

Jackson County

Mental Health Court Program

Participant Handbook



12th Judicial District Court

Honorable Robert K. Gaecke Jr.

Jackson, Michigan

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Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Jackson County Mental Health Program to improve public safety, efficiently use the resources of the Court's criminal justice system & the mental health treatment system, and to improve the lives of defendants with a serious mental illness.

Mental Health Court Program Introduction

The 12th District Court Mental Health Program is a certified Problem-Solving Court. This program serves as an alternative to incarceration for nonviolent offenders, created to improve the quality of life for individuals with a serious mental health conditions. Participation in the program is voluntary and the applicant must understand that this is a rigorous program with intensive treatment and supervision in the form of multiple weekly appointments, frequent substance use testing, routine in person court reviews, and phase specific requirements.

The goal of this program is to emphasize personal responsibility, accountability, and reduce recidivism through the utilization of judicial supervision to promote successful symptom management and create healthy behavioral changes through the use of mental health and substance use treatment, psychiatric care such as medication, and community supports through LifeWays.

Mental Health Court Team

The MHC team, led by the Honorable Robert K. Gaecke Jr., consists of the Mental Health Court Coordinator who will serve as your main case manager contact for judicial matters and a liaison between the court system and your treatment status provided through LifeWays. A public defender to ensure your constitutional rights are not violated, a prosecuting attorney, a LifeWays representative and case manager, and a District or Circuit Court probation officer.

All team members will be present for bi-weekly review meetings to go over participant applications and/or progress. During this time your progress will be evaluated and appropriate sanctions or incentives will be given in court during your review hearing by the Mental Health Court Judge.

This team is here to be your support system through this life changing process. We will aid eligible participants with obtaining a job, an education, stable housing, etc. as we work together to improve your overall quality of life.

The Agreement to Participate and Waiver form and the Multiple-Party Consent for Release of Information form MUST be signed prior to admittance to the program.

Program Design

After receiving a completed referral form, a signed agreement to participant, a signed multiple-party consent for release of information form, a LifeWays evaluation/diagnosis, and a Risk and Needs assessment administered by the Mental Health Court Coordinator; the MHC team will meet to determine your eligibility and ultimate acceptance into the program. The program lasts between 18-24 months from your sentencing date. There are four phases designed around behavior changing benchmarks; each phase will be tailored to each participant dependent upon their current needs. A specific minimum of months and 100 points per phase are required to move on to the next step. As you progress through your recovery journey, incentives and sanctions will be used by the MHC Team to foster positive behavioral changes while limiting harmful conduct to yourself and the public.

Phase I: 3 Month Minimum

To establish a baseline of functioning and to understand the expectations of the program and begin developing new lifestyle changes. Participants are required to collect 100 points and meet the following standards:

- On a once a week basis, attend all MHC and probation reporting as directed by the 12th District Court Mental Health Team.
- Attend bi-weekly court review hearings.
- Must meet with providers (case manager/psychiatrist) as scheduled.
 - Complete treatment plan with specific measurable goals for success in treatment and in the program. This will establish how often participants meet with their provider. Along with enrolling in all treatment recommendations and appointments.
- Take all medications as prescribed.
- Establish a Primary Care Physician.
- Pay court fees and restitution on a regular basis.
- Safe, stable and drug-free housing.
- Maintain a weekly planner and attendance verification.
- Collect a minimum of 100 points.

Depending upon a participant's level of functioning, s/he may also be encouraged to:

- Seek and participate in employment training.
- Obtain employment or apply for SSI/SSDI benefits.
- Obtain a GED.
- Work with housing providers to secure appropriate housing.

Phase II: 4-6 Month Minimum

To begin solidifying and adjusting to a new structured lifestyle. The following standards are expected:

- Attendance at MHC and probation reporting minimum bi-weekly.
- Attendance at all treatment appointments (psychiatrist/therapist/etc.)
- Attend drug and alcohol treatment as scheduled. This includes group therapy/12 step meetings/individual therapy.
 - These appointments may decrease at the discretion of the treatment provider.
- Case management contact may decrease at this time at the MHCC's discretion.
- Maintained safe, stable drug-free housing.
- Maintenance of weekly planner and attendance verification.
- Comply with random drug testing as ordered.
- Treatment plan should start to show completion of short term goals (applying for work, applying for disability, maintained period of sobriety, etc.)

