

ACCESS, FAIRNESS, AND DIVERSITY

LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF EL DORADO

LONG-RANGE ISSUE: 5. TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE INCREASED NUMBER OF SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS AND PROVIDE ENHANCED SERVICES FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS. TO PROVIDE A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAM ON THE WESTERN SLOPE. TO SECURE GRANT FUNDING FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS PROVIDED THROUGH THE COURT ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

Issue Description: The number of self-represented litigants continues to grow throughout the state. The Court currently provides limited self-represented services and uses various locations for self represented litigants' services in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville. Services are provided at courthouses in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville and also at the Law Library in Placerville. Self-help centers with expanded services are needed to address the increased number of self-represented litigants and to improve efficiency at our public counters and in our courtrooms.

The number of criminal defendants in our county with mental illness has increased substantially. A Behavioral Health Court Program on our Western Slope is needed to provide a focus on treatment to restore health and reduce criminal activity.

There are several special programs provided to court users, such as juvenile and adult drug court, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and teen court. The programs either rely solely on volunteers or operate with limited funding and volunteer support. There is a need to fund them at an appropriate level and to assure continuing funding for these programs.

LONG-RANGE GOALS, STRATEGIES AND DESIRABLE OUTCOMES

Goal 5.1 To expand self-help assistance provided by our Court to include self-help assistance from attorneys and/or paralegals on a daily basis on our West Slope and expanded hours of service in South Lake Tahoe.

Strategies: 5.1(a) Develop self-help centers in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville
5.1(b) Encourage local Bar to develop a panel of attorneys willing to accept "sliding scale" fees, or unbundled services at a reduced rate.
5.1(c) Coordinate with other legal service providers in the community to provide assistance to self represented litigants.

Desirable Outcomes:	By the year 2008, the court will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A self-help center in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville.➤ A panel of attorneys willing to accept "sliding scale" fees, or provide unbundled services at reduced rate.
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OPERATIONAL PLAN

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF EL DORADO_**

Goal 5.1 To expand self-help assistance provided by our Court to include self-help assistance from attorneys and/or paralegals on a daily basis on our West Slope and expanded hours of service in South Lake Tahoe.

Strategy: 5.1(a) Develop self-help centers in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville.

Objectives: 5.1(a) 1. To provide expanded services to the self-represented with forms and information they need to conform to Court rules and policies and to present their cases effectively.

- Strategy:** 5.1(b) Encourage local Bar to develop a panel of attorneys willing to accept "sliding scale" fees, or to provide unbundled services at a reduced rate.
- Objectives:** 5.1(b) 1. To assure that as many people as possible can be represented by attorneys in matters before the court.
- Strategy:** 5.1(c) Coordinate with other legal service providers in the community for self-help services.
- Objectives:** 5.1(c) 1. Expand services available to self-represented litigants with referrals to other legal services providers.

ACTION PLAN

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF EL DORADO_

Objective 5.1(a) 1. To provide expanded services to self-represented litigants, providing forms and information necessary to conform to Court rules and policies and to present their cases effectively.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Develop plan to expand services and provide for self-help centers in South Lake Tahoe and Placerville.	Steering Committee	2008	2007/08
2. Review self-help centers at other courts.	Steering Committee	2007	2006/07

Objective 5.1(b) 1. To assure that as many people as possible can be represented by attorneys in matters before the court.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Meet and discuss sliding scale fees and unbundled services with local Bar Associations.	Steering Committee	2007	2006/07
2. Obtain participation of local Bar Associations in providing consultation services to self-represented	Steering Committee	2007	2006/07

litigants.			
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Objective 5.1(c) 1. Expand services available to self-represented litigants with referrals to other legal services providers.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Meet with other legal service providers to obtain participation in providing services to self-represented litigants.	Steering Committee	2007	2006/07

LONG RANGE GOALS, STRATEGIES AND DESIRABLE OUTCOMES

Goal 5.2 Secure grant funding for special programs provided to court users, such as juvenile & adult drug court, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and teen court.

Strategies: 5.2(a) Obtain grant funds for special programs provided to court users.

