



# SUSTAINING A MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Honorable Casey L. Clevenger, Commissioner, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

# OBJECTIVES

- History of Boone County Mental Health Court
- Mental Health Court Team
- Screening and eligibility
- Budget
- Courtroom
- Incentives and Sanctions
- Local Data

# MENTAL HEALTH COURT GRADUATE K.W.

“Not only was my mother a drug addict and alcoholic, she was also bipolar and manic depressive. I started using with my mom. I had a mental breakdown at 20 and was diagnosed with PTSD and bipolar disorder. By August 2013 I was using heroin and meth everyday. By 2016 I was selling drugs to support my habit. I was arrested for distribution of a controlled substance and ended up in mental health court. I enjoyed coping skills and mental health process group. I also really enjoy mindfulness. It is something I teach my children about. I am so thankful to be treated for my mental illness. I have learned for the first time in my life how to be an adult. Treatment court has taught me how to love myself.”

# MENTAL HEALTH COURT GRADUATE A.P.

“In my opinion it all started for me with my depression that began in my time in the active duty Air Force. I began self medicating, becoming violent and aggressive. Meth at first made me feel invincible, wise, happy and creative. Eventually I was kicked out of the military. Lost my job and dropped out of college. My life began to revolve around drugs. I would sