Prince George's County District Mental Health Court (MHC) Case Flow Chart

An individual is arrested.

1. The defendant is referred to MHC. Referrals come from a variety of sources including Judges, State and Defense Attorneys, the Department of Corrections Health Unit, Commissioners, or the client themselves.

2. The MHC Clerk is notified of the referral, adds the case to the next available docket, and pulls the case file(s) to bring to court.

3. The candidate appears for an initial MHC hearing. If there is a question about the client's competency, a Judge can order a competency evaluation. The evaluation is completed and reported to the court. If not, the candidate can move to box 4.

If found not competent to stand trial and dangerous, the candidate is committed to a Springfield State Hospital to restore competency. If competency is restored, he/she moves to box 5.

4. MHC team reviews the candidate's eligibility. If eligible, the case moves to box 5.

If ineligible or opts out of the program, the defendant returns to the regular criminal docket.

5. If competent, eligible, and willing to participate, the candidate signs a MHC agreement, is designated a MHC Case Manager, and enters the program as a MHC client. Most clients are granted pre-trial release (PTR) from incarceration with conditions as determined by the team.

6. Those released through Pre-Trial are assigned a PTR Case Manager who verifies the client's address before release from jail, and supervises the client in the community, including any court mandated drug screens.

7. MHC team and the client establish a treatment plan. MHC case managers make referrals for services, as needed. The client reports for MHC status hearings every 2-8 weeks. MHC Case Managers, Pre Trial Release Case Manager, Probation Agents, or other monitoring agencies supervise the client's progress, and report to the court. The Judge may use various sanctions and incentives to encourage compliance.

If a client is not compliant and/or wishes to exit the program, he/she may be administratively discharged from the program and returned to the regular criminal docket.

8. A client successfully completes the program once he/she has completed all treatment goals and court obligations. The case may be placed on the Stet docket with conditions, entered Nolle Prosequi (not prosecuted by the State), or other successful dispositions, as determined on an individual basis.