,925,569	\$1,711

*Figure 21*

“As a council member, I can say that Jackson County appears to be moving toward more alternative sentencing. Our offender numbers have been low, but our Community Sentencing council is dedicated to meeting our responsibility to the community and the state.

Rosalyn Hall,  
Council Member,  
Jackson County



## EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY SENTENCING

The Oklahoma Community Sentencing Act contains no language defining “success” for the program, the offenders ordered to it, or the contractors providing services. While legislative intent has been interpreted over time, definitions of effectiveness were never formalized. However, protection of the public is the first cited purpose (22 O.S.S., § 988.3.) of the Act.

One of the best ways Community Sentencing can protect the public is to reduce the likelihood of future law violations by participating offenders. The elimination of further crimes creates no additional victims. The evidence based practices employed by Community Sentencing encourage addressing the criminogenic needs of offenders in order to promote pro-social behavior.

Recidivism studies in corrections most often identify as a recidivist an offender who is received as an inmate within three years of his release from probation supervision or from prison. Community Sentencing has now been in existence for a period of time adequate to support the conduct of longitudinal outcome studies that utilize the commonly held definition of recidivism.

Community Sentencing proudly reports that 88 percent of participating offenders who successfully completed the program prior to July 1, 2003, remained in the community as of June 30, 2006. Only 12 percent had been received as an inmate of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. This outcome is, perhaps, the best measure of “success” and demonstrates the current effectiveness of Community Sentencing.

“The Community Sentencing program offers the participants tools to be assets and not liabilities in our communities thus creating a safer and more secure environment and that is a win-win situation!”

Karen Armbruster, Volunteer, Alfalfa/Major/Woods counties

### Longitudinal Outcomes

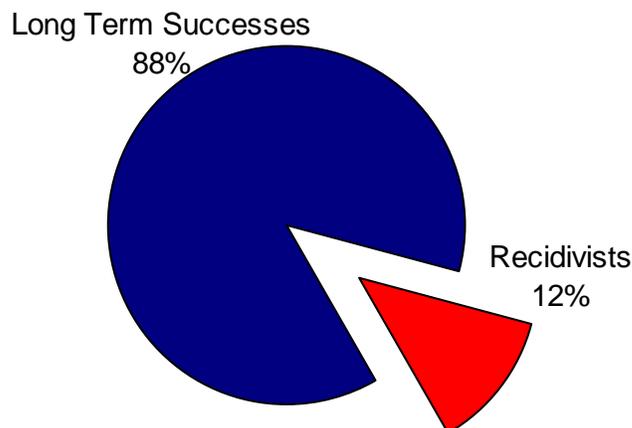


Figure 22



“I think Community Sentencing is a wonderful program that gives offenders an opportunity to stay out of prison and turn their lives around. It provides them the tools to stay clean and sober, the opportunity to be responsible, and the chance to better themselves. I have hired two program graduates, both of whom are hard working individuals whose lives were changed by this program.

Marsha Hawkins,  
Treatment  
Provider, Craig  
County

The diversion of offenders from incarceration continued as a frequent definition of programmatic success. Because a community sentence remained an optional, rather than a mandatory, sentencing alternative, it was difficult to determine, with any certainty, which community sentenced offenders were truly diverted from prison.

The only diversions from incarceration that could be identified with certainty were those offenders receiving a community sentence in lieu of revocation or acceleration to prison for violation of an existing probationary sentence. In fiscal year 2006, 230 probationers fell into this category. *Figure 23* depicts the number of probation violators diverted from prison to community sentencing by the indicated planning councils.

**Probation Violators Diverted from Prison to Community Sentencing**

Planning Council	Number	Planning Council	Number
Adair	1	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	4
Atoka, Coal	1	Logan, Payne	54
Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	2	Nowata, Washington	3
Bryan	1	Oklahoma	20
Caddo	2	Osage	8
Carter, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray	18	Pittsburg	5
Cherokee	3	Rogers	1
Creek	3	Sequoyah	13
Garvin, McClain	9	Stephens	1
Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	13	Tulsa	52
Kay, Noble	13	Wagoner	3

**TOTAL 230**

*Figure 23*

Also, offenders possibly diverted from prison were identified by the numbers of prior felony convictions recorded for those receiving a community sentence. Offenders with two or more felony convictions might be presumed prison-bound because of the statutory requirement for incarceration in such instances. Information pertaining to the prior felony convictions of the 1,463 offenders receiving a community sentence during fiscal year 2006 is presented in *Figure 24*.



