

# **BHAT**

# **Mental Health Court**

# **Subcommittee Meeting**

Thursday, October 5, 2023

# Agenda

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

# Introductions

- Shan Chen
- Kristin Voto
- Alexis Higdon
- Tammy Loewe
- Carolyn Cullison
- Aniko Renee

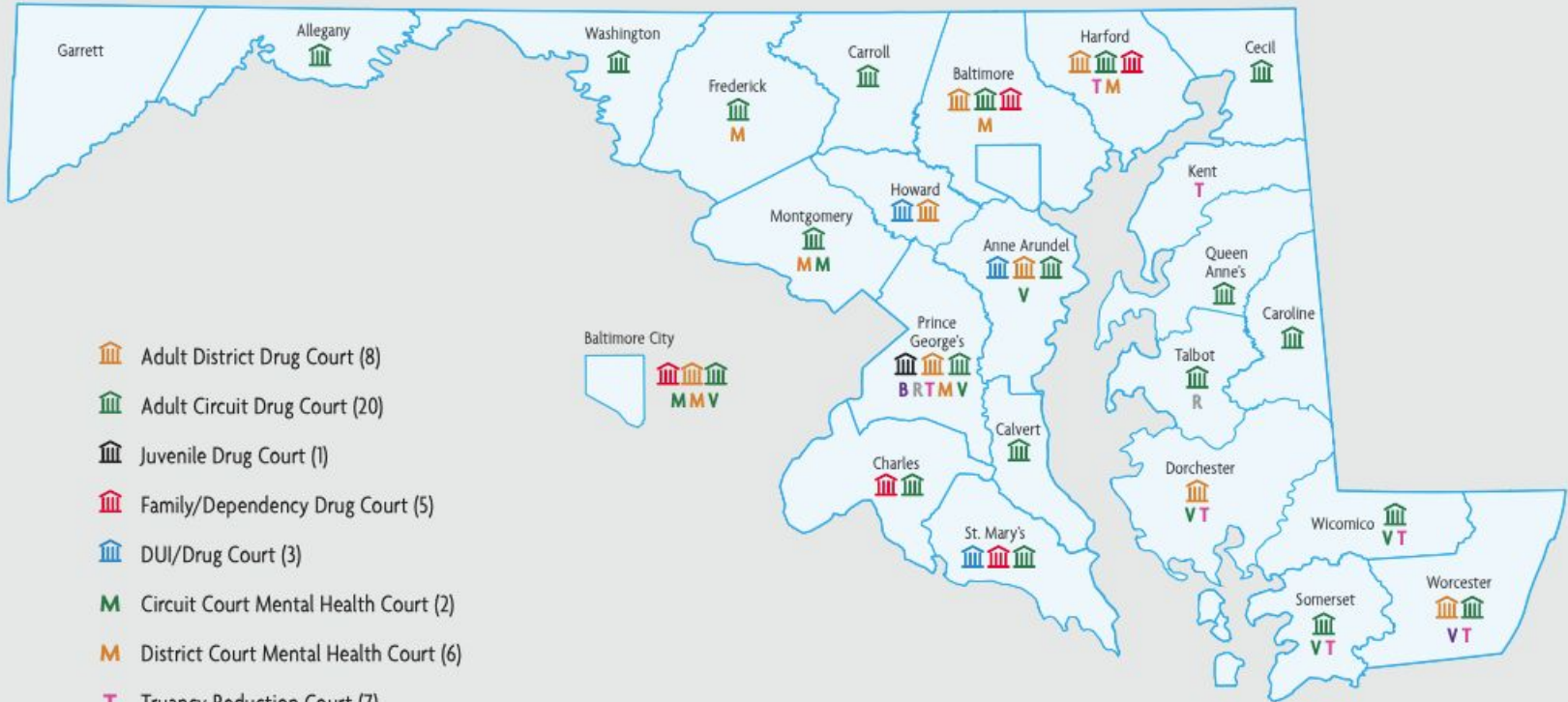
# Mental Health Court

- 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)
- M** Circuit Court Mental Health Court (2)
- M** District Court Mental Health Court (6)
- T** Truancy Reduction Court (7)
- R** Re-Entry Court (2)
- V** Veterans Court (7)
- B** Back on Track (1)



# Feedback Obtained

- Reporting and sharing of qualitative and quantitative data does not need to go through SDI process, per Jacquie Wells.
- Tammy reached out to behavioral health providers on September 26th to request additional data. She is forwarding responses to Shan, Maryellen & Kristin, and we are continuing to update the spreadsheet of responses
- Carolyn is waiting to hear back from organizations, including Disability Rights of MD. She has also reached out for more information on MHC in other states.
- We received updated FY 2023 data from MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, and St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center
  - This new data, as well as data from the 2020 Report has been sent to SMCHD's Epidemiology department for analysis. Results should be available by October 17th.

# Next Steps

- The subcommittee is continuing to update the data from the report
- Maryellen and Kristin met on October 3rd to create a 2023 MHC Report Outline. It will be shared at the next BHAT meeting on October 20th.

# Next Meeting

- Please complete [this Doodle Poll](#) to indicate your availability for November's meeting.