



COUNTY OF YOLO

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

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To: Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)

From: Chief Probation Officer Dan Fruchtenicht, Public Defender Tracie Olson, Chief Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Raven

Subject: Review status of Mental Health Diversion program funded by CCP

Background

The District Attorney collaborated with the Public Defender's Office, the Probation Department, the Sheriff's Department, the Court, and CommuniCare Health Centers to establish the Mental Health Diversion program (MH-Div). The program was launched in October 2021 to address an underserved population of those individuals who do not qualify for Mental Health (MHC - <https://yoloda.org/progressive-programs/mental-health-court/>) or Addiction Intervention Court (AIC - <https://yoloda.org/progressive-programs/addiction-intervention-court/>). The MH-Div program is funded by the Yolo County Community Corrections Partnership through Innovation and Treatment dollars.

The overall purpose of the MH-Div is to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism of those individuals who live with mental illness and/or a substance use disorder (SUD), and those behavioral health issues were a significant factor in the commission of their criminal offense. This is accomplished through supporting their participation in community treatment. This treatment approach increases participant's insight into their mental illness by connecting them with community treatment services. The goal is to help people learn to live with mental illness and become successful. MH-Div is a minimum 1-year collaborative court-based treatment and monitoring system for adult offenders with mental illnesses. It is designed to effectively address the increasing number of mentally ill defendants cycling through the courts and jails.

The program serves up to 30 participants who suffer from mental illnesses and are charged with felony or misdemeanor offenses. Treatment plans are flexible and adjusted based on a participant's individual needs and goals. The plan takes into account the participant's baseline functioning, individual capabilities, and holistic needs including physical, mental, and spiritual interests. Participants will be provided services and support allowing them every opportunity to successfully complete all MH-Div/legal requirements, in addition to improving ongoing safety and life stability following participation in MH-Div.

Program participants progress through four phases: (1) Outreach and Engagement, (2) Preparation, (3) Action, (4) Maintenance. The last part of the program is a restorative justice component (when appropriate) where participants recount their crime and the circumstances that led to the crime. The participant acknowledges who was harmed by the crime and how they were harmed. Lastly, the participant is asked what needs to be done to makes things right. The victim in the cases also is given an opportunity to participate in the restorative justice conference. Upon successful completion of the program a ceremony and reception will be held to commemorate participants who have fully met the MH-Div requirements, maintained satisfactory progress, and remained engaged in the treatment plan.

Update

To date, 51 individuals have been referred to MH-Div, nine are currently enrolled, and 22 are pending assessment. For more details on the program, see attached Powerpoint presentation.