

MENTAL HEALTH COURT 101

Rebekah Bohannon, LPC-MHSP

Director Hamilton County Mental Health Court

HAMILTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

- Purpose:
 - Serves a diverse group of justice involved mental health consumers and their families with a goal in decreasing recidivism and improving public safety for those living in Hamilton County, Tennessee
- Vision:
 - Works with consumers at *multiple intercept points within the criminal justice system*: Pre-arrest, On bond, In custody and on probation.
- Mission:
 - A department dedicated to justice-involved mental health consumers in Hamilton County, Tennessee, linking them to diagnostic help, accountability, treatment and necessary supports while in custody and upon reentry to our community.

GETTING STARTED

MENTAL HEALTH COURT 101



NEED



STAKEHOLDERS



PLAN TO
ACTION

COMMUNITY NEED

- - How many defendants are severely and persistently mentally ill (SPI)
- -What service providers are in your district
- -What are the needs for those defendants
- -What is the cost benefit for your district, county and jail
- -How will the mental health court meet some of these needs

STAKEHOLDERS

Identify
Connect
Engage
Organize



PLAN TO ACTION

- Determine funding source
- Solidify any county or government support
- Create staffing structure
 - Regular scheduled status hearings
 - Judge-Defendant interaction and intense dialogue
 - A participant undergoes intensive regimen of treatment, case management and supervision
 - Ancillary wraparound services provided such as A&D treatment, trauma and family therapy, job skills training, help with benefits and housing, other life-skill enhancement services
- Connect and observe established mental health courts
- Create handbook and policy and procedure manual

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA 101

HOW DO YOU GET IN!

- Tennessee Risk Assessment (TNRAS) – must be high risk/high need
 - State standard to determine eligibility
- Modified Mini Screen
 - Indicates likely presence of a psychiatric disorder
- CAGE- AID screener
 - Indicates likely presence of substance use disorder
- **The totality of these scores give a comprehensive picture of the defendant**

DIAGNOSIS 101

1 in 15 US Adults experienced both a mental illness and substance use disorder.

12+ million had serious thoughts of suicide

17% of youth (age 6-17) experience a mental health disorder

The average delay between symptom onset and treatment is
11 YEARS

21% of people experiencing homelessness also have a serious mental illness

37% of people incarcerated in state and federal prison have a diagnosed mental condition

Depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy **\$1 trillion** each year in lost productivity

About 3 in 5 people with a history of mental illness do not receive MH treatment while incarcerated.

About 2 million times each year, people with serious mental illness are booked into jails.

2020 DATA
NAMI

COMMON DIAGNOSES

Schizoaffective

Schizophrenia

Bipolar type I and II

Combat related PTSD

Major Depressive Disorder with psychosis

Generalized anxiety disorder with psychosis



TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Navigating mental health treatment for SPI defendant is confusing and difficult
- The court team can use its experience and expertise to help the defendant find an optimal result
- Multiple stays in treatment may be necessary
- Income or lack thereof is a barrier
- Must address all areas of defendants life for ideal outcomes

THANK YOU

Beka Bohannon Contact Information:

Email: bekab@hamiltontn.gov

Phone: 423-209-6193