Participants will be permitted to advance to Phase III when they have consistently demonstrated the following:

- Compliance with ALL treatment recommendations and probation requirements.
- Minimum 4 months sobriety.
- Minimum 30 days sanction free.
- Collected at least 100 points.
- If employed, 50% of fines and costs paid.

Phase III: 4-6 Month Minimum

Focus on strengthening your ability to overcome everyday stressors and learn to prosper in our ever-changing environment.

- Attendance at all MHC and probation reporting once monthly.
- Attendance at all treatment appointments (psychiatrist/therapist/etc.)
- Medication compliance and sobriety (confirmed with testing).
- Maintain safe, stable drug-free housing.
- Maintain weekly planner and attendance verification.
- Be enrolled in educational and or/employment services as directed by your case manager, probation officer, or the MHC Judge.
- Stability with finances has been maintained (if eligible to work).
- Consistency has been reached for paying fines and costs

Participants will move to Phase IV when they have consistently demonstrated the following:

- Treatment goal adherence/on track in treatment.
- 75% of fines and costs have been paid off (if employed).
- Maintained 6 months sobriety.
- Collected at least 100 points.

Phase IV: 4 Month Minimum

The final step before graduation where participants focus on taking their new skills and knowledge and apply it to their lives. The final goal of the program is to develop an aftercare plan with the case manager and treatment providers to ensure YOU remain in charge of your future and where you want to go.

- Attend all MHC hearings and probation reporting minimum once monthly unless ordered otherwise.
- Continue meetings with treatment team on the recommended basis according to their treatment plan (psychiatrist/case manager/therapist/etc.)
- Remains in safe, stable drug-free housing.
- Achieved reliable income.
- Maintained weekly planner and attendance verification.

Participants will be eligible for graduation when they have accomplished the following:

- 90 days of sobriety.
- Remain compliant with any order therapeutic or drug/alcohol testing.
- No missed treatment appointments.
- Has achieved 100% of goals identified in treatment related MHC participation.
- All terms of probation have been met, including all fines and costs paid in full (if employed).
- Creates a long term recovery plan to minimize symptoms and to maximize benefits of program participation.

Additional Programs

The MHC Judge may order your attendance to additional classes or programs that are educational and/or therapeutic if they believe that they would be beneficial to your rehabilitation.

Status Review Hearings

Status review hearings will be held in court on the 2nd and last Thursday of every month. In phases I-II you are required to see the MHC Judge twice a month, review hearings will decrease as you move through the phases but are subject to increase depending upon your individual circumstances. All court appearances are MANDATORY. A defense attorney is

always present to ensure due process and provide legal advice. The Judge will engage you and inquire about your status in the program. The Judge may order an incentive, a sanction, or an applicable ruling before calling the next participant. **You are NOT permitted to leave the court until the conclusion of the ENTIRE Mental Health Court Session.** This ensures that all participants are there to support each other through their recovery journeys.

Point System

A maximum of 100 points must be earned during each phase to advance to the next. Earned points will be verified by a member of the MHC team. There is no carrying over points, to apply for the next phase (you may have more than 100 per phase). Some items on the list may not be duplicated but others, such as paying fines, can be used multiple times. The points earned at each phase are at the judgment of the MHC team and are nonnegotiable. The MHC team reserves the right to award points for positive behaviors and accomplishments not listed below at their discretion. You may not donate or give your points to other participants.

WAYS TO EARN POINTS (each item is worth 5 points)

Max 20 points per item, per phase.