**Prior Felony Convictions of FY 2006  
Community Sentenced Offenders**

Planning Council	Number Sentenced	0 Priors	1 Prior	2 Priors	3 Priors
Adair	18	72%	22%	6%	0%
Atoka, Coal	5	100%	0%	0%	0%
Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	14	14%	7%	22%	57%
Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	14	36%	28%	36%	0%
Bryan	24	33%	46%	17%	4%
Caddo	11	18%	36%	10%	36%
Canadian	3	100%	0%	0%	0%
Carter, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray	43	33%	40%	20%	7%
Cherokee	39	77%	13%	10%	0%
Cleveland	20	11%	21%	21%	47%
Craig	7	43%	43%	0%	14%
Creek	43	74%	12%	9%	5%
Dewey, Woodward	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Garvin, McClain	32	19%	31%	16%	34%
Grady	1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore	7	29%	43%	14%	14%
Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	35	31%	46%	6%	17%
Kay/Noble	38	46%	30%	19%	5%
Lincoln, Pottawatomie	84	25%	26%	18%	31%
Logan, Payne	124	61%	16%	13%	10%
Mayes	5	40%	20%	20%	20%
McCurtain	4	50%	50%	0%	0%
Nowata, Washington	36	67%	25%	3%	5%
Oklahoma	291	36%	22%	18%	25%
Osage	23	70%	0%	9%	21%
Pawnee	2	100%	0%	0%	0%
Pittsburg	34	71%	26%	3%	0%
Rogers	46	70%	28%	2%	0%
Sequoyah	42	50%	24%	5%	21%
Stephens	2	0%	100%	0%	0%
Tillman	3	33%	67%	0%	0%
Tulsa	372	79%	15%	3%	3%
Wagoner	40	73%	20%	3%	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>

Figure 24



Figure 25 contrasts prior conviction data for offenders receiving a community sentence in 2006 with historical statewide information. A pattern became apparent at both ends of the continuum of prior convictions. The percentage of community sentenced offenders who had three or more prior convictions steadily declined while the percentage of offenders with no prior convictions increased substantially. This was accompanied by a progressive decline in the percentage of offenders with two priors.

“We have had success at helping people stay in the community and become functioning citizens. I hope that this program continues to be funded because it provides a good avenue to make a difference in offenders’ lives and in the lives of their families.”

Eileen McGee,  
Treatment  
Provider,  
Beckham/Custer/  
Ellis/Roger  
Mills/Washita  
counties