Desirable Outcomes:	<p>On an annual basis, the Court will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Obtained grant funds to support special programs.
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OPERATIONAL PLAN

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

Goal 5.2 Secure grant funding for special programs provided to court users, such as juvenile & adult drug court, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and teen court.

Strategy: 5.2(a) Obtain grant funds for special programs provided to court users.

Objectives: 5.2(a) 1. To assure CASA's continuing availability to the Court.

2. To assure continuation of special programs.

ACTION PLAN

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

Objective 5.2(a) 1. To assure CASA’s continuing availability to the Court.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Review & submit applicable grant applications.	Court Administration	Annually	2007/08

Objective 5.2(a) 2. To assure continuation of special programs.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Review & submit applicable grant applications	Court Administration	Annually	2007/08

LONG RANGE GOALS, STRATEGIES AND DESIRABLE OUTCOMES

Goal 5.3 The case management information system should allow judicial officers and staff to identify parties, their family members, and relevant information in all case types.

Strategies: 5.3(a) Assure that judicial officers and staff can access an index of parties and family members of parties in all types of cases.

Desirable Outcomes: By the year 2008, the Court will have:
 ➤ Implemented the Family Index program in the ISD case management system.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

Goal 5.3 The case management information system should allow judicial officers and staff to identify parties, their family members, and relevant information in all case types.

Strategy: 5.3(a) Assure that judicial officers and staff can access an index of parties and family members of parties in all types of cases.

Objectives: 5.3(a)

1. To enable judicial officers to have as much information as possible about other cases in the court that might affect or be affected by a decision in the case presently before the judicial officer, especially when children are involved or affected.
2. To avoid conflicting or contradictory orders and sentences in different cases affecting family members.

ACTION PLAN

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

Objective 5.3(a) 1-2. To enable judicial officers to have as much information as possible about other cases in the court that might affect or be affected by a decision in the case presently before the judicial officer, especially when children are involved or affected. To avoid conflicting or contradictory orders and sentences in different cases affecting family members.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Implement the Family Index program in the ISD case management system	Case Management Coordinator	2008	2007/08
2. Train staff and judicial officers on use of program	Case Management Coordinator	2008	2007/08

LONG-RANGE GOALS, STRATEGIES AND DESIRABLE OUTCOMES

Goal 5.4 To create a Behavioral Health Court program for the West Slope. This program would deal with members of the community that face mental health challenges and have become involved in the criminal justice system.

- Strategies:**
- 5.4(a) Establish a Court calendar for the Behavioral Health Court program.
 - 5.4(b) Provide staff training to implement the Behavioral Court program
 - 5.4(c) Implement the Behavioral Court program

Desirable Outcomes: By the year 2007, the court will have:

- Implemented the Behavioral Court program.
- Be recognized in the community as a leader in dealing with persons with mental health challenges that have become involved in the criminal justice system.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

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Goal 5.4 To create a Behavioral Health Court program for the West Slope. This program would deal with members of the community that face mental health challenges and have become involved in the criminal justice system.

Strategy: 5.4(a) Establish a Court calendar for the Behavioral Health Court program.

Objectives: 5.4(a) 1. Have a dedicated calendar for individuals with mental health challenges involved in the criminal justice system.

Strategy: 5.4(b) Provide staff training to implement the Behavioral Court program

Objectives: 5.4(b) 1. Staff is knowledgeable in the Behavioral Court program and can process

required documents in a timely and efficient manner.

Strategy: 5.4(c) Implement the Behavioral Court program.

Objectives: 5.4(c) 1. A Behavioral Court program that provides appropriate services to users.

ACTION PLAN

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
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Objective 5.4(a) 1. Have a dedicated calendar for individuals with mental challenges involved in the criminal justice system.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Select calendar date that will work for each agency that participates in the program.	Judicial Officer	2007	2006/07

Objective 5.4(b) 1. Staff is knowledgeable in the Behavioral Court program and can process required documents in a timely and efficient manner.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Review staff knowledge of program; provide additional training or materials as program develops.	Manager	2007	2006/07

Objective 5.4(c) 1. A Behavioral Court program that provides appropriate services to users.

Tasks:	Who	When	Fiscal Year
1. Monitor program successes and failures and make changes to program as needed.	Judicial Officer	2007	2006/07