

YOLO COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

PROGRAM SUMMARY

12-month pilot:

- Up to 10
- Seriously mentally ill
- From existing resources

Team:

- Court
- DA
- PD
- Conflict Defender
- ADMH
- Probation
- Treatment provider or defense attorney with client in program by team agreement

Goals:

- Increase treatment engagement
- Reduce calls for law enforcement service
- Reduce arrests
- Reduce jail bed days
- Reduce hospital bed days

Target Population:

- Yolo resident
- US citizen
- Felony or misdemeanor conviction
- Probation, County Prison, PRCS

- Primary factor in criminality is schizophrenia, psychotic disorder, bipolar disorder, or other psychiatric illness with long-term disability
- Able and willing to give consent to participate in services and activities
- Desire to be in MHC because of a desire for help and support, not because of an expectation of leniency
- Deemed suitable by unanimous agreement

Timing:

- Pre- and post-sentence defendants may be assessed
- Acceptance is after sentencing in the home court
- MHC judge may modify sentence, with team input

Treatment services:

- Psychiatric services
- Psychotherapy services
- Transitional aged youth, adult, or older adult full service partnerships
- Connection to resources, e.g., financial, housing, medical, vocational
- Benefits advocacy
- Residential treatment, board and care, supported independent living
- Residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment

Program requirements:

- Minimum 18 months
- Four phases
 - Orientation and treatment plan development
 - Early recovery
 - Active recovery
 - Sustaining recovery
- Graduation by unanimous agreement
- Goal is a smooth transition from MHC supervision to regular MH services

Rewards and sanctions:

- Rewards favored over sanctions
- Possible rewards
 - Recognition from court
 - Phase advancement
 - Removal of negative reinforcements
 - Certificates or gift cards
 - Reduction of criminal charges and/or fines
 - Early termination of probation
- Possible Sanctions
 - Reprimand
 - Modified treatment plan
 - Demotion to earlier phase
 - Loss of privileges
 - Increase in treatment or self-help groups
 - Increased court appearances
 - Extended probation
 - Jail
 - Termination from MHC