



Criminal Justice
Resource Center



Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Team

The Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program staff will work closely with participants to coordinate, monitor and provide specialized treatment. Our team includes the following:

- Durham County District Court Judge
- Durham County District Attorneys
- Durham County Public Defenders
- Criminal Justice Resource Center Mental Health Court Case Manager Assistant
- Criminal Justice Resource Center Mental Health Court Coordinator
- Mental Health Providers

For more information about the Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program, please contact:

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Mental Health Court Diversion Program is designed to reduce the recidivism of individuals with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness or Serious Mental Illness on medication by offering treatment and the chance to have charges dismissed as oppose to going through more traditional court procedures.

Durham County
Mental Health Court
Diversion Program

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326 East Main Street
Durham, NC 27701*

What is the Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program?

The Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program is designed to address the cycling in and out of the criminal justice system of individuals with a primary diagnosis of a Severe and Persistent Mental Illness or a Serious Mental Illness, such as Schizophrenia or Psychotic Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Anxiety Disorder and/or Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

The Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program offers:

- A specialized court docket, which employs a problem-solving approach to court processing in lieu of more traditional court procedures.
- Supervised, Person Centered Treatment Plans for each defendant participating in the court, with an interdisciplinary team design implemented.
- Regular status hearings occur at which Person Centered Treatment Plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness.
- Incentives are offered to reward adherence to court conditions. Participation is jeopardized when there is not adherence to the conditions.

The Mental Health Court Diversion Program staff will provide timely and effective services to improve mental health outcomes and reduce the rate of recidivism.

Admission Criteria:

- Must be 18 years or older
- Have an identifiable Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) or Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and/or with a Co-Occurring Diagnosis of Substance Use
- Mental Disorder is the Precipitating Factor
- Able to Understand the Terms/Conditions of the Program and Willing to Comply
- Durham County Resident
- **Exclusion-DWI**

Program Expectations:

- Enter the Program **Voluntarily**
- Attend Regular Court Appearances
- Participate in Mental Health Treatment/Take Medications as Prescribed
- Participate in the Development of an Person Centered Treatment Plan
- Demonstrate Progress Toward Goals
- Refrain from Engaging in Illegal Activity
- Meet Conditions of Probation (when applicable)
- Must Not Consume Alcohol or Non-Prescribed Controlled Substances
- Must Submit to Random Drug Screenings

Incentives of the Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program

- Reduced costs to the community resulting from court and jail overcrowding
- Reduced criminal activity within the community
- Increased contribution to the community from program participants
- Ongoing support in achieving goals
- Increases stability
- Avoid recidivism
- Achieve a sense of dignity and self-worth
- Empowerment to strive for future



Goal of the Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program

The Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program goal is to have individuals with a primary diagnosis of a Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) or Serious Mental Illness (SMI) connected with treatment services and resources such as:

- Assessments
- Psychiatric Evaluations
- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Individual and Group Therapy
- Evidenced Based Mental Health and Substance Use Education and Treatment
- Assistance with Basic Needs (Housing, Case Management, Supported Employment)