

Mental Health Court is a program that enables qualified individuals to be treated in a court-monitored, community-based mental health program instead of incarceration

POSITIVE RESULTS

Program Completion: More than 75% of participants remained enrolled or successfully completed the program.

Recidivism: Mental Health Courts have been shown to reduce the likelihood of re-arrest.

Employment: Participants are getting jobs with employment rates at twice the national average for adults with severe mental illness.

Housing: Participants are securing and maintaining permanent and stable housing.

Quality of Life: Participants report a substantial improvement in satisfaction with their lives and a significant decrease in symptom distress.

**SUPPORTED BY FUNDING
THROUGH THE HAMILTON
COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND
RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD**

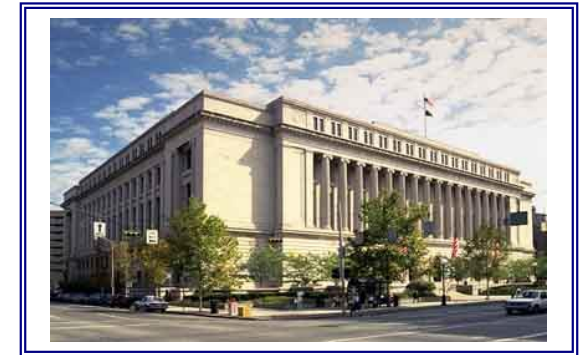
HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL MENTAL HEALTH COURT

*'A Specialized Docket of
The Supreme Court of Ohio'*

**SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE
MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS**

PRESIDING JUDGES:

The Honorable Lisa C. Allen
The Honorable Curtis E. Kissinger



INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

To make a referral or for more information contact:

Patricia Beecher, LSW
Court Monitor
513-946-5211

*NATIONALLY, 64% OF LOCAL JAIL INMATES WERE FOUND TO HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM.

*Bureau of Justice Statistics, September 2006

Hamilton County Mental Health Court was established in March 2003 to better serve individuals who have been arrested and have a mental illness. This collaboration between the mental health and criminal justice systems has led to lower rates of re-arrest, higher rates of employment, and greater stability for mentally ill defendants.

Prior to the Hamilton County Mental Health Court, mentally ill defendants frequently experienced a complex criminal justice system that was not designed to respond to their mental health needs. As a result, mentally ill offenders often spent significant time in jail that could have been better spent in community treatment. When released from jail, they often were not adequately connected to community mental health services and were re-arrested—the revolving door syndrome.

Mental Health Court interrupts this cycle by linking them with the necessary services while in jail and then coordinates with community providers for their care upon release from jail.

Hamilton County Municipal Mental Health Court 2004 – 2013 Statistical Data: Since 2004, of those participants who successfully completed the Mental Health Court program, 92% had no new convictions in the first year and 77% had no new convictions from 2004 – 2013.



“If I would have just gone to jail and gotten out, I would have been stuck in the same situation”, says one participant who was successfully linked to services and remains

stable and crime free two years after completing the program.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Individuals who are charged with a misdemeanor and have no significant history of violent offenses.
- Individuals who resided in Hamilton County prior to their arrest.
- Individuals who have a diagnosis of Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Bipolar Disorder or Major Depressive Disorder recurrent and are competent to stand trial.
- Individuals who could benefit from case management.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The most common charges for our participants are theft, resisting arrest, criminal damaging, and trespassing. Many are homeless and unemployed upon entering Mental Health Court.

PROGRAM TEAM MEMBERS

Judge: Chairs the treatment team meetings and conducts the status review hearings. Provides continuous and close oversight of all cases.

Prosecutor: Reviews all referrals for legal eligibility and monitors the progress of participants' throughout all phases of the program

Defense Attorney: Provides legal counsel to participants throughout all phases of the program.

Court Clinic Legal Examiners: Provides psychological evaluations for the Court.

Court Monitor: Identifies and conducts the initial clinical and legal eligibility assessments.

Probation Officer: Probation officer who serves as a part of the criminal court system and treatment team.

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services: Provide intensive mental health case management services to participants through the CJ- ACT Model.

Crossroads (ARC) Program: An intensive inpatient and outpatient treatment program for participants with Co-occurring disorders.

Talbert House Day Reporting Program: Provides groups to educate participants on life skills needs, including corrective thinking, substance use and job readiness.

