

GLENN CLOSE

“What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, and more unashamed conversation.”

# Primary Goals

- ▶ Identify individuals with serious mental health and co-occurring disorders who are involved with the criminal justice system and will benefit from additional support and monitoring
- ▶ Identify each individual's service needs and link individuals to community-based services as an alternative to incarceration.
- ▶ Provide ongoing contact with providers to verify and encourage participants to uphold meaningful involvement in mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- ▶ Continued coordination of services among treatment providers, courts, attorneys, probation officers and houses of correction to ensure participants are accessing needed services within the community to sustain public safety.

# Criteria for Mental Health Participants

## MENTAL HEALTH CRITERIA:

- Potential participants must have a current mental health diagnosis or must be screened to determine appropriateness for participation in CMHS
- Potential participants must be capable and willing to allow communication between CMHS staff and treatment providers to verify diagnosis and support ongoing contact for continuity of care for the duration of involvement with CMHS

## LEGAL CRITERIA:

- Potential participants must be at least 18 years of age and must be competent and capable of voluntarily agreeing to the terms of CMHS disposition plans.
- Charges or probation must be out of the Concord District Court. Transfers are considered
- Criminal charges may qualify for a pre-trial or post adjudication disposition to CMHS

## EXCLUSIONS:

- Any individual deemed incompetent is not a candidate for mental health court
- Not wanting to engage in the mental health court

# Referral Process

1. Referral form completed by Defense Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney, Probation Officer, treatment provider, police or other interested party.
2. Referral packet returned to Specialty Court Coordinator. All packets must include police report and record. (To expedite the process, include signed CMHS Release of Information forms)
3. Whenever possible, screening is scheduled before client's next court date to determine clinical appropriateness for participation in CMHS.
4. If found appropriate, Judge will order participant into CMHS during sentencing or violation of probation hearing.
5. Participants meet with Clinical Coordinator and Probation Officer regularly to develop and review service plan.
6. Participant appears before CMHS Judge at least twice per month initially.
7. Participant graduates from CMHS after a sustained period of engaging in treatment and demonstrating compliance to service plan and conditions of probation. Duration of involvement in CMHS will be dependent upon a participant's treatment needs and progress.

# How to Make this Specialty Court Successful

2023

## IDENTIFYING THOSE IN NEED WITH YOUR HELP

- Police
- Clinicians
- District Attorney's Office
- Probation Officers
- Defense Attorneys

## REFERRALS

- Referrals can come from any agency

## COMMUNICATION

- Working together between all different agencies will be imperative to the success of the Concord District Court Mental Health Specialty Court

# Summary

The Concord Mental Health Session (CMHS) seeks to improve outcomes for individuals with primary mental health disorders while improving public safety. Using a treatment-focused model, CMHS aims to do this by:

- Promoting mental health and substance abuse recovery and personal responsibility among all participants.
- Harnessing local and community-based resources through inter-agency collaborations.
- Improving participants' access to services within the community via CMHS Clinical Coordinator and using a wraparound service model.
- Working to engage peers, family, community support networks with the participant, clinical coordinator and probation officer to ensure attendance, participation and completion of CMHS and probationary period.
- Reducing incarceration while also maintaining public safety.

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross