

Mental Health Pretrial Diversion (MHPTD)

MHPTD is a 12 month pretrial diversion program. Referrals are accepted from various sources to include, County Courts, District Attorney's Office, Defense Attorneys, Public Defenders and Pretrial Services.

The Attorney submits an application. The individual is scheduled for a screening with a Court Case Manager to explain program requirements, expectations and to complete a screening packet.

If eligible, the individual is connected to mental health treatment. Upon verification of the diagnosis, the case is forwarded to the District Attorneys Office for approval to participate in the MHPTD. If the individual is approved, the case will be transferred to county court #12 and placed on the MHPTD docket to sign the participant agreement.

MHPTD is a five-phase treatment program. The individual will attend ongoing bond review hearings with the Judge and court team to monitor treatment compliance. MHPTD docket is held every Thursday morning in county court #12.

A participant advances the phases as the goals for each phase are completed. Participants who have completed treatment goals and court requirements are eligible to have their case dismissed and to graduate from the MHPTD.

**Promoting
Public Safety**

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Mental Health Awareness

Information & referrals given for community based non-profit providers:

Mental Health Assessment
Counseling
Psychiatric Services
Case Management
Medication Management
Rehabilitation Services
Housing Assistance
Education / Employment Services
Legal Representation

The Mental Health Court collaborates with the following Bexar County offices and community partners:

County Court of Law #12
Mental Health Public Defenders
District Attorney's Office
Adult Probation Department
Adult Detention Center
Bexar County Pre-Trial Services
Center For Health Care Services
Crystal Counseling
Recovery Healthcare
Adult Outpatient Services
Mentally Ill Offenders Facility
Therapeutic Justice Foundation

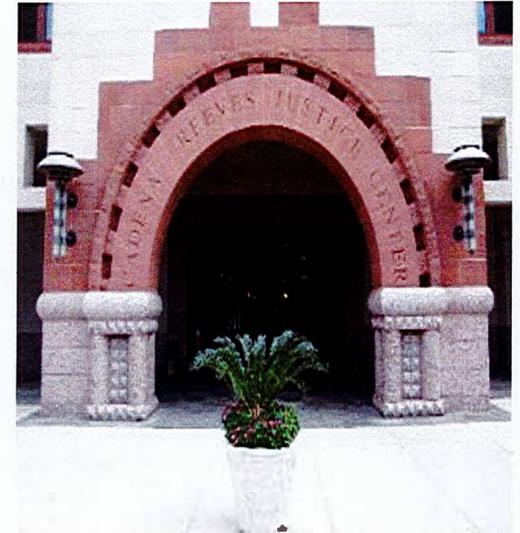
For Additional Information Contact:

MHC Manager
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BEXAR COUNTY Mental Health Court



Judge Yolanda Huff

County Court of Law #12

**#Eliminating the stigma
breaking the silence**

What is the Mental Health Court?

The Mental Health Court (MHC) is a non-adversarial specialty court, specialized in working with individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness and/or a co-occurring disorder.

In collaboration with the Public Defenders Office, County Courts, Pretrial Services, District Attorney's Office and Treatment Providers, the court staff identify individuals to offer access to mental health treatment and community resources, as an alternative to incarceration. The individual receives medication management, intensive case management services and supervision by the court and adult probation.

The MHC is a voluntary 12 month program. There is ongoing collaboration among the Judge and court team members to monitor and support participants mental stability, sobriety and successful completion of probation conditions.

Mission:

The mission of the MHC Program is to advocate for individuals with mental illness and to provide access to mental health treatment, community resources, and support to reduce their involvement in the criminal justice system. With advocacy and support, the MHC will help a person improve mental health stability, self-sufficiency, and strive to reach their full potential and to live a law abiding life. The MHC provides protection of the community by providing a continuum of care that holds individuals accountable and establishes long term recovery.

Program Overview:

MHC referrals are accepted from Justice Intake and Assessment Annex, Jail, Probation, County Courts, District Attorney's Office, Defense Attorneys, treatment providers, or the community.

With the attorney's permission, the individual is scheduled for a screening with a Court Case Manager to explain program requirements, expectations and to complete a screening packet.

If the individual agrees to participate in the program, the Court Case Manager will coordinate an intake for mental health treatment. Upon verification of diagnosis, the case is staffed with the court team for admission into the MHC. If the individual is accepted, the case will be transferred to county court #12 and placed on the MHC docket to sign the participant agreement.

The MHC is a five-phase treatment program. The individual will attend ongoing court review hearings with the Judge and the court team. MHC is held every Monday afternoon in county court #12.

A participant advances the phases as goals for each phase are completed. Participants who have completed treatment goals and court requirements are eligible to graduate from the MHC.

Requirements:

- ◇ \$250 Program Fee
- ◇ Mental Health Treatment
- ◇ Substance Abuse Treatment, if indicated
- ◇ Drug Testing
- ◇ Moral Reconciliation Therapy
- ◇ Prosocial Activities
- ◇ Mentor Program
- ◇ Alumni Association
- ◇ Graduation Ceremony

Criteria:

- ◇ Bexar County resident
- ◇ 17 years or older
- ◇ Active misdemeanor case, pre or post adjudication
- ◇ Have a mental health diagnosis, to include major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or anxiety disorder
- ◇ High risk, high needs
- ◇ Must plea guilty or "no contest" with 12 months probation

Goals:

- ◇ Identify mentally ill individuals at all intercept points of the criminal justice system.
- ◇ Improve individuals' access to mental health and substance abuse treatment services and other community resources.
- ◇ Improve collaboration between the criminal justice system and mental health providers to better serve individuals with mental illness.
- ◇ Increase treatment compliance of the MHC participants through intensive case management and community supervision.
- ◇ Reduce recidivism of participants.