**Historical Prior Felony Convictions of Community Sentenced Offenders**

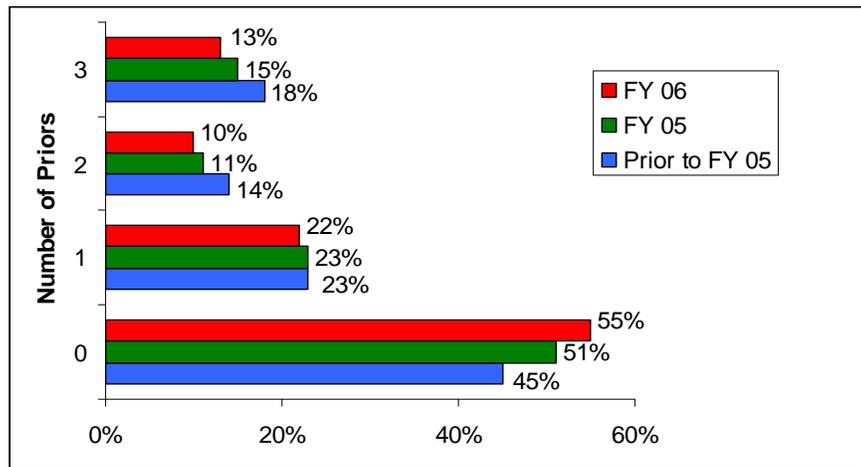


Figure 25

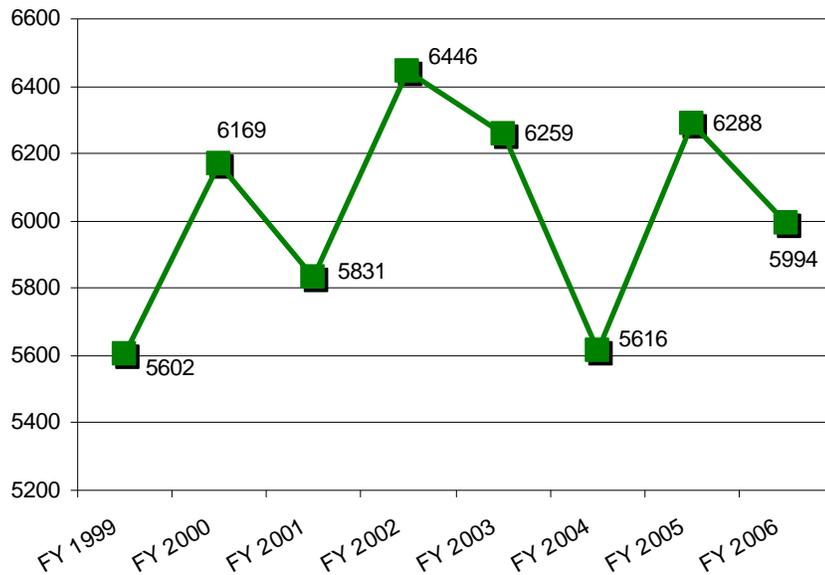
A longitudinal study gauged the effectiveness of community sentencing by identifying long-term outcomes of offenders, their status at least three years after being successfully released from the program. Short-term measures of effectiveness included program failures, the offenders who, while program participants, were sent to prison and, therefore, unsuccessfully released from community sentencing. The failed offender may have received a prison sentence because of a conviction for a new offense committed after receiving the community sentence or because of other violations of the conditions of the community sentence. Since the inception of the program, local sentencing systems reported that 2,215 offenders, 21 percent of the 10,335 offenders ever receiving a community sentence, were accelerated or revoked to prison and, thus, identified as program failures. The remaining 8,120 offenders either remained active in the program or had satisfactorily completed, in the community, the lesser of the length of the probationary period ordered by the court or the statutorily authorized period of supervision.



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
PRISON RECEPTION TRENDS**

The information technology unit of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections reported non-violent prison receptions maintained within the agency’s automated Offender Management System (OMS). The statewide statistics are summarized in *Figure 26*.

**Department of Corrections Non-Violent  
Prison Receptions by Fiscal Year**



*Figure 26*

Direct comparisons from year to year of non-violent prison receptions from counties represented in active community sentencing systems became increasingly difficult as councils reconfigured. Therefore, *Figure 27* indicates, by fiscal year since the 1999 inception of community sentencing, the number of non-violent prison receptions from selected planning councils whose configuration remained stable and participation in Community Sentencing constant.

“Many of the clients served in Community Sentencing would otherwise be housed in the Department of Corrections...I continue to support the program in Pottawatomie County and throughout the state.”

Honorable Douglas Combs,  
District Judge,  
Lincoln/  
Pottawatomie  
counties



At a time when there is no longer space or money to incarcerate non-violent offenders, Community Sentencing is the best way to protect the public and increase the probability that offenders will not commit additional crimes."

Honorable Jefferson Sellers, District Judge Tulsa/Pawnee counties

Community Sentencing participants Mike Williams and Brandon Washington pose with their counselor, Tim Guinn.

Non-Violent Prison Receptions by Fiscal Year from Selected Counties Participating in Community Sentencing

Planning Council	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cleveland	99	101	98	127	127	105	125	87
Creek	74	159	136	138	155	122	154	90
Oklahoma	1,375	1,820	1,437	1,536	1,318	1,236	1,559	1,568
Pittsburg	42	38	55	79	95	153	170	92
Tulsa	1,332	1,297	1,310	1,426	1,392	1,396	1,307	1,328

Figure 27

The number of offenders received into prison any given year is based on complex factors such as arrests, prosecutions, sentencing practices, and public opinion. It is, therefore, very difficult to reach any definitive conclusions regarding the impact of alternative programs on prison receptions.



