

THE MISSION

The mission of the Thurston County Mental Health Court is to serve the community and increase public safety by monitoring, supporting and holding accountable justice-involved individuals with mental illness in accessing treatment and improving their quality of life. We treat each participant with respect and dignity, thus empowering them to make positive changes in their life.

THURSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

M. Brett Buckley, Presiding Judge



Supported by

THURSTON COUNTY
TREATMENT SALES TAX

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THURSTON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT MENTAL HEALTH COURT



“A whole community working
together towards justice.”

-Mental Health Court Graduate

*Serving Justice
Through
Serving People*

WHAT IS MHC?

Mental Health Court is a 2-year District Court program that requires participants to have law abiding behavior, attend treatment, take medications, be clean and sober, submit to drug and alcohol testing, attend regular court reviews and maintain frequent contact with Mental Health Court Staff.

Successful completion of the program may result in dismissal, reduction of charges, or suspension of jail time. You will know what the outcome will be before you enter the program.

Mental Health Court is not traditional court. The MHC Team is made up of a dedicated Judge, Prosecutor, and Defense Attorney, as well as assigned Case Managers who all work together to provide structure and support to people who are committed to making positive changes. We help participants get the services they need to have the best chance possible to become stable and sober, stop the cycle of recidivism, and have a healthy life.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- » *Open criminal cases in Thurston County, Tumwater or Lacey.*
- » *Diagnosed or diagnosable chronic mental health condition.*
- » *A connection between mental health symptoms and the charges.*
- » *Low to medium risk for recidivism*
- » *Not currently charged with, or previously convicted of, crimes that involve a firearm, a sex-offense, a serious violent offense, results in the death of another person, or is otherwise prohibited by RCW 2.30.*
- » *Willing to take responsibility for your actions and your part in the commission of the charges against you.*
- » *Willing to fully engage in treatment and take an active part in your recovery.*
- » *Willing to go to all court hearings, which begin as weekly hearings.*
- » *Willing to submit to frequent, random drug and alcohol testing.*
- » *Willing to go to all the services and treatments that are recommended by treatment professionals or ordered by the court.*

If you answered yes, you may be eligible...

HOW DO I GET IN?

- ◇ *Speak with your attorney about a referral to the program.*
- ◇ *Your attorney will discuss the possibility with the prosecutor.*
- ◇ *The prosecutor MUST APPROVE the referral. Without prosecutor approval, a case CANNOT come into the program.*
- ◇ *The MHC Program Manager will meet with you to determine eligibility, obtain releases to access your mental health records, and provide detailed information about the program.*
- ◇ *Then, the MHC Team will meet to decide if your case can come into the program.*
- ◇ *If the team agrees, you will need to observe a full hearing, and provide a CLEAN DRUG AND ALCOHOL TEST.*
- ◇ *Prior to opting into the program, you will need to discuss all of your options with your attorney to make sure you are making a well-informed and voluntary decision.*