

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 Case Manager, Forensic Services Manager, Butler County Prison representative and Specialty Courts Coordinator.

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 BHC 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/Screening Process:

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

1. Referral is screened by BHC Probation Officer
2. Referral is screened by BHC Case Manager for evidence of mental health history
3. Assistant District Attorney reviews screening for eligibility and final decision
4. Participant is oriented to BHC and agrees to complete requirements & scheduled for Admission
5. Participant reports to Courtroom #4 on Tuesdays at 1pm or as instructed

Reconsideration Policy

At times, relevant information may not 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. **Reconsideration must be filed within 30 days of initial rejection.**

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 programs guidelines and follow the court's recommendations. Not participating as required may lead to sanctions or eventual termination.