## OFFENDER SUCCESS STORIES BY COUNCIL

### **Adair**

Mrs. A. had major depression and addiction issues at the time she received a community sentence. Through the program, she was afforded the opportunity to attend treatment for a total of one year. She participated in residential treatment in a location away from the sentencing county with follow up in a halfway house. While at the halfway house, she was required to obtain a full time job. After completing treatment, Mrs. A. wanted to return to Adair County and was thankful that her employer, a large national company, made that financially possible by allowing her to transfer to a local store. Once home, Mrs. A. regularly attended AA meetings and frequently contacted Community Sentencing supervisors for moral support. She was able to identify her husband as one of the major stressors in her life and a possible roadblock to her sobriety. She chose to file for divorce from her husband, who was a drug user. She is currently enrolled at Carl Albert College.

### **Alfalfa, Major, and Woods**

With a drug offense and a history of alcohol related convictions, Mr. Timmy was ordered into the ALMAWO Community Sentencing program. He successfully completed a cognitive behaviorally based substance abuse program. He credits his participation in Community Sentencing for his current full-time employment, sobriety, improved reading skills, and recent engagement to a non-user. Mr. Timmy continues to remain in contact with his treatment provider, the judge, and the local administrator. He states, "I now know I can do it. I'm drug free, I'm employed, and I'm getting married. I'm a different person." He expresses his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the ALMAWO Community Sentencing program and for the benefits he received.

### **Atoka and Coal**

Steven L. received a community sentence for a substance abuse related offense. He attended outpatient group therapy and served as a chairperson for the AA group in Coal County. In addition, Steven, a retired fireman, started his own business, the Old Coaly Café, in Coalgate, Oklahoma. The restaurant is doing very well. Steven is also a board member of the Save Lake Atoka organization, which focuses on saving the natural trees around Lake Atoka from being logged. His supervision was terminated after the first year of his two year sentence.

## **Blaine, Garfield, Grant, and Kingfisher**

Armond K. received a community sentence in April 2003 upon conviction of his fifth DUI. He had previously participated in alcohol treatment and believed that he could obtain sobriety on his own. Initially, he was uncooperative and resented the requirements of the Community Sentencing program. After a year of struggling through treatment sessions, Armond finally acknowledged that he had a problem with alcohol. He grudgingly admitted that he was ready to enter a residential program. He had difficulty adjusting to the program in Oklahoma City, and staff reported that he was “aloof” and appeared “uncaring.” As time passed, however, Armond became a leader in the program and fulfilled the expectations of his peers and counselors. Upon successful completion of the 60-day inpatient treatment program, he returned to his home in Enid. There, as an active participant who never missed a session, he completed a year of aftercare outpatient treatment. Armond came to realize how much his sobriety meant to him, his family, and his future. He obtained full-time employment, which he still maintains. He also continues to visit with his treatment counselor on occasion. Armond is proud of two years’ sobriety and credits his changed lifestyle to the Community Sentencing program, his treatment counselor, and the constant support of his family.

## **Bryan**

Carla B. received a community sentence after pleading no contest to a charge of Possession of CDS-Methamphetamine. Defiant and argumentative, it was readily apparent that Carla was not willing to comply with the Community Sentencing rules. She absconded shortly after entering the program, and, following her arrest, the district court judge ordered that Carla be reinstated to the Community Sentencing program. After being granted a second chance, Carla gave 100 percent to her recovery. She completed substance abuse treatment, cognitive skills training, and received her GED. Further, she received her CNA and now works in an assisted living facility. As a clean and sober member of society, she has become a beautiful and vibrant young woman filled with confidence and hope for the future.

## **Canadian**

Stacey B. was married, had two sons, and was living in a middle class neighborhood when her world was turned upside down by the sudden death of her husband. She began to use drugs to cope with her loss and to neglect her children as well as her household duties and financial obligations. Noticing the changes in Stacey’s behavior, her parents and her in-laws took control of the care and welfare of the children and the household obligations. Stacey was arrested for possession and unlawful use of prescription medication. She received a community sentence and was ordered to participate in residential

substance abuse treatment. She completed an eight-month residential program that gave her the tools needed to deal with grieving the accidental death of her husband. She also received aftercare outpatient treatment through both individual and group counseling. Stacey successfully completed her two year sentence. She has remained sober and is employed as an auditor for the State of Oklahoma. She is very thankful that her parents, her in-laws, Community Sentencing staff, and her probation officer took the time to show care and concern.

### **Carter, Johnston, Love, Marshall, and Murray**

In October 2005, Heather D.'s life changed forever. She stood once more before a judge who had previously placed her on probation for possession of methamphetamine and marijuana with stipulations including county jail time. However, things were now about to become much more serious as a result of her continued abuse of methamphetamine and marijuana. She again found herself in jail absent from her children, and her children faced a greater challenge of existing without their mother.

