

Western Regional Mental Health Court

Serving Churchill, Lyon, and Mineral Counties

Program Overview

Started in 2015, the Western Regional Mental Health Court Program (WRMHC) is designed to provide court supervision, comprehensive mental health treatment, and, if deemed necessary, concurrent substance abuse treatment to participants in the criminal justice system with a diagnosed severe mental illness. Participants meeting the diagnostic criteria for Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Types 1 and 2, and Major Depressive Disorder per DSM-V, as evidenced through a mental health evaluation from a licensed mental health clinician (MD, PhD, LCSW, MFT) engage in mental health treatment and services through a state licensed mental health provider, which may include medication management, service coordination, individual counseling, as well as other supportive services available in the service area. The WRMHC provides judicial oversight and direction for both the court team and participant to ensure all aspects of the program are being addressed and the needs of each participant are being met. In the event that one's needs exceed those available in a given service area, such as supportive housing, the WRMHC may transfer jurisdiction to the 2nd Judicial District Court's Mental Health Court to better serve the participant and provide the support needed to encourage program success.

Budget

For FY16, the Mental Health Court operated on a budget of \$47,250, which covered professional treatment-based services, drug testing supplies, and administrative costs.

Court Team

The Mental Health Court Team consists of the Presiding Judge, Specialty Courts Coordinator, Mental Health Court Case Manager, District Attorney, Public Defender, Parole and Probation, local County Social Services, State Mental Health provider, and contracted substance abuse treatment provider.

Current Caseload

At the end of FY16, the numbers for the Mental Health Court are as follows:

Current number of active participants:	8
Total number of participants served in FY16:	10
Total number of participants transferred to 2 nd JDC:	2
Total number of graduates:	0
Total number of revocations:	0

Second Judicial District Court Mental Health Court

Serving Washoe County

Mission Statement

Mission Statement: The Mental Health Court is a multi-jurisdictional, community-based program that provides court supervision and services to mentally ill offenders through cooperation of state, county, and local non-profit service agencies to promote engagement in treatment, improve quality of life, decrease recidivism, and increase community safety and awareness.

Procedures for Admission into Mental Health Court

Eligibility Criteria: Defendant has a diagnosed severe and persistent mental illness by a licensed mental health professional (MD, PhD, LCSW, MFT) and has tendered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or is found guilty of a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony per NRS 176A.255, NRS176A.260, or NRS176A.400.

Referral: A referral must be completed by the referring source with information related to the defendant's mental health history, crime information, and criminal history. The referral will then be staffed by the entire Mental Health Court team and will be accepted or declined. Staff will then notify the referral source of the decision.

Washoe County Mental Health Court Program Overview

- Mental Health Court program is a one year minimum voluntary program (average client participates for 18 months)
- Weekly to monthly court appearances
- Daily or at a minimum one time weekly face-to-face contact with Specialty Courts Officers
- Engagement in Mental Health Services with Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services for psychiatry and service coordination.
- Engagement in mental health and co-occurring treatment services with NNAMHS or a community provider (dependent on insurance coverage)
- Verification of medication compliance
- Drug and alcohol testing as needed
- Goal is for clients to become sober, stable, and independent prior to graduation

Court Team

The Mental Health Court team consists of the Presiding Senior Judges Peter I. Breen, Archie Blake, and Deborah Schumacher, Specialty Courts Officers, Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Alternate Public Defender, District Attorney, Parole and Probation, and community treatment providers.

Mental Health Court Participants Served

July 1, 2007: 196
July 1, 2008: 186
July 1, 2009: 201
July 1, 2010: 186
July 1, 2011: 171

July 1, 2012: 163
July 1, 2013: 186
July 1, 2014: 167
July 1, 2015: 172

Mental Health Court Graduates

2014: 73
2015: 129
2016: 55 (to date)

Current Caseload

Active Participants: 134
Participants with active bench warrants: 21
Participants receiving Social Security Disability: 31
Participants maintaining part time-full time work: 37
Participants housed using the NNAMHS housing budget: 53

Referral Sources:	
Public Defenders/ Defense Attorneys:	41%
Muni/Justice Courts:	18%
Other Specialty Courts:	18%
Court Services/Jail:	7%
Relative/Self:	6%
District Courts:	5%
P&P/Law Enforcement:	4%
NNAMHS:	1%

Primary Diagnosis Statistics	
Bipolar:	41%
Schizophrenia:	23%
Schizoaffective Disorder	15%
Major Depression:	10%
Other (PTSD, Mood Disorder, Psychosis):	7%
Mental Retardation:	4%

***85% of clients these are diagnosed with co-occurring disorders**

Budget:

The 2nd Judicial District Court was granted \$17,391 for Fiscal Year 2017 out of AB29 Funding. This is to fund drug and alcohol testing, operating expenses, and bus passes.

