



# The RMCC CONNECTION

Renton Municipal Community Court Newsletter, Issue 1

June  
2025

## Welcome to the First Issue of The RMCC Connection!

We are thrilled to introduce the inaugural issue of the Renton Municipal Community Court Newsletter! This quarterly publication is designed to celebrate the successes of our participants, highlight the incredible work of our staff and community partners, and share valuable resources and insights to support our shared goal of restorative justice.

Community Court is not just about addressing legal challenges; it's about fostering growth, creating connections, and building a stronger, healthier community. Through this newsletter, we aim to highlight the stories, achievements, and opportunities that make RMCC a source of hope and transformation for so many.

### In this issue, you'll find:

- RMCC at a Glance:  
An overview of & key milestones
- An introduction to the RMCC team
- A spotlight on one of our inspiring graduates
- RMCC Gives Back:  
A look at community involvement
- RMCC's ongoing efforts to enhance impact



RENTON MUNICIPAL  
**COMMUNITY COURT**  
Collaborate • Support • Restore



## Quick Facts

RMCC launched on  
July 15, 2021.

70 individuals have  
opted into the program  
since its inception.

42 participants have  
successfully graduated  
from RMCC to date.

87% of RMCC  
graduates have  
remained crime-free for  
at least 24 months after  
completing the  
program.

# RMCC at a glance

## Celebrating our Progress and Future

The Renton Municipal Community Court (RMCC) takes a supportive, therapeutic approach to address low-level misdemeanor offenses. RMCC connects program participants with essential resources like substance use treatment, housing support, and education & employment services. By partnering with community providers and offering personalized case management, RMCC helps participants make positive changes, reduce recidivism, and strengthen the community. Participants who meet program requirements, such as community service and treatment, can graduate and have their charges dismissed.

RMCC collaborates with Issaquah Municipal Community Court to host a weekly Virtual Resource Center (VRC) which is open to anyone in the community. Current partner agencies include DSHS, Arms Around You, Bellevue College, Renton Technical College, Friends of Youth, King County Public Health, Peer Kent, Guided Pathways, Asian Counseling & Referral Services, Sound Integrated Health, and more.



For more info about RMCC  
or the VRC, please visit  
our website:  
[rentonwa.gov/rmcc](https://rentonwa.gov/rmcc)



You may also contact the RMCC  
Coordinator: Sierra Simmons  
[ssimmons@rentonwa.gov](mailto:ssimmons@rentonwa.gov)  
425-430-6522

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*In the beginning of my recovery my environment wasn't in line with the life I hoped to have. The class and support from this court helped me realize and fix many of the behaviors I clung to in early recovery that I did not want to carry with me. Starting out I had no family support, so it was therapeutic to go to court and get praise for my accomplishments.*

Kelly, RMCC graduate

”

“

*I appreciate RMCC for accepting me with open arms, giving me another chance and believing in me through the whole process. It's hard having that feeling of not knowing what's going to happen and hurting family and friends with your mistakes, but after doing this [program] I learned there's always people in your corner.*

Jazmyne, RMCC graduate

”





## THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

# Meet the RMCC team!



**IVA CLARK**

has been a Prosecuting Attorney for RMCC since its launch in 2021.



**LEILA CURTIS**

has been a Prosecuting Attorney for RMCC since its launch in 2021.



**SHAWN MCCULLY**

has been a Public Defender for RMCC since its launch in 2021.



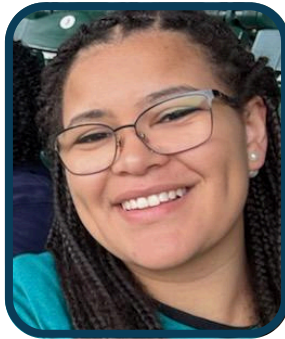
**ANNABEL GOODSON**

is a Public Defender for RMCC.



**AMEO LYNCH**

is a Case Manager for RMCC, and hosts the weekly Virtual Resource Center. She has over 25 years working for the Courts and loves seeing people transform their lives.



**SIERRA SIMMONS**

is a Case Manager and Coordinator for RMCC. She loves witnessing positive, meaningful change in the lives of RMCC participants.



**JOAQUIN (KEN) DELGADO**

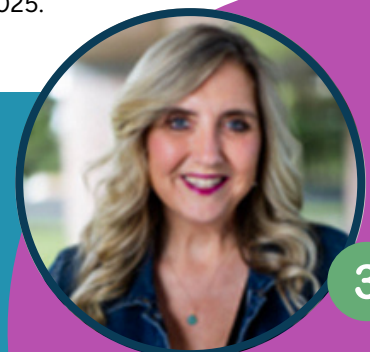
is a "Legendary" Certified Peer Counselor for Valley Defenders and RMCC. He is in recovery and will be celebrating 5 years of sobriety in March 2025.



**LESTACIA KINLOW**

is the Judicial Specialist for RMCC.

**JUDGE KARA MURPHY RICHARDS** is the Presiding Judge for Renton Municipal Court. Her favorite role is being "Judge Kara" on the RMCC team and working with our amazing RMCC team members and participants.