- Have or obtain a valid driver's license or state ID
- Have or obtain your social security card
- Have or obtain your birth certificate
- Have or obtain your GED or high school diploma
- Have or open a checking account
- Have or obtain a cell phone and phone number
- Have or sign up for an email address
- Register to vote
- Apply for Section 8 housing
- Make or revise your resume
- Attend a workshop at Michigan Works! Southeast
- Complete 25 hours of community service
- Make all your calls for 2 weeks
- Establish a payment plan
- Pay \$100 towards fines and fees
- Be employed and work 8 hours
- Have 2 weeks of negative drug tests
- Attend and get signature with case manager
- Attend and get signature with probation officer
- Attend other appointments as needed and get signatures
- Other: _____ (approval at discretion of the MHC team)

Organization Tools

A planner and/or journal will help you keep track of appointments and important documents. Though the MHC Team may be able to assist, they are your responsibility to maintain throughout the program. You may be required to submit them to the Team for review, or for signatures to earn points.

Graduation

Successful completion of the MHC program represents the investment you have made for your recovery and your commitment to making positive life changes. This major milestone in your life will be celebrated by the MHC Team and all active program participants with a ceremony in the court room and refreshments in a neighboring conference room. As with the purpose of this program, responsibility and self-care will continue to be utilized at this step. It is up to the participants to request a review for graduation with the Mental Health Court Coordinator. This is done by completing all four phases, submitting a graduation request, an aftercare plan, and a continued commitment statement. Graduate applications will be reviewed by the MHC team.

* Graduation does not always result in being successfully discharged from probation. The MHC team will inform participants of their anticipated discharge dates from both the MHC program and probation.

Prescription Medications

When you first meet with the Mental Health Court Coordinator or Probation officer, you must bring all your prescription medications in the original pharmaceutical bottle, this includes topical creams or ointments. You must present to the MHCC or Probation officer a valid prescription for all medications. Failure to do so will result in a violation of probation and sanctions. You must take all medications as required by your physician. You must alert the MHCC or Probation officer of any changes in medications within 24 hours of the change.

Drug/Substance Testing

You will be assigned a number 1-3 upon entry into the program. The number you are assigned will remain the same throughout the program and will be used for the random drug/substance screenings. Weekly a number will be drawn and the group assigned to that number are required to come in for testing immediately upon contact. You must report to the 12th District Court Probation Department for testing within 24-hours of receiving a phone call from the Mental Health Court Coordinator. Failure to appear for testing will result in sanctions.

In order to participate in the MHC program, you must be able to provide a urine/oral sample on a random basis. There are No Exceptions.

Testing Location and Hours

Mon-Fri (No Holidays)	8:30am-11:00am	12 th District Court Probation Dept.
	1:00 pm-4:00pm	12 th District Court Probation Dept.

*You must be at the testing agency at least 15 minutes before the last listed time for testing.

Missed, Late, Adulterated or Diluted Drug Tests

Failure to report for a drug or alcohol test within 24-hours WILL BE considered a positive test result. If you miss a test, it is your responsibility to immediately contact the Mental Health Court Coordinator or your probation officer. Any attempts to dilute or adulterate your urine/saliva with fluids or other products WILL BE detected and treated as a positive test. You must limit your fluid intake to no more than two 8 oz. glasses within 2 hours of testing. Missed or late test will be treated as positive tests for the purpose of assessing sanctions.

Program Incentives and Sanctions

Your time in the Mental Health Court Program is meant to be an individualized transformation for your life. The MHC team will make every effort to acknowledge the positive changes you make as you travel down your path to success. The program is designed to reward healthy decision-making and prosocial behaviors such as attendance, drug testing compliance, and treatment progress. Incentives and sanctions will be individualized and come in different forms to aid in establishing accountability.

While in the MHC Program, you are expected to comply with the program requirements and adhere to treatment recommendations. Failure to do so will result in sanctions. However, the MHC team realizes that some situations call for a therapeutic or supervisory response as opposed to sanctions and such circumstances will be addressed individually. Failure to comply with sanctions or responses can result in increased consequences including, the most serious, termination from the program. The amount and/or length of time of any sanction will be increased progressively for multiple violations.

Below is a list of potential incentives and sanctions that may be used during your time in the MHC program.

