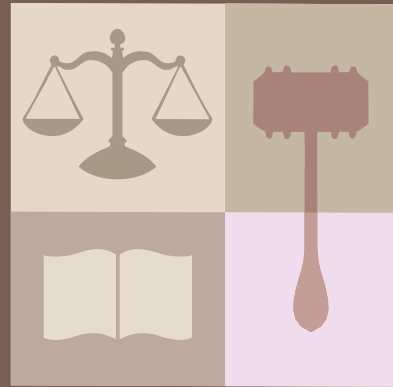


LOUISVILLE METRO'S MENTAL HEALTH COURTS



Jim Burch Seven Counties Services
2015

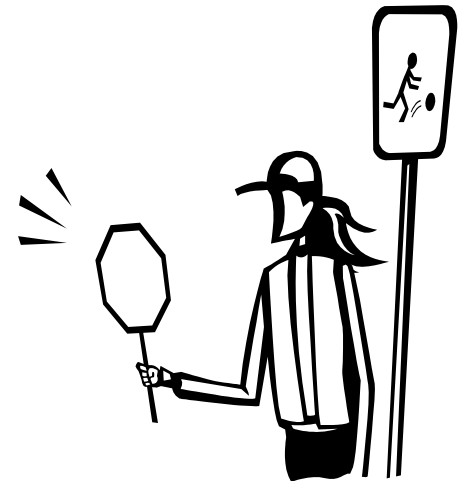
“Holding Hope and Improving Lives”

GOAL OF MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

1. Reduce recidivism (time in jail or hospital)
2. Promote and spark mental health recovery
3. Provide judicial oversight to solve systems or “silo” issues
4. Offer “therapeutic jurisprudence” as a treatment modality for persons with serious mental illness

Legal Issues Involving Forensic Clients

- Competency Issues
- Adversarial Nature of Legal System
- Violent/Non-Violent Charges
- Chronic Offender (Revolving Door)
- Public Safety
- Ways to tailor programs to meet the person's needs rather than charges



Treatment/Services offered to Program Participants

- Case Management and Individual therapy
- Psychiatric Services
- Medication
- Group Therapy (including Illness Management and Recovery and Hands Off)
- Mental Health assessment incorporating Trauma informed principles and review of criminogenic needs.
- Substance Abuse referrals and Dual Disorders Treatment (IDDT and Double Trouble in Recovery)
- Access to community resources such as housing, entitlements, food stamps, etc

CRITERIA FOR PROGRAM (S)

- Diagnosis of Severe Mental Illness (must be verified)
- Approval of Court (review of criminal history)
- Client amenable to treatment
- Assessment indicates the client could benefit from the program

Definition of SMI

□ SMI—Severe Mental Illness:

A mental disorder has been characterized as a clinically significant behavioral or psychological pattern that occurs in an individual and is usually associated with distress, disability or increased risk of suffering. There is often a criterion that a condition should not be expected to occur as part of a person's usual culture or religion.

The term "serious mental illness" (SMI) is sometimes used to refer to more severe and long-lasting disorder.

The phrase "mental health problems" may be used to refer only to milder or more transient issues.

Differential diagnosis must be used when the person has a history of substance abuse since long term substance use often causes symptoms that appear to be mental illness.

□ 3 D's—Disability, Duration and Diagnosis

Disability—related to the level of impairment, how it affects a person ability to perform their daily activities and provide for themselves

Duration—length of time the problem has persisted

Diagnosis—depends on what the diagnosis is---we primarily work with persons with Thought disorders—Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective, etc., and Mood disorders—Bipolar I and II

Types of Diagnosis

- Schizophrenia
- Schizoaffective Disorder
- Bipolar Disorder
- Major Depression with psychotic features
- Dual Diagnosis with primary Axis I being one of the above listed
- PTSD particularly if past trauma impacts current criminal behavior
- If not a current or former client, diagnosis will need to be verified by a qualified mental health professional

Enhanced Supervision Docket


- The Enhanced Supervision Docket (ESD) was launched in January of 2004
- Created through proceeds from a grant obtained from the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA).
- Began as a pilot project to develop mental health courts and examine the efficacy of judicial supervision for those clients with serious and persistent mental disorders.
- Enhanced judicial supervision occurs monthly or bi-weekly as warranted. The judge and prosecutor at these dockets review treatment compliance and needs. The length of supervision is a minimum of six months but can extend up to two years. Referrals to the program come from the county attorney, public defenders, private defense bar, families or social services. Referral and intervention at the earliest possible point of the criminal justice process are stressed to reduce recidivism, facilitate connection to needed services and reduce the disruption in medication schedule.

