

BHAT

Mental Health Court

Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Mental Health Court
3. Next Steps
4. Next Meeting

Introductions

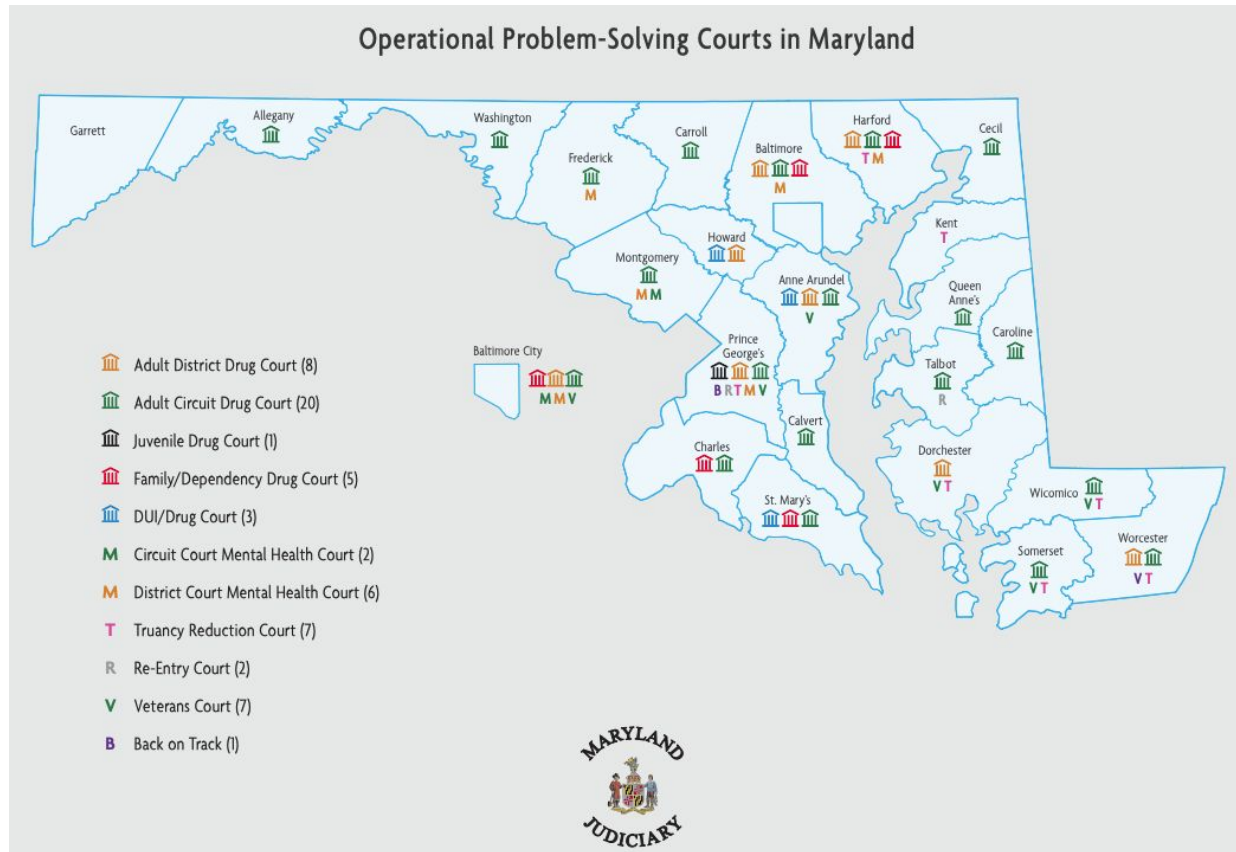
- Shan Chen
- Derek Adams
- Jessica Jolly
- Glori Van Brunt
- Ebony Belt
- Kristin Voto
- Laura Stewart Webb
- Carolyn Cullison
- Christopher Shea

Mental Health Court

- A Mental Health Court is a specialized court docket established for defendants with mental illness that substitutes a problem-solving approach for the traditional adversarial criminal court processing.
- Participants are identified through mental health screening and assessments and voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. (Justice Center, Bureau of Justice Assistance)
- The overarching goal of the Mental Health Court is to decrease the frequency of participants contacts with the criminal justice system by providing participants with judicial leadership to improve the social functioning, employment linkage, housing needs, treatment, and support services of participants.
- Mental Health Courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address both the mental health needs of offenders and public safety concerns of communities. These courts also seek to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior, and to assist with the avoidance of recurring correctional visits, as well as to overall lower the recidivism of this population.

Source: [Maryland Courts - Problem Solving Courts](#)

Mental Health Court (continued)



Operational Problem-Solving Courts in Maryland

Next Steps

- Follow up with the recommendations in the 2020 report to see if they were implemented
 - Use past report as a template to reach out to stakeholders
- Update the data from the report (Maryellen and Kristin)
 - July 2019-June 2020 (latest data)
 - Data source: MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Pyramid, Pathways, SMC Drug Court, Dept of Parole & Probation
 - Consider other data sources: ED/MSMH Psychiatric unit, reach out to Warren Thompson on mental health services at the jail, Captain Payne & Harrison at SMCSO's (Diversion program), Pathways, Project Chesapeake, SoMD Community Network, ACT Team, Health Hub, Pyramid's Inpatient and Outpatient Programs, Beacon, On Our Own, St. Mary's County Government
 - Consider developing a framework and needs assessment
- Look at other current solutions, programs, services
- Have an updated discussion with the District Court Administrative Judge on where they stand
- Find funding sources for MHC (if decided) and/or court navigators
 - Previously, there was no main person assigned. Consider the type of position for funding - SMCSO? SMCHD? Office of Justice programs-foundation?
 - Identify a champion

Next Meeting

The next BHAT MHC Subcommittee Meeting will be Thursday, August 3 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.