Fortunately, Heather received a second opportunity to change her life through the Community Sentencing program. With the help of her Community Sentencing supervision provider, Heather was placed in long-term intensive residential treatment where she learned methods of dealing with addiction, anger, and domestic violence. She also learned techniques for effective parenting. In addition, she obtained employment skills and is now pursuing further education. The Community Sentencing program helped Heather change her life, and she now seeks sobriety everyday with the same enthusiasm she once sought drugs.

### **Cherokee**

"My name is Miller B. I had a meth problem for over nine years and used the needle for about two years. Being so far out on drugs and just tired with life, I actually shot myself as I just did not want to live. I went to the hospital, to the mental health facility, and on to prison after that. Prison did not help me. It made me worse. I got out of prison and started right back on drugs. After receiving a community sentence, I was sent to residential treatment. At this point, I realized people in Community Sentencing wanted to help me and work with me and were not just in it for the pay check. The first treatment program did not work out because it was just too big of a center for me. I was then sent to a smaller program for 45 days followed by 90 days at a halfway house for aftercare. The halfway house was a Christian-based program, and it was very good for me. From there, I decided to go to school for a semester in an attempt to get some credentials to help out teens. I did not want younger people to go in the same direction that I had. If I would have had a mentor before, things might have been

different. I have been clean for almost two years! I want to work on starting my own program and give back to the community. I am very active in my church, and I could not have done it without God. Rehab's like a band aid but nothing to hang on to like your faith. I do know that I could not have made it without this Community Sentencing program. Thank you."

## Cleveland

An environment contaminated with drugs and alcohol resulted in Buckley's arrest and placement in the Community Sentencing program. Initially, he worked the program because he feared failure and going to jail. Eventually, he began to work the program because he feared where his life was going if he did not stay clean and refrain from the evils of drugs and alcohol. On the path of recovery, one day on his way to the probation office, he saw a burning car with an elderly person trapped inside. Without any care or concern for his own safety, Buckley pulled the elderly lady from the burning car. For his actions, Buckley received the Civilian Medal of Valor. Today, he has a steady job and is living on his own.



"Oops, did I do that?" Clockwise from top left are: service provider Tom Belusko; local administrator Carmen Jackson; service provider Tim Guinn; Probation and Parole Officer Wayne Barnes; and the grateful artist of the drawing, Buckley.

## Comanche and Cotton

Liz R. had never heard about Community Sentencing but jumped at the opportunity to be supervised in the community as opposed to going to prison for Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Drug (Methamphetamine). To her, the most important aspect of staying in the community was remaining close to her child. After repeatedly failing drug screenings, Liz was ordered to attend a second substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling

program to address her drug addiction, anxiety, and depression. Although not without challenges, Liz ultimately completed her treatment. She found employment at a local business willing to take a chance on her, and she continued to work the program as directed until her successful discharge.

### **Craig**

“My name is Michael O., and my drug of choice was meth. I was a user for over 12 years. I had been arrested three times for various drug charges. I had no job, no goals, and really no purpose in life other than finding my next high. My life was spiraling out of control very fast when I was again arrested with meth.

Thank God I was given the chance to enter the Community Sentencing program. This program gave me the opportunity to get my life in order and the chance to stay out of prison. It was hard work, but it was definitely worth it. I completed the program with no violations. I attended all the meetings required of me, returned to court twice per month, participated in counseling sessions, and began to go to church. I called on my higher power (Jesus Christ) and learned the tools to remain clean and sober.

Today I have been clean for three years. I have a good job, and my relationships with my family have been restored. I am a leader in the Celebrate Recovery group, a Christian-based 12-step program at my church.

I am thankful for the opportunity that Community Sentencing gave me. I feel that I am now a productive member of society, and I have something to offer others – a story that shows it is not impossible to live a clean and sober life.”

### **Creek**

Donald D. received a community sentence for the offense of Driving under the Influence of Drugs. His LSI-R/ASUS assessment resulted in a recommendation of a moderate level of substance abuse treatment. Once Donald began treatment, it became obvious that he was struggling with sobriety and that it was difficult for him to abstain from the use of alcohol and methamphetamine. He continued to attend treatment sessions and, slowly, became clean. Then, while at work, Donald received a severe chemical burn. During his painful recovery from the burns, Donald returned to using alcohol and illegal drugs. Ultimately, he was admitted into a detoxification facility and remained there for almost a week until he was released to return to his outpatient treatment.

