

Mental Health Court—Logic Model

Kate Lawson, July 2004

Environment

Theory & Assumptions

Intervention

Outcomes

Situation

- Seriously mentally ill (SMI) defendants spend more time in and have greater difficulty navigating the criminal justice system (CJS)
- Persons with SMI are likely to repeat criminal behavior (when illness goes untreated)
- The traditional criminal justice process is typically not effective for persons with SMI
- **There is a high incidence of mental illness among prisoners/detainees**

Context

- Addressing criminal behavior within mental health issues is becoming a priority within Pima County
- Tucson's City Court has created a specialty diversion court
 - Local behavioral health providers (BHP) have appointed jail liaisons
 - Adult Probation has implemented a SMI caseload with specialized officers

Target Population

Defendants within the CJS with a determination of SMI.

Inclusion Criteria

- Defendants in the Pima County Superior Court (felony indictment)
- Diagnosed as SMI and currently receiving or will receive services from a CPSA Provider

Exclusion Criteria

- Felony charges including murder, sexual assault, or child molestation

Theory

- A specialized MHC helps reduce the high amount of time and resources the defendants with SMI consume in the normal CJS
- Defendants are less likely to recidivate/ revoke when appearing more frequently before a judge
- A team approach (units working in collaboration) will create an efficient and effective process
- Court ordered treatment for defendants with MI increases compliance

Intent

To create a more efficient and effective process for defendants with SMI in the CJS, while protecting public safety and preserving accountability.

Assumptions

- Defendants with SMI will spend less time in jail
- Fewer petitions to revoke will be filed for probationers with SMI
- Less recidivism
- Court will hold defendants accountable, while considering the mental illness
- The MHC will be a more cost and time efficient pre-sentencing process
- Ensures defendants with SMI receive services

Collaboration

- The Superior Court, Adult Probation, Pre-Trial Services, BHPs CPSA, Pima County Jail, Defense and Prosecution designate specific person(s) to serve with the MHC
- Cross-training between units
- Advisory committee is established to monitor problems and progress

Identification & Case Flow

- Defendant with SMI is identified by CPSA at booking in county jail
- CPSA notifies the BHP and defense, and assists in the coordination of services for defendant
- Defendant follows normal flow of initial arraignment, grand jury, and indictment
- Defense requests transfer to MHC after grand jury indictment
- A change of plea or trial date is set during the case management conference; the MHC team convenes with judge to discuss case
- Post-plea or trial a sentence is set for the defendant
- Cases may also be transferred to Div. 20 for sentencing

Post-Sentence

- Two compliance hearings occur at ~30 and ~75 days out from sentencing
- MHC team convenes with judge to discuss defendant's fulfillment of sentencing requirements and treatment plan
- Further compliance hearings as required

Process:

- Time detained in jail will be less
- Lower cost to system (through less jail time and trial costs)
- Defendants with SMI spend less pre-sentencing time in court
- Communication, collaboration, and accountability among MHC team
- ****Monitor sentencing of MHC defendants**

Outcomes:

- Defendants are less likely to recidivate
- Fewer revocations or petitions to revoke are filed
- Less new offenses while on probation
- Participants maintain treatment and medication
- Overall decrease in risk to public safety