



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 24-020

**RECOGNIZING MAY 2024 AS NATIONAL TREATMENT COURT MONTH
IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Snohomish County Superior Court provides therapeutic court interventions through the Adult Recovery Court, Family Recovery Court, and District Court through the Mental Health Court; and

WHEREAS, amidst a rising fentanyl epidemic, increasing fatal overdose rates, and ongoing mental health crises, therapeutic courts are an important part of an effective statewide approach to addressing crime and child neglect related to behavioral health disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy classifies adult drug courts and mental health courts as evidence-based programs and concludes drug courts have a larger impact on recidivism than most other criminal legal interventions studied; and

WHEREAS, therapeutic courts have beneficial effects, including the interruption of generational cycles of substance abuse and legal involvement, and often prevents or decreases childhood trauma associated with a parent's addiction, incarceration, and foster care; and

WHEREAS, therapeutic courts counter systemic racism by helping to prevent incarceration and loss of parental rights for people of color who are disproportionately represented within the criminal legal and child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, therapeutic court participants have a lower rate of psychiatric hospitalizations, fewer incarceration days, emergency department visits and decreased rates of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, therapeutic courts prove that compassionate public policy can result in cost savings and significantly improve personal health status; and

WHEREAS, studies by the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Washington Institute for Public Policy, and the University of Washington show a return on investment related to therapeutic courts in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the lives of hundreds of therapeutic court participants living in Snohomish County, along with their families and children, are transformed annually through their participation in a therapeutic court process that provides the support and structure needed to overcome addiction and mental health conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council does hereby recognize May 2024 as National Treatment Court Month in Snohomish County.

APPROVED this 30th day of April, 2024.

Jared Mead
Council Chair

Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair

Sam Low
Councilmember

Megan Dunn
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

ATTEST:

Debbie Eco, CMC
Clerk of the Council