

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL HEALTH COURT LINKAGE PROGRAM

COURT LIAISON PROGRAM

The Court Liaison Program is a problem-solving collaboration between the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Los Angeles County Superior Court. It is staffed by a team of 14 mental health clinicians who are co-located at 22 courts countywide. This recovery based program serves adults with a mental illness or co-occurring disorder who are involved with the criminal justice system. The objectives of the program are to increase coordination and collaboration between the criminal justice and mental health systems, improve access to mental health services and supports, and enhance continuity of care. The Court Liaison Program further aims to provide ongoing support to families and to educate the court and the community at large regarding the specific needs of these individuals. Participation is voluntary and available to those 18 and above. Funding is provided by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA/Prop 63).

Services include:

- On-site courthouse outreach to defendants
- Individual service needs assessment
- Inform consumers and the Court of appropriate treatment options
- Develop alternative and post-release plans that take into account best fit treatment alternatives and Court stipulations
- Link consumers to treatment programs and expedite mental health referrals
- Advocate for the mental health needs of consumers throughout the criminal proceedings
- Provide support and assistance to defendants and families in navigating the court system

1370.01 PC PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Jail Mental Health Program, the 1370.01 PC Program seeks to expedite stabilization of misdemeanor defendants found incompetent to stand trial under Penal Code 1370.01. The program provides 1370.01 PC defendants direct linkage from the Los Angeles County Mental Health Court/Department 95 to treatment and restoration of competency at either the Misdemeanors Incompetent to Stand Trial (MIST) Program in Jail, Gateways Hospital, or in the community.

COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

The Community Reintegration Program offers mentally ill defendants community-based treatment as an alternative to incarceration. Prior to the disposition of their criminal court case, defendants who desire mental health treatment may be referred by the Court to participate in one of two specialized treatment programs. These specialized programs focus on providing rehabilitation skills and reintegration into the community. A total of 67 beds are available for defendants who reside at these programs from six months to one year. For these community reintegration residential services, DMH contracts with Olive Vista – a locked licensed skilled nursing facility, and Gateways Residential Program – an unlocked IMD stepdown facility.

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS COURT PROGRAM

The Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC) is a specially-designated court program created to rehabilitate criminal defendants experiencing both mental illness and substance disorders. Many of the defendants also experience chronic homelessness. The CODC Program is offered to non-violent criminal defendants with co-occurring mental health and substance addiction disorders who voluntarily agree to participate in an 18 to 30 month comprehensive, court-supervised COD treatment program. Residential and outpatient treatment services are provided by a DMH-contract Full Service Partnership (FSP) provider. The CODC represents a unique partnership between the criminal justice system, the drug treatment community, and the mental health community. Housed in the Criminal Courts Building in Downtown Los Angeles, the CODC began operating as a pilot program in April 2007, and is funded by the County of Los Angeles, Homeless Prevention Initiative, and Mental Health Services Act. Los Angeles County collaborators include DMH, the Superior Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Sheriff's Department, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, and the Chief Executive Office/Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee.

*For more information about the
Mental Health Court Linkage Program*

or to make a referral, please contact us at (626) 403-4370.