# Inspiring Change

Celebrating our Progress and Future:  
Spotlight on an RMCC Graduate



## Meet Sheena!

“

*The last five years have been a journey of incredible transformation, filled with challenges, growth, and new opportunities. Renton Community Court has been a huge part of that journey, playing a key role in my success.*

*I joined the program in July 2024 and graduated in November 2024, and it was truly a life-changing experience. The staff and participants have become like family, offering unwavering support and encouragement every step of the way. Their kindness, guidance, and belief in me have helped shape the person I am today.*

*I'm forever grateful for this community and the positive impact it continues to have on my life.*

”

During her RMCC program, Sheena graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Southern New Hampshire University. She is currently enrolled in a 16-week IT Training Program through Per Scholas. She continues to work with Arms Around You, an organization she was connected to through RMCC, to secure her own apartment.

Since graduating, Sheena has remained involved with RMCC, attending hearings to offer support and encouragement to current participants. She's taken an active role in the creation of The RMCC Connection newsletter and is currently working with staff to launch an RMCC peer support and alumni group.





# Expressions of Change

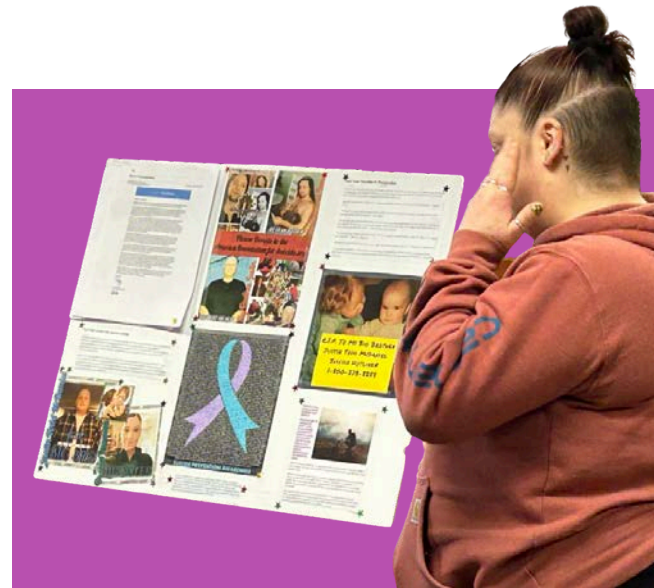
As part of the RMCC program, participants are invited to reflect on their personal journey through writing or art. This assignment offers a space for self-reflection, healing, and celebration of growth. The powerful pieces shared here highlight the resilience, insight, and creativity of our community.

“ I’m not going to lie, when I first started this program, I thought it was going to be a long, boring process, but I can happily say that it wasn’t bad at all! I met some great people who just wanted to see me do better, which made me want to do better for myself. I learned that the people you surround yourself with really do make a difference, and I’m very thankful to be surrounded with you guys on Thursdays. I always feel welcomed and understood.

I can say I’m still learning how to be a better woman, but this program has helped me a lot because I’ve got to meet new people and see how far life can really take me if I just stay on the right path, and do what I’m supposed to as a young woman. I am very thankful that I got to be a part of this program and get to see different perspectives of lives around me, and know I’m not the only one struggling, and also know that if we really want it, we can get it, with patience and time. ”

-Jaya

(Right) “For my reflection, I chose to do a sculpture project. In the pictures attached you’ll see a money bag with a bleeding heart coming out of it representing the need of money and how heart broken I was thinking I wouldn’t see my daughter for a while.” - Ty



(Above) Brandy shares her “Pebble in the Pond” story and how it ties in with her RMCC experience through a visual collage. “I’m so grateful that this small hiccup in my life has made such a big impact through community court it has shown me that God’s grace is still very present in my life and that there is good people that do care and that I will never be alone in this world.”







# RMCC Gives Back

## ENGAGING IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LOCAL EVENTS



### Some ways RMCC participants are giving back to the community:

- Partnering with Sound Foundations NW at the Hope Factory to help build Tiny Homes.
- Making cat blankets for Regional Animal Services of King County.
- Creating customized birthday cards and sorting gift bag candy for Birthday Dreams.
- Community clean up events in collaboration with Renton Downtown Partnership and the Black Equality Coalition.
- Providing operational assistance at Peer Kent.
- Supporting Washington Recovery Alliance at Mariners Recovery Day



# Congratulations

## to our June 2025 graduating class!



**NEVAEH**  
Joined RMCC  
1/9/2025



**CHIQUITA**  
Joined RMCC  
3/6/2025



**JAYA**  
Joined RMCC  
4/17/2025



**Not pictured: TY**  
Joined RMCC 4/17/2025



# Strengthening Our Impact



## RMCC & the Annual Regional Community Court Retreat

Since 2023, with generous funding and support from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), RMCC has been the host of an annual Regional Community Court Retreat.

This event brings together therapeutic courts from multiple local municipalities to collaborate, share ideas, and address common challenges. Expert speakers have included Lindsey Jackson, Senior Program Manager with New York City's Center for Justice Innovation, and Judge Lisa Paglisotti, and experienced leader and innovator in King County District Court's therapeutic courts.

This event fosters stronger partnerships between courts, helping to improve the effectiveness of community court programs. Participating courts have included Renton, Issaquah, Monroe, Bothell, Pierce County, Sumner, Black Diamond, Enumclaw, Kirkland, and Lakewood.



**As a result of the retreat's ongoing success, AOC has secured additional funding for other therapeutic courts in WA to hold similar collaborative events.**

*The 2025 retreat featured a panel of Peers with lived experience who now serve on Community Court teams. They shared valuable insights into increasing participant engagement in a Q&A -style session.*