



MENTAL HEALTH COURT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mental Health Court

- Joint initiative between St. Clair County CMH and the St. Clair County Court system.
- Assists individuals who have a severe mental illness (SMI), Co-occurring disorder, or an Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) who have been charged with a misdemeanor crime or felony that has been reduced to a misdemeanor and their charges are a result of their mental illness/disability.
- The MHC team acts as a liaison between CMH and the Court system.
- The intent of the program is to provide mental health services to address aspects of the individual's circumstances that would lead to reduced recidivism, provide better mental health for participants and improved outcomes such as reduced court costs, incarcerations, and associated expenses.

Targeted Population

- Criminal defendants 18 and older
- Diagnosed with SMI, Co-occurring, and/or I/DD
- Substance use cannot be the primary diagnosis
- Residents of St. Clair County
- Misdemeanor charge or ordinance violation, or a felony charge the Prosecuting Attorney is willing to reduce to a misdemeanor
- The type and nature of offense is taken into consideration
- Violent offenders are not eligible to participate, this includes criminal sexual conduct offenses

Program Admission Criteria

- A representative from the prosecutor's office works with the MHC regarding potential referrals, reduction of charges and plea bargains and assists in determining appropriateness of individuals for the program.
- Referrals are made by the prosecutor, jail rehab staff, pre-trial staff, lawyers, mental health service providers, and/or other interested parties such as family members or guardians.
- Must complete pre-admission screening
- Team approach is used to determine acceptance into the program

Goals of Program

- Reduction of recidivism
- Reduced jail days
- Reduced costs
- Improved long term mental health outcomes for participants

The Role of (CMH) MHC Team

- Liaison between the court and CMH
- Attends court hearings
- Keeps in regular contact with the judge and probation officers
- Provides input to the court hearings regarding treatment progress
- Assists participants in the court process
- Provides additional support to the participants CMH treatment team
 - Supplementary engagement efforts
 - Peer support
 - Additional interventions to aid participants in their successful completion of the program

Team Members

- Program Coordinator
- Mental Health Assistant
- Peer Support
- CMH treatment team
- Judge
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Probation Officer
- Court Clerk

Treatment Continuum

- CMH is responsible for the initial mental health screening—Region 10 ACCESS
- SCCCMH Operations is responsible for assessment and treatment services
- MHC team makes recommendations for select treatment options (groups, treatment programs, etc.)
- Full public mental health and substance use disorder continuum is available
- Based on severity and need there are more intensive programs available

Groups

- Anger management
- Coping skills
- Persuasion or Active Treatment
- Changing Directions
- WRAP
- Community programs (clubhouse, CE, GWI, etc.)

Program Highlights

- Incentives
- Sanctions
- 2 year maximum
- Average time in MHC is 18 months
- Currently 85 participants
- St. Clair County is unique
 - Diagnosis
 - Separate teams

Questions

