



What is Mental Health Court?

Mental Health Court (MHC) is an innovative program that provides mentally ill offenders with an opportunity to stabilize, engage in treatment and avail themselves other social services. Participation in the program is a **voluntary** option to a traditional prosecution of criminal cases. Time spent in MHC may not exceed the greater of the maximum period of probation for the crime or violation of maximum sentence for the crime or violation. Participants, as a result of their stability, tend to re-offend less and stay out of jail. By sharing their accomplishments with the court and the other MHC participants, every participant receives encouragement and increased support in the community from the entire court team.

The MHC team:

Judge, Public Defender, District Attorney, Court Monitor, Probation Officer, treatment providers and Court Coordinator.

The Case Manager's role:

Each participant is assigned a case manager that will meet with the participant to put together a plan of action. This can could include: mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, obtaining benefits and housing. The monitor works with the participant in a supportive manner with the intention of establishing new contacts and community supports, identifying resources and services that promote mental health/sobriety and stability in the community or solidifying connections already made in the community. The case manager will have regular contact with community supports in order to report back to the court.

Working with community partners:

The case manager is responsible for regularly connecting with the participant's community supports to assure the participant is taking part in assigned treatment, maintaining housing or completing their community service. Depending on what is required by the Judge, or what phase the participant is in, the court monitor may make weekly or biweekly contact with the community supports involved with the participant. This contact may be in person or over the phone. Release of Information forms will be signed so information sharing can be easily facilitated. We encourage our community partners to initiate communication with us when a concern or question arises about your client or the system in general.

Expectations of participants in MHC:

- Follow the treatment plan/ plan of action set up with the participant by the court team
- Follow the instructions of the judge
- Follow all laws
- Treat others with respect
- Complete honesty and truthfulness

Participants in MHC are supervised by a formal probation officer or by the Judge (bench probation).

When and where Mental Health Court is held:

Every Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in courtroom 15D ~ Judge Nan Waller's courtroom
Multnomah County Circuit Court
1200 SW First Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Contacting the MHC team:

Referrals go directly to: Mental Health Court Coordinator Kristina Brightman

Email: Kristina.D.Brightman@ojd.state.or.us

Office Phone: (971) 718-7212

Manager: Bill Osborne, Interim Diversion Courts Manager; (503) 988-8282 or (503) 807-4586

Case Manager/Intake Coordinator. Jami Thanos; (503) 313-0745

Case Manager. Amber Morales; (971) 276-2417

Case Manager. Mandy Arends; (971) 420-7752

Case Manager. Chris Kellogg; (503) 956-3021

Case Manager. Trevor Backer; (971) 280-0921

Case Manager. John Karp-Evans; (971) 678-7778