

Mental Health Court

Multnomah Circuit Court

Mission

The goal of the MHC is to ensure public safety and minimize recidivism while diverting individuals with a serious mental illness from incarceration and instead, facilitating linkage to appropriate treatment and community resources.

Program Details

The Mental Health Court (MHC) is a collaborative, problem-solving court in which individuals living with a mental illness adhere to a judicially supervised Service Plan developed and monitored by mental health professionals and Probation Officers. Program eligible diagnoses include Schizophrenia/Schizoaffective Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, or Major Depressive Disorder. Individuals may have a co-occurring substance use disorder. Individuals must be legally competent and agree to voluntarily enter. MHC Participants must be willing to adhere to an individualized Service Plan which will include mental health treatment recommendations and may include substance use disorder treatment. Prospective individuals will be advised of program requirements and will be encouraged to review benefits and any perceived detriments of participation with counsel. MHC participation is 18-24 months, longer durations staffed on a case-by-case basis

Services and supports provided

Mental Health Court is a collaborative program with many services and resources. There are dedicated District Attorneys and Defense Attorneys. Each client will have a Probation Officer through DCJ Mental Health Unit, be assigned a case manager with County Behavioral Health Unit. The MHC works closely with several treatment providers and has staff from Cascadia Health on the team. Individuals through frequent court dates form a positive relationship with the judge and entire team. Incentives are applied to acknowledge positive behavior. Non-compliant behaviors are addressed immediately through the application of graduated and least restrictive sanctions and clinical interventions. Failure to follow the program requirements may result in sanctions. Failure to comply with the terms of supervision may result in the revocation of probation and may result in a custody sentence.

Team Budget

2021-2023 CJC Grant funded \$655,365

OJD: 1 FTE Program Coordinator and 1 FTE Case Manager

Cascadia Behavioral Health: 2 FTE clinicians and .23 FTE prescriber

Funded by Partner Budgets

MCDA: .3 FTE Deputy District Attorney

DCJ: .3 FTE MHU Supervisor, 2 FTE Probation Officers

Multnomah Public Defenders: .3 FTE Defense Attorney

OJD: .4 FTE Judge, .3 FTE Judicial Assistant, .3 FTE Courtroom Clerk

Multnomah County Behavioral Health Division: .3 FTE Program Supervisor, 2.5 FTE Clinical Services Specialist, 1FTE Clinician

Mental Health & Addictions Association of Oregon: Peers: .3 FTE Program Supervisor, 2 FTE Peer Mentors