Donald, even though in pain from his injuries, reported to the probation office and returned to his treatment. After his detox stay, Donald never

again had a positive urinalysis test. He obtained employment and completed his period of supervision. He is now in Alaska working for a pipeline company and making a very good living. Donald continues to call the probation office and thanks the treatment and supervision staff for helping him through his “tuff times” and for not sending him to jail/prison when he was struggling with sobriety.

### **Dewey and Woodward**

Miss Cee was charged with Possession of CDS with Intent to Distribute. She had six prior felony convictions, five of which were drug related. She was fortunate to receive a community sentence as a condition of her probationary sentence. Of her participation in the program, Miss Cee states, “If I had not had the opportunity to participate in Community Sentencing, I would not be where I am today, involved in pro-social activities in my community and through my church. I am not in prison! I am a mentor to other women who are experiencing substance abuse issues. I have established independent living, and now I even own a car.”

### **Hughes, Pontotoc, and Seminole**

Charles B. was convicted in 2004 of Possession of a Firearm while Intoxicated and Use of a Vehicle to Facilitate the Discharge of a Weapon. He was placed in the Community Sentencing program as an alternative to prison. His attitude about meeting the stipulations of his program was second to none. He attended his counseling meetings, consistently had negative urinalysis results, met court dates, worked, paid fines, and, best of all, took care of his children as a member of the local tax paying community.

Charles completed the Community Sentencing program without a single violation. He is now married and living a productive life.

### **Jackson**

Felix M. received a community sentence in April of 2004 for Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Drug. Felix was a senior citizen with a third grade education and was referred to an adult basic education program by his supervising officer. By the time he successfully completed Community Sentencing, Felix had raised his educational level to the fifth grade and was able to read and understand basic documents.

Felix paid all his court ordered fines and fees and established a much better relationship with his family. He continues to do well with no further problems recorded.

## Kay and Noble



Ms. Mara Lee C. received a community sentence at the age of 64 for Driving under the Influence, Second and Subsequent Offense. Mara Lee credits her success in the program to placement in residential substance abuse treatment shortly after she was sentenced, to participation in after care substance abuse counseling sessions, and to her supervising agent, Jan Montgomery. Ms. C. was terminated from supervision early because of her consistent progress.

## Lincoln and Pottawatomie

Michael received a community sentence for Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute, Driving under the Influence, and Possession of a Firearm, after a Former Felony Conviction. He has explained that, at the time of his arrest, he was in possession of one pound of marijuana, two 9 mm weapons, and a .380 handgun.

Today, Michael has successfully completed all the aspects of his probation, including attending the intervention classes to which he was assigned and payment of fees, fines, and costs. The Community Sentencing program made a dramatic change in the lives of both Michael and his family. He obtained his GED and is currently enrolled in courses at Seminole State College through his employer, Absolute Service Company. He is diligently working toward the purchase of his first home. He is sober and maintains distance from those with anti-social and addictive personalities. Michael has set attainable goals for his future and has an overall healthy outlook on life.

## Logan and Payne



Emma W. received a community sentence for Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance. She credits her successful completion of the program and her pro-social life style to the resources that were made available to her through Community Sentencing. Unemployed for several years before she was sentenced, Emma is currently working as a shift manager in a major retail store in Stillwater.

## Mayes

Following several arrests for drug and weapons related offenses, Andrew received a community sentence. He initially had a difficult time adjusting to the requirements of the program. After obtaining a welding job, Andrew's behavior began to improve. However, the next month he tested positive for methamphetamine, and he was sanctioned to five days in jail. After his release from jail, he continued to attend counseling and meetings and became more positive. During all of this time, Andrew was having domestic issues with his common-law wife and children and struggling with living arrangements and child support. There have been no more positive substance tests, and Andrew continues his employment as a welder. He was released from supervision early and is a law-abiding member of the community.

## McCurtain

William received a community sentence for Burglary of an Automobile. He reported frequent use of marijuana and was referred to outpatient substance abuse treatment. Urinalysis indicated that William continued to use his drug of choice, and he was then referred to a 30-day residential treatment program. Upon completion of the program, William's aftercare included participation in outpatient group sessions where he became a positive influence for fellow attendees. Further evidence of William's new pro-social lifestyle was his acquisition of a full-time job. Because of his successful adjustment and changed behavior, William was released early from supervision.