- \$11,191 dedicated to drug testing
- \$1200 dedicated to operating expenses
- \$5,000 dedicated to transportation costs (bus passes)

The 2nd Judicial District Court was granted \$7,500 for the Northern Nevada Regional Mental Health Court to assist participants that are transferred to Washoe County from rural Nevada (WRMHC).

- \$6,000 dedicated to drug testing costs
- \$1500 dedicated to transportation costs (bus passes)

During Fiscal Year 16, the 2nd Judicial District Court has to backfill the Specialty Court Budgets with \$150,000 of the Court's General Fund.

Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services receives \$891,594 to provide Mental Health Court clients housing, transportation, and support services.

Critical Needs

- Drug testing money. Best practice is to test each participant on a random basis 2x weekly.
 - The cost for 133 participants to test 2x (\$30) weekly for 1 year = \$191,520
 - Current budget for testing \$11,000
- Treatment money for residential substance abuse treatment. Specialty Courts could utilize at least 100 more treatment beds for its participants.
- More treatment bed space for those diagnosed with co-occurring disorders. There are currently no co-occurring residential treatment beds in the State of Nevada.
- Continued money for housing court participants. There is a greater need for group home housing for Mental Health Court participants that are seriously mentally ill. The cost to house a client in a staff-monitored group home averages \$2,000-\$3,000 per month. Currently, MHC serves a client that requires \$12,000 per month.
- Transportation money for bus passes. Current budget allotment is \$5,000. Mental Health Court could utilize double that amount.
- Aftercare housing money (allocated to NNAMHS) to provide resources to clients that have not yet been able or will not be able to gain stable employment or Social Security Disability.

Benefits of Funding

Washoe County spends \$109.00 to house an inmate for 1 day. A client serving a 6 month jail sentence costs Washoe County \$19,620.

The cost to the State of Nevada to house an inmate for 1 day is \$56.34. An inmate that serves a 6 month prison sentence costs the state \$10,141.20.

Mental Health Courts reduce the amount of days a participant spends in jail exponentially and creates a great cost savings to the state and the counties.

Second Judicial District Court Family Mental Health Court

Serving Washoe County

Program Overview

Family Mental Health Court started in 2011. It was developed to provide treatment and judicial oversight to families where mental illness was a significant contributing factor in children being removed from parental custody. In order to be considered for the Family Mental Health Court, Washoe County Department of Social Services must have established jurisdiction over the case and the participant must have a severe mental illness. Family Mental Health Court is a voluntary program and the participant agrees to participate in treatment and the program for 15 months. The Family Mental Health Court focuses on ensuring healthy and safe parenting with the goal of family reunification, in full compliance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 that requires moving children into permanent placements within mandated timeframes.

Mental health treatment for clients participating in the Family Mental Health Court is coordinated through professionals at Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services. Each participant is assigned a service coordinator who ensures an individualized treatment plan is in place to address mental health issues, medication, physical health, substance abuse, and counseling. Other needed services are coordinated and provided through shared collaboration between Washoe County Department of Social Services and Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services assigned staff.

Budget

For FY17, the Family Mental Health Court received no funding. The funding for this court has been borrowed from the budget allotted to Family Drug Court.

Court Team

The Family Mental Health Court team consists of the Presiding Judge Cynthia Lu, Washoe County Social Services, Specialty Courts Officer, Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, District Attorney and Tru Vista mentors.

Caseload

From 2011 to date, the program has served 34 clients and there have been 11 graduates.

Critical Needs

- Funding to allow this court to continue and to grow. The Family Mental Health Court team continually asks to allow more clients to participate in the court program, but there is not enough funding or resources to allow for more clients.
- Funding would specifically be for housing, transportation, and drug testing as it is needed similarly in Mental Health Court.

Benefits of Funding

Social Service cost savings through the re-unification of families.