

Successful Mental Health Court Without Much Court

as presented at the 37th Annual Conference of the Forensic Mental Health Association of California

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A Brief History of Ventura County's Mental Health, Forensic Efforts

- Ventura County has a long tradition of multi-agency, forensic endeavors that began in 1989 with a program called Forensic Alternative Community Treatment (FACT) which provided judges with a sentencing alternative for misdemeanants.
- The first Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) grant gave rise to a Multi-Agency Referral and Treatment (MART) which operated with a true experimental design from 2001 to 2004.
- The second MIOCR grant gave rise to the Multi-Agency Referral and Recovery Team (MARRT) which operated with grant funding for 18 months beginning in 2007 and since October of 2008 with multi-agency support.

Some of What Has Our History Taught Us...

- Misdemeanants & felons both warrant consideration.
- Public safety and personal recovery are actually intertwined.
- The evolution of inter-agency trust can make the unthinkable possible.
- A robust mental health court exists without special grant-funding and without being dependent upon the contribution of any individual team member.
- There is no predicting successes or failures; if anything, that kind of mindset interferes with the work.

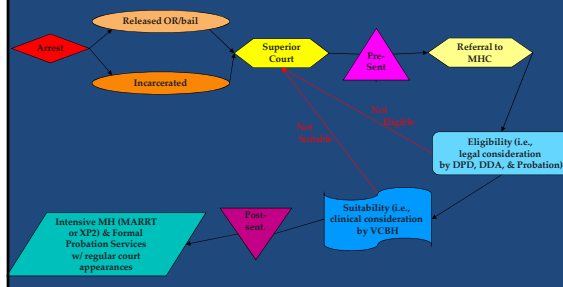
Mental Health Court Interagency Partners and their Primary Responsibilities



Ventura County's Mental Health Court Mission

- The primary mission of Ventura County's Mental Health Court is to encourage treatment-resistant clients with serious mental illness and corresponding legal issues to engage in appropriate mental health services.

Ventura County Mental Health Court Process



Ventura County Mental Health Court
Facilities



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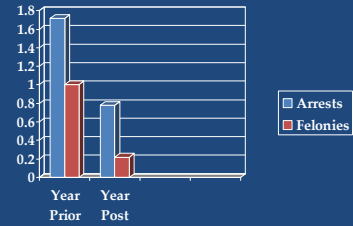


Basic Stats on the Program

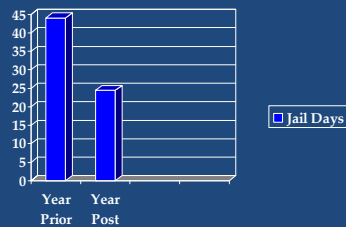
- Currently enrolled: 30
- Gender: 50/50
- Ethnicity: 40% Latino, 55% Caucasian, 5% Asian/other
- Average Age: 41
- Mental Illness with Substance abuse: 94%
- Mental Illness:
 - 60% Thought disorders
 - 30% Bi-Polar Disorders
 - 10% Other

Average Number of Arrests in year prior to and then after the MHC program

(the following stats are for persons admitted during 2009 that completed a substantial portion of the program).



Average Number of Days in Jail – Year Prior and Year Post MHC Program



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- Questions & Comments
- Contact with any of the Ventura County panel participants can be facilitated via email:

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