## Nowata and Washington

Lavonne G., a 23 year old mother of two small girls, was arrested for Knowingly withholding Stolen Property and Child Abandonment. Her children were placed by the Department of Human Services with a family member, and Lavonne received a community sentence. She denied alcohol use but admitted to two prior misdemeanor convictions for use of marijuana. With the cooperation of the Department of Human Services, Lavonne was placed in a residential treatment facility that allowed her children to accompany her. Upon completion of residential treatment, she continued with outpatient counseling and attended AA/NA support meetings. Lavonne has remained sober with negative results for drug tests. She completed all requirements of the Department of Human Services and regained custody of her children.

Lavonne's personal life has changed significantly. She recently married, and they have purchased their first home. She has applied for grants to enter school next fall and is a homemaker for her two children. Although she is

busy with two young children, Lavonne continues to attend AA meetings at least once a week. She now admits that she was not entirely truthful when she began supervision. She states that she was using not only marijuana but also methamphetamine. When asked how Community Sentencing had made a difference in her life, Lavonne said, "The best thing that ever happened to me was to go to jail and receive a community sentence. I started drinking at a young age and graduated to drugs. Through this program, I have found who I am. I feel good about being sober and never thought it would feel so good."

## Oklahoma

Billy was a pale, skinny kid addicted to methamphetamine for 13 years, which was a little over half of his life. Billy had participated in residential treatment numerous times before entering Community Sentencing. He was tired of his lifestyle and now willing to make a change. Once again, he returned to a residential substance abuse treatment program. He learned to work for his sobriety and saw that his healthier lifestyle had very positive consequences. Soon after his release from inpatient treatment, Billy was working as a granite installer and making great progress. He completed all probation requirements and now has his own apartment, a career, and a life without drugs or alcohol. He reunited with his parents and is considering going back to college. Billy stated that his changed behavior was the result of his probation officer's believing in him and seeing that he had potential for so much more. Billy still calls his probation officer every week or so to let her know that he is doing great or just to chat. Billy's probation officer often says that he is the "poster child" for recovery.

## Osage

Alfred received a community sentence and, based on the results of the assessment process, was ordered to complete several programs to address his criminogenic needs. Alfred was to receive a substance abuse evaluation and counseling, obtain a GED, attend a cognitive behavior course, maintain verifiable employment, perform community service work, and provide urine specimens when instructed. He successfully completed all program requirements. Alfred is a fine example of what can be accomplished through Oklahoma's Community Sentencing program.

## Pittsburg

Tisha received a community sentence for possession of methamphetamine. She told her probation officer that she was in desperate need of treatment services and requested help. She participated in group substance abuse meetings, was referred for psychological evaluation, began attending mental health counseling sessions, and received medical services. Tisha's condition

improved substantially, and she seemed to be on the road to sobriety. She was even involved in educational activities.

In a few months, however, a change in Tisha's demeanor became evident. She began to miss her counseling sessions, and her attendance at group became sporadic. Her therapist and officer agreed that it was time for a urinalysis. When asked to provide a urine sample for testing, she advised that the result would likely be positive. She appeared relieved and indicated a readiness for residential substance abuse treatment. She was enthusiastic about participating in the program and glad to receive help.

After completing residential treatment, Tisha stated that she was clean for the first time in seven years. She reestablished ties with her immediate family, with whom she celebrates her sobriety on the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month. She maintains a full-time job, cares for her daughter and attends all her school functions, and donates time to help others. She continues to regularly attend individual and group counseling and is quick to help others see that sobriety is there for each of them. Tisha has expressed interest in becoming a substance abuse counselor and is off to a good start...she needs only four hours of classes to complete her associate's degree.

## **Rogers**

At the time Shelly entered the Community Sentencing program, she was 28 year old, had no job, no place to live, had alienated herself from all support, and was facing years in prison. Her most recent arrest was drug related and also involved child endangerment. While Shelly was high on methamphetamine, her two-year old daughter fell from a second story window. Following the incident, Shelly's mother assumed responsibility for the care of the child and would not allow Shelly to live in her house.

