

What is Mental Health Court?

Mental health court is an alternative to the status quo, working in partnership with leaders in the mental health system and local and state policy-makers. We have designed a problem-solving mental health court that departs from the traditional model used in most criminal proceedings. Instead, as a team, under the judge's guidance, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and mental health service providers connect eligible defendants with community-based mental health treatment and, in lieu of incarceration, assign them to community-based supervision.

Who We Are

Mission Statement

The mission of the Galveston County Mental Health Court is to improve the quality of life for people with mental illness charged with crimes and make more effective use of the community's limited criminal justice and mental health resources.

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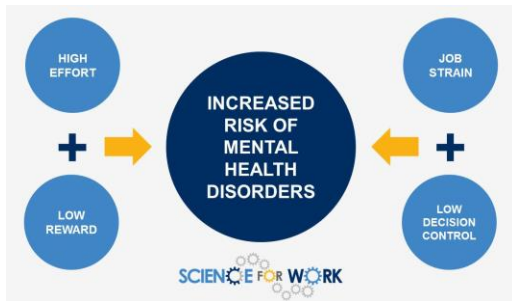


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Galveston County

Mental Health Court



Model and Structure

Defendants accepted into the GCMHC are placed on deferred adjudication, regular community supervision (probation) or pretrial intervention (PTIP) supervision. The GCMHC program length, which is determined by the Participant's progress, is at least 18 months for felonies and 12 months for misdemeanors. Some Participant's may require a longer and more structured experience to help them fully benefit from the program and services.

However, the GCMHC program length will never be more than the period of community supervision or deferred adjudication imposed. Participants placed on PTIP will be supervised by the GCMHC community supervision officer for a minimum period of 12 months for misdemeanors and 18 months for felonies to a maximum of 24 months for both felonies and misdemeanors.

Goals:

The primary goals of the Felony Mental Health Court are to:

1. Decrease recidivism rate of participants in the GCMHC.
2. Increase access to and continued utilization of community resources (especially mental health treatment) for GCMGC participants.
3. Establish clear lines of communications and enhance collaboration between criminal justice agencies and community service providers serving GCMHC participants.
4. Show improvement in the quality of life for participants in the GCMHC.



Phases:

The GCMHC Program is comprised of 4 distinctive phases. The length of each phase depends upon the participant's progress as well as their individual strengths and needs. Movement through the phases is completely individual and will not be based solely upon the length of time a participant has participated in a phase. The four phases are as follows:

Phase 1: Engagement

Phase 2: Active Treatment

Phase 3: Stabilization

Phase 4: Reintegration