

Meet the Mental Health Court Diversion Program Team and Learn their Roles



Judge: Honorable Doretta Walker

The judge presides over the court proceedings and monitors appropriate application of disciplines, consequences and incentives while maintaining the integrity of the court. The judge regularly reviews case status reports detailing each participant's compliance with the treatment recommendations, drug test results, compliance with the treatment provider, and progress towards abstinence and law-abiding behavior. Because there is only one consistent judge that presides over court appearances, individuals develop a strong rapport with the judge. The judge speaks directly to them, asking about their progress, encourages them to try harder, and applauds their accomplishments, while also reminding them of the obligation to remain alcohol and drug-free. The judge also asks about specific issues or difficulties, regarding treatment, attempts to gain employment, housing, and entitlements. The judge imposes consequences for ongoing alcohol or drug use or other behavior that is inappropriate or prevents progress in the program.



Assistant District Attorney: Michael Wilcox, Esquire

The prosecutor will review all potential participants for eligibility, actively participate in staffing of cases, and interact with the staffing team to address compliance, application of consequences and incentives and provide an updated court date should the individual not comply with the court recommendation. The prosecutor reviews referrals to determine which are appropriate and recommends the incarceration alternative should the defendant fail to comply with the treatment recommendations.



Assistant Public Defender: Delaney Garrett, Esquire

The public defender will actively participate as defense counsel by advocating for the participant during staffing and court proceedings in a non-adversarial manner. The defense attorney priority is to ensure the individual's constitutional rights. They are interested in promoting not only the legal rights but also the health and well-being of the individual.



Mental Health Court Coordinator- C. Renee Shaw LCMHC/LCAS

The coordinator is responsible for overseeing the certified peer support specialist, clinical recommendations, court budget and resources, maintaining individual files on participants, compiling statistical data and guiding or participating in program evaluation, preparation and management of mental health court dockets, and soliciting community support through education and other linkages in an effort to enhance services available to the participant. Other miscellaneous responsibilities can include such things as organizing and/or chairing local multidisciplinary teams, and in situations where time and skills allow, may also provide some case management services. The coordinator (such as participation in staffing, make treatment recommendations to the court, and as appropriate, will identify and/or provide a continuum of care for participants while advocating on behalf of the client and for the integrity of the court.



Case Manager Assistant-Nancy Lloyd CPSS

The case manager is responsible for providing community linkages and referrals to appropriate agencies and monitoring the day-to-day activities and home environment of the participant. Their

goal is to empower the individual to achieve their hopes, dreams, and goal. The Certified Peer Support Specialist is an individual who has recovered from their own mental illness and is able to assist others in their journey towards recovery.



Case Manager Assistant-Paul Hellwig

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Community Mental Health Providers

Mental Health Court staff refer individuals to specific programs based on their behavioral and/or medical needs. Staff will attempt to refer individuals to a provider of their choice located near their community. Community Mental Health/Substance Use providers could include individual/group outpatient therapy, intensive outpatient treatment, Office Based Opioid Treatment Programs (OBOT) Opioid Treatment Program (OTP), short-term (30-day) or long-term residential treatment, transitional housing, sober living housing, Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACTT), Community Support Team (CST) crisis care and inpatient care.

Court Support Staff

Court support staff includes courtroom clerk and court security. The Courtroom Clerk prepare files for status hearings, process orders of the court and log orders of the court. A Durham County Deputy provides court security. They are the liaison between the Durham County Detention Center and the court.