While in Community Sentencing, Shelly worked hard to acquire sobriety, become employed, and resume care of her daughter. Staff assisted her in all these areas. After a period of sobriety, Shelly was permitted by her mother to help with caring for her daughter, who required special assistance following her fall. Shelly took part in her daughter's physical therapy sessions. As Shelly's treatment and reintegration into society progressed, she was able to increasingly provide her daughter's care. By the time she was discharged from Community Sentencing, Shelly had regained full custody of her daughter, was working full time, and had purchased her own home. In a recent telephone conversation, Shelly reported she is still sober and working.

In a relatively short period of time, Shelly went from being an unemployed drug addict who had lost custody of her child and the respect of her family to being a proud mother and homeowner. The supervision, case management,

and treatment services provided through the Community Sentencing program facilitated this transition.

### Sequoyah

Colleen received five prison sentences for substance abuse prior to being given the opportunity to participate in Community Sentencing for yet another drug related offense. She relapsed after nine months and was sanctioned to jail, which served as a final wake up call for her. Colleen then participated in counseling, surrounded herself with people who were in recovery, and became very involved in her church. For her community service, Colleen drove vans and was a member of work teams at the Cookson Hills Center United Methodist Mission. As a result of her hard work, she was offered a job as volunteer coordinator and the building and grounds supervisor! She loves her job and states, "Community Sentencing was my absolute guiding light with its structure and accountability or I would not be where I am now."

### Stephens

After continuing to use drugs, Lester H. received a community sentence as his final opportunity to avoid prison time. He attended outpatient substance abuse treatment and cognitive behavior training while being supervised by Community Sentencing officers. In addition, he was drug tested regularly. Although Lester had difficulty holding a job prior to his community sentence, by discharge he had become stable in his employment and free from drug use. He has not received any further felony charges.

### Tillman

Kenneth W. received a community sentence for possession of a controlled drug. He was ordered to residential substance abuse treatment followed by aftercare in the community. Kenneth encountered his share of difficulties, but, with proper treatment and supervision, he began meeting the Community Sentencing requirements. He successfully completed the program after two years supervision and was extremely grateful to Community Sentencing for helping him re-establish steady employment as well his life with his family. As a single parent, Lester's stability was most important to his children.

### Tulsa

"I was busted in December 2000 for possession of a controlled substance, crank. At that time, my life was at its lowest. I had decided that, if I received a prison sentence, I would kill myself by overdosing on hoarded medication for my bipolar diagnosis. At the time of my arrest, I had lost my

husband. We were both using drugs and he had wandering eyes. For two years after he left, I walked dead among the living. Drugs were my life to mask the pain. I supported myself by selling drugs and felt fortunate to be busted for possession only. My children were grown and were living their own lives so I only had myself to think about. It did not seem to matter to anyone but me. I had been using drugs, off and on, for 10 years and went into them head first after the divorce.

I was put on Community Sentencing in May 2001 and played with the program at first. Then I got my first dirty drug test for crank in October 2001. I went home and used, thinking that I wouldn't be tested again for awhile. I was called back in two days and was given another drug test, which was also dirty for crank. I then dug in and got serious about the program.

Community Sentencing was the best thing that happened to me. Behind it, I was taught how to get sober and stay sober. People don't think that they have to change the people they are with, but people are weak and need help. Two of my daughters had children, three in one year, who became an active part of my life. I also go to church and have found my faith. I have just written a children's book that I am about to publish. The last five years have been very fulfilling. I look back and am amazed that I lived my previous life."

### **Wagoner**

"My name is Derek R. I had mental health and drug problems and had been living a downward spiraling lifestyle. I even fled to Florida and was extradited back to the Wagoner County Jail. I was sent for stabilization and returned to the jail for another month. Not knowing what my future held for me, I had nothing to do but pray. I received a community sentence and was given the opportunity to participate in a program called Bethesda Adult Life Training Center. This is a good program that did not cost the State a penny. It was a nine month program and this was the best decision of my life. I was given the opportunity to learn the steel fabrication trade. I learned how to weld and operate various type of machinery. I attended classes to obtain my GED (which I did) and developed a strong relationship with God through church and daily devotions. I also attended a class at Central Tech in Sapulpa where I earned the first step towards obtaining an A+ Computer Repair certification. I completed the Bethesda Program while in Community Sentencing, and now I am a house parent there myself. I can help change lives as well. If you are willing to participate in the Community Sentencing program, they can do the same for you!"

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