

Mission Statement

The Plymouth Mental Health Court (PMHC) Program seeks to provide an effective and meaningful alternative to the traditional criminal justice system for individuals with mental illness. Our goal is to promote prompt support and intervention, education, treatment and recovery in order to improve the quality of the individual's life, reduce recidivism, and improve community safety.

The Program is run through the 2nd Circuit Court - District Division - Plymouth, and mental health services are provided by Genesis Behavioral Health

The Benefits of Mental Health Court:

Research has shown:

Criminal behavior is reduced while clients are participating in Mental Health Courts

Criminal behavior is eliminated or reduced after program participation

Mental Health Courts generate cost savings from reduced jail/prison use

Mental Health Courts bridge the gap between the courts and treatment systems, as well as, the criminal justice system and the community

Plymouth Mental Health Court

Grafton County Mental Health Court
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Plymouth Mental Health Court

Mental Health Court



Plymouth Mental Health Court

2nd Circuit Court

District Division, Plymouth

Grafton County, NH

Plymouth Mental Health Court (PMHC) is an intensive and comprehensive program designed as an alternative to incarceration.

- 1) Maximize the communication and cooperation between the mental health system and the criminal justice system;
- 2) Improve access to community mental health services;
- 3) Expedite case processing time with a team approach;
- 4) Reduce recidivism;
- 5) Better protect the safety and well-being of the community;
- 6) Improve appropriate treatment for identified defendants;
- 7) Ensure that consequences for non-compliance with the treatment plan be swift and graduated to fit the circumstances;
- 8) A Treatment Plan is created with each individual and typically includes, but is not limited to, counseling, case management, taking prescribed medication, educational/vocational services and substance abuse treatment;
- 9) Allow family members and others responsible for the care of the participant to become involved in the treatment and recovery process under the appropriate circumstances.

Eligibility

- Participants must be charged with a Class A misdemeanor pending from the 2nd Circuit Court- District Division- Plymouth, and have a diagnosed or diagnosable mental health issue that contributed to the behavior resulting in the charged offense
- Participants must be 17 years of age or older and reside in the catchment area of the 2nd Circuit Court - District Division – Plymouth
- The defendant must not have any present charges or prior convictions involving sexual or violent offenses (select violent offenses may not exclude an individual from participation in the Program and will be reviewed on a case by case basis after thorough evaluation of the nature of the violence and appropriateness of the Program is conducted)

The Process

- All referrals are made to the MH Court Coordinator for an initial screening
- An application to determine eligibility will be completed and submitted to the Coordinator
- If eligible, a referral is made to Genesis Behavioral Health for an intake evaluation
- If the applicant is accepted into the Program, a Treatment Plan incorporating the evaluations and input from the providers, prosecutor, defense counsel and applicant will be crafted
- The Treatment Plan and an Agreement (for either TRACK 1 or TRACK 2) is signed by all necessary parties, and will then be presented to the Court for approval
- Participants will then work on his/her treatment goals as outlined in his/her Treatment Plan and attend monthly court hearings designed to monitor participant progress

Track Options

TRACK 1: The defendant maintains his/her plea of “not guilty” and enters into an Agreement to Continue for Dismissal, an agreement in which the person waives his or her right to a speedy trial, stipulates to sufficient facts for an entry of conviction, and the case is continued, without a guilty finding, for a designated period. During this period, the person must remain of good behavior and comply with his/her Treatment Plan and comply with the other PMHC Program rules.

TRACK 2: The defendant is ordered to enter into the Program as part of a suspended or deferred sentence, where the defendant pleads “guilty” to the charge. A sentence, such as jail time, is suspended or deferred for a designated period of time during which the person must remain of good behavior and comply with his/her Treatment Plan. A defendant must voluntarily agree to enter PMHC. If a defendant is not interested in applying to and meaningfully participate in PMHC, a defendant will not be accepted into the Program.

Treatment Plan

A Treatment Plan outlines the specific treatment a participant must comply with as part of the Program. It is created for each individual and typically includes counseling, case management, connection to community resources, compliance with prescribed medications, drug testing, educational and vocational rehabilitation, and substance abuse treatment, if deemed appropriate. The Treatment Plan is written and incorporated into the court orders.