- The main focus of this program is the early identification, assessment, diversion, and treatment of offenders with mental health needs. It represents a partnership between the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, Jefferson District Court, and criminal justice agencies. Other stakeholders include key mental health, medical, educational, and social services providers; family members and advocacy groups in the Louisville Metro/Jefferson County community. It is intended to expand the range of resources available to persons with a psychiatric disability who are involved in the criminal justice system due to illness management issues.
- Eligible participants must be diagnosed with a verifiable major mental illness and charged with a non-violent misdemeanor offense. Defendants enter a plea of guilty upon enrollment, which is withdrawn if they successfully complete the program. Participants in the program benefit from intensive case management and monitoring to assure that their mental health and substance abuse needs are met.
- Currently there are approximately 18 persons active in ESD. An expansion docket to address ACT participants (Assertive Community Treatment) begins 7/31/15 funded by the BJA
- To date over 135 persons have been accepted into the program. 70 % successfully complete or graduate from the docket. Those who are unsuccessful continue to receive follow-up by SCS.

Felony Mental Health Court

- Officially began in February 2012 as an “unfunded” pilot to expand mental health court services to circuit court in Jefferson County Kentucky. All stakeholders are donating their time. The project is helmed by the Honorable Judge Susan Gibson and represents a partnership between community mental health (Seven Counties Services), Circuit Court Judges, and the Commonwealth Attorney. Other stakeholders include probation and parole, metro corrections, The Enhanced Supervision Docket in district court, The VA, the Louisville Metro criminal justice commission, and the defense bar.
- Persons with Serious Mental Illness who commit non-violent felonies present a supervision challenge for probation and parole. When these client’s fail at probation they often end up in prison or the local jail and cost significantly more to house and treat than the average prisoner.

- At the end of June 2015, 42 clients were participating in the docket. It was originally anticipated that the pilot would have five active participants. The programs popularity speaks to the need for enhanced supervision for this population. Ongoing referrals are vetted by the Commonwealth Attorney and go on a “waiting list” and are re-referred to the program as space is made available. The program has seven graduates.
- Program referrals are funneled thru Judge Gibson’s office and assessed for appropriateness by the Commonwealth Attorney and the Seven Counties Services court liaison. Potential candidates are then assessed by Seven Counties Criminal Justice staff utilizing a GAINS need assessment, mental health evaluation, and LS-CMI to determine supervision needs.

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- All participants have received assistance in obtaining medications and services. Participants receive assistance in applying for disability and re-starting benefits upon release from jail. The initial pilot has been able to accommodate additional participants due to staff's success in helping clients get benefits and bolster supports.
 - Eligibility for the Affordable Care Act account for the ability to accommodate additional referrals.

Challenges with the FMHC

- Lack of “positive” rewards for successful completion
- Varying commitment to mental health from probation and parole
- Popularity of the program with the circuit court bench
- Resources for dual disorders

How do we promote cross system collaboration?

- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Inclusiveness
- Definition of common goals

SUCCESSES/ROADBLOCKS

- 200 participants a year
- 33,021 jail days avoided
- Estimated cost savings of \$2,146,365
- 18.5 recidivism for all program participants
- 82% successfully completed
- Housing (1st, 2nd, and 3rd).
- Stigma for court involved participants

Questions? / Answers?

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To Obtain additional information:

Contact Jim Burch, Division Director Criminal Justice Programs—502-819-5473 (cell)
or 589-8926 Jburch@sevencounties.org

OR

Referrals to the program can also be made from the county attorney, commonwealth attorney, public defenders, private defense bar, families or social services.