INCENTIVES

- Judicial praise
- MHC Team praise
- Applause/praise from group
- Card of encouragement
- Certificates
- Gift card
- Movie passes
- Decrease in drug and alcohol testing
- Decrease in 12 step meetings
- Lifted Curfew
- One time travel approval
- Phase promotion
- Graduation

SANCTIONS

- Judicial reprimand
- Writing assignment
- Daily activity logs
- Increase in court attendance
- Increase in probation reporting
- Increase or Order of Community Service
- Increased drug and alcohol testing
- Increased or Order of 12 step meetings
- Re-start phase requirements
- Placement of curfew
- House arrest
- Jail time
- Termination from program

Program Termination

One of the goals of the 12th District Court Mental Health program is to retain participants in the program. However, there may be times when continued participation is no longer appropriate. Participants may be terminated for their repeated refusal to comply with the treatment plan or medication regimen, criminal activity while in the program, continued substance abuse relapses, patterns of deceit, and/or resistance to program structure.

Participants facing termination are entitled to a probation violation hearing with formal notice of the violations and potential for termination, as well as legal representation. If all other measures have failed, the team has recommended termination, and the participant is found or pleads guilty to the violation, s/he is terminated from the program. Sentencing is usually immediate.

Participants may also voluntarily withdraw from the program. However, we require participants considering voluntary withdrawal to meet with a team member to discuss available alternatives and with legal representation to explain the potential legal consequences.

Discharge

You may be terminated from the program for a variety of reasons including:

- You petition the Court for voluntary termination (may result in serving jail time).

- You exhibit violent behavior or threats of violent behavior toward self or others, including court staff.
- You display inappropriate, disruptive, or noncompliant behavior.
- Failure to participate satisfactorily in program requirements.
- You are charged with another criminal offense (case-by-case basis).
- You fail to appear for review hearings or report days.
- Repeated violation of program rules.
- Repeated missed, diluted or positive (dirty) urine screens/PBT.
- Forgery and/or dishonesty.

Program Expenses and Payment Plans

There are NO FEES to participate in the 12th District Court Mental Health program. Drug and alcohol testing conducted by the MHC will be at the expense of the program. However, you may have court-ordered fees, fines, and/or costs upon sentencing. A payment plan can be developed with the Mental Health Court Coordinator or your probation officer if applicable.

Honesty and Accountability

Honestly and open communication are crucial for your growth in the program and ultimate recovery. To maximize the benefits of the program, all participants are expected to be open and honest in their contacts with the MHC Team.

If issues arise, participants are **REQUIRED** to report any infraction to their probation officer or the Mental Health Court Coordinator within 24 hours. Failure to report or dishonesty may result in court sanctions. Repeated attempts to deceive the Team may be grounds for program termination.

Courtroom Conduct

Regardless of whether court review hearings are in-person or remote, remember **R.E.S.P.E.C.T.**

Respect the program, Judge, MHC Team, and peers at all times, both in and outside of the courtroom.

Encourage involvement by including your support system in this process. Family, mentors, and sponsors can attend.

Silence and attentiveness during proceedings helps maintain respect. If you have questions, politely ask the Judge during your review or consult a team member after court.

Punctuality is important because failing to be on time may result in a sanction and unexcused absences will result in the issuance of a bench warrant.

Electronics must be turned off or placed in silent mode. Always double-check your device before entering the courtroom. No recording is permitted in the court house.

Clothing should be clean and in good shape. Hats, sunglasses, tank tops, exposed undergarments, or attire depicting drugs, alcohol, or obscene words/symbols will not be allowed. Footwear must be worn at all times. You will be asked to leave the court for inappropriate courtroom attire.

Timing with the MHC Team. Remember the MHC Team is here to support your success. They are a resource that welcomes your questions and conversations, but consider appropriate timing and speak with them before court begins or after it concludes.

Program Contacts

COURT

Khalil Paule, Program Coordinator

(517) 768-6893

LIFEWAYS

(517) 789-1209

Crisis Supports

Any Emergency Medical/Psychiatric Needs:

Dial 911

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (24 hours):

Dial 988

Crisis Text Line (24 hours):

Text **HOME** to
741741

Henry Ford Jackson Hospital Emergency Room

(517) 205-4811

LifeWays Crisis Line (24 hours):

(800) 284-8288