

Butler County Behavioral Health Court

Introduction

Butler County Behavioral Health Court (BHC) is a collaboration between the mental health and criminal justice systems. It was started in 2015 to address the growing number of individuals diagnosed with a mental health disorder who are involved in the criminal justice system. The BHC Team includes a Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, Adult Probation Officer, BHC Liaison/Case Manager, Human Services representatives and a Butler County Prison representative.

Mission

The mission of the Butler County BHC is to find appropriate dispositions for individuals with serious mental illness who have criminal charges by balancing the individual's mental health and severity of the offense and utilizing community treatment services to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism.

Eligibility

Below are general eligibility guidelines for acceptance into BHC. The Court Team reserves the right to make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Admission Eligibility:

1. Evidence of a chronic mental health issue (i.e. major depression, schizophrenia, bi-polar, schizoaffective, PTSD) within the past two years.
2. Butler County Residency
3. Charged with a non-violent offense
4. 18 years of age or older

Referral/Application Process:

Defendants referred to program by, but not limited to, Police Officers, District Judges, Attorneys, Probation Officers, Case Workers, Treatment Providers and Judges.

1. Screened by BHC Liaison and Probation for evidence of MH History.
2. Screened by District Attorney
3. If screening is approved by District Attorney then the BHC Liaison completes a BHC Application.
4. BHC Application is forwarded to District Attorney and defendants Defense Counsel
5. Reviewed by Court Team, final decision made
6. Participant is oriented to BHC and agrees to complete requirements
7. Participant reports to courtroom 5 on Tuesdays at 1pm or as instructed

Reconsideration Policy

At times, relevant information may not be available to the BHC Team. This may be due to inability to obtain necessary information. If a person close to the offender's case (attorney, judge, treatment provider, or police officer) believes that the BHC Team failed to consider a particularly important factor, he/she may fill out a request for the case to be reconsidered. Once the request is submitted, the team will decide if the information provided in the request warrants further consideration.

Participation Terms

BHC is voluntary. If referred, you are not obligated to participate. However, if you choose to enter the program you must adhere to the program's guidelines and follow the court's recommendations. Not participating as required may lead to sanctions or eventual termination.