

BHAT

Mental Health Court

Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Mental Health Court
3. Feedback From Other Counties
4. Next Steps
5. Next Meeting

Introductions

- Maryellen Kraese
- Shan Chen
- Kristin Voto
- Alexis Higdon
- Tammy Loewe
- Laura Stewart Webb

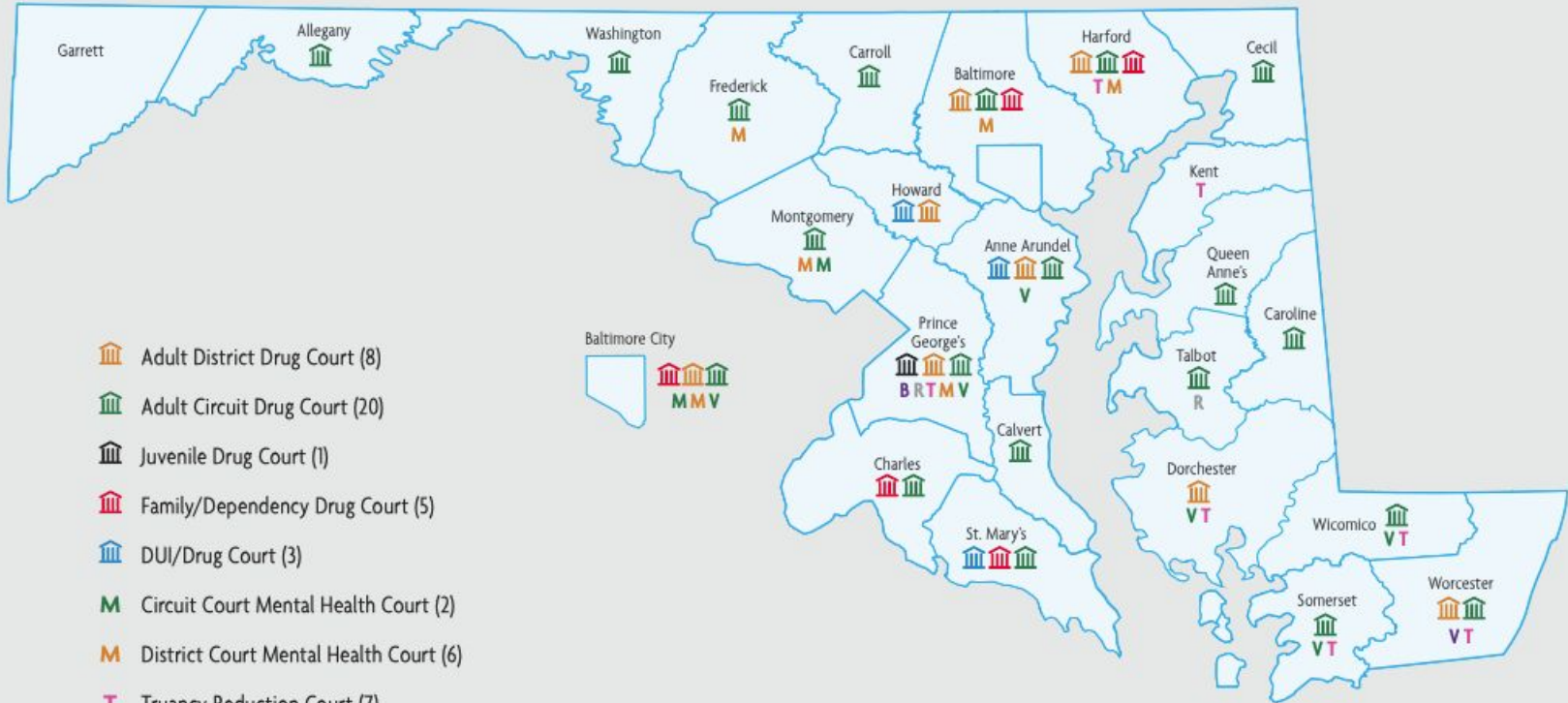
Mental Health Court







- 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



-  Adult District Drug Court (8)
-  Adult Circuit Drug Court (20)
-  Juvenile Drug Court (1)
-  Family/Dependency Drug Court (5)
-  DUI/Drug Court (3)
-  Circuit Court Mental Health Court (2)
-  District Court Mental Health Court (6)
-  Truancy Reduction Court (7)
-  Re-Entry Court (2)
-  Veterans Court (7)
-  Back on Track (1)



Feedback From Other Counties

- [Access the spreadsheet of responses here!](#)
- So far, we have received responses from Wicomico, Carroll, Montgomery, Baltimore City, Mid Shore (Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester) and Prince George's counties.
 - Will continue to collect responses for the rest of this month
- Reporting and sharing of qualitative and quantitative data will need to go through the SDI process. Will need to reach out to Roderick - Shan to draft an email and CC Tammy. Indicate that it will not be for public viewing.

Next Steps

- The subcommittee is continuing to update the data from the report. Updates include:
 - Alexis of SMCSO
 - Adults: From January 1, 2022 - July 14, 2023 # of Emergency Petitions: 933
 - Review last report to see if there were juvenile numbers and if so, request updated data.
 - Follow up with Mary Ann Thompson (Warden at SMC Detention and Rehabilitation Center) to request updated data, ask about services that are being offered currently.
 - We will reach out to Roderick regarding the SDI process and protocol before emailing to request additional data
- Look at other current solutions, programs, services
 - Reviewing other counties or states to see what they have
 - Carolyn will contact Disability Rights of MD, a law center, to see what they know
 - Look at alternatives to MHC, like going through other jurisdictions, circuit or district courts, reentry courts and veterans courts.
- Provide an outline of the report by October 20th, the date of the next BHAT meeting

Next Meeting

- The next BHAT MHC Subcommittee Meeting will be Thursday, October 5 from 11:00am-12:00pm.