



Specialty Courts

Specialty courts are problem-solving courts that operate under a specialized model to provide court-directed supervision and mandated treatment to nonviolent individuals with substance use or mental health issues underlying their criminal behavior
(Oregon Criminal Justice Commission)

What is a Specialty Court?

- ▶ Non-adversarial
- ▶ Problem-solving
- ▶ Multi-disciplinary team
- ▶ Key Components and Essential Elements

Multnomah County Mental Health Court Program

- ❖ In operation for 13 years – funded for the first time during the last biennium, 2019-2021
- ❖ Primary documented mental health diagnosis
- ❖ High risk/high needs
- ❖ Program capacity - 80 participants
- ❖ 12-18 months

Mission

Divert people who are justice involved from incarceration and instead facilitate linkage to appropriate treatment and community resources

Goals

- Improve public safety
- Minimize recidivism
- Utilization of community resources
- Enhance collaboration between criminal justice agencies and community service providers
- Develop the right application of supervision to fit individualized need/ risk
- Meaningful inclusion of crime victims, defendants' family members, peers, advocates, and community members
- Improve QOL

CJC Grant

- ▶ CJC Funding 2109-2021, requested \$1.4M; awarded \$611K
- ▶ Prior In-Kind contributions totaled \$3,216,000
- ▶ Current Budget request estimated to be roughly \$1.1M (*not finalized*)
- ▶ Budget priorities: Coordinator; development of an in-house integrated BH treatment model; EDI evaluation; client supports; training

Looking ahead...

- ▶ Enhancing elements of the Court
 - P/Ps; phases; graduation process/requirements
- ▶ MOU
- ▶ Creating an Advisory Board

Questions? Thoughts? Feedback?

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