

The Committee finds that the Prosecutor's differentiated case management program, known as FasTrack, is an effective tool for resolving criminal cases quickly and efficiently and, as a result, has had the attendant effect of reducing jail incarceration rates. Since the inception of the program in June of 2005, this program has diverted 14.34% of the annual felony case load from the traditional trial track. The performance measure for this program is the number of days from receipt of the incident report from law enforcement to final deposition. The overall performance measure, computed from inception of the program, averages 25 days, which is significantly less than the 311 days it took, on average during the same time period, for a case to process through the traditional trial track. While the program has been a success, the Committee would like to encourage the Prosecutor to consider expanding its "felony plea bargain (FPB)" process. Currently, the FPB only provides certain defendants charged with personal use of illegal drugs with an offer to plead to a gross misdemeanor and complete one year of probation that includes treatment supervision for drug and/or alcohol issues. The committee would like to recommend that the FasTrack FPB process be reviewed by the Prosecutor with the view towards expanding the program to include individuals charged with other than personal use amounts of a controlled substance.

The following language was also rewritten and removed from the FasTrack recommendations/findings and it is suggested it be included with other Drug Court comments.

The Committee finds that the County's Superior Court Drug Court program is an effective tool in resolving certain criminal cases wherein the defendant can establish he/she has a drug addiction problem. The defendant, if determined eligible, is offered an 18 -24 month treatment program that affords dismissal of all charges upon successful completion in lieu of being sentenced to serve time in jail. Since inception of this specialty court, approximately 4.6% of the felony cases filed have been resolved through this program. The Committee would like to recommend that the Prosecutor review the current referral process to determine if there are steps that can be taken to shorten the length of time it takes to review and approve defendants for entrance into the program. The Committee members believe that if a faster determination of eligibility can be implemented it may mean more defendants will accept the drug court alternative instead of a short jail sentence.