

What Happens Once a Referral Is Made

If the referral is made by the attorney, the Mental Health Court Diversion Team will screen the case to decide if the case is legally and clinically eligible. If the case is viewed as appropriate the attorney will be contacted. With the advice of the assigned attorney, the individual will decide if he/she wants to participate in the program.

If the referral is made by the individual, family member or community member, with a signed release of information, the Mental Health Court Coordinator will contact the assigned attorney. With the advice of the assigned attorney, the individual will decide if he/she wants the referral to be submitted. If submitted, the case will be screened to decide if the case is legally and clinically eligible. If the case is viewed as eligible the individual attorney will be contacted.



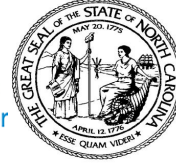
Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Team

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
- Private Attorney
- Criminal Justice Resource Center Mental Health Court Case Manager Assistant
- Criminal Justice Resource Center Mental Health Court Coordinator



Criminal Justice
Resource Center



Durham County District 14

Purpose

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 opposed to going through more traditional court procedures.

Who Can Make a Referral

Referrals are accepted from self referrals, families, Judges, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, Private Attorneys, Police, Detention Staff or any community member.

How are Referrals Made

Referral forms or more information can be obtained by information below:

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

C. Renee Shaw, LCMHC/LCAS
Mental Health Court Coordinator
crshaw@dconc.gov

Phone (919) 560-0556/Fax (919) 560-0504
326 E. Main St, Durham, NC 27701



Durham County
Mental Health Court
Diversion Program

Criminal Justice Resource Center
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 only
- **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

Benefits

To the Community:

- 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

To the Participant:

- Ongoing support in achieving goals
- Increases stability
- Avoid recidivism
- Achieve a sense of dignity and self-worth
- Empowerment to strive for future goal attainment



Goal

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)



Court Process

All court hearings are **confidential**. Each case is heard individually. During the initial hearing the participant will be introduced to everyone on the team and asked if he/she understands the purpose and rules of the program. Only the participant, Mental Health Court Diversion Program Team and court staff are in the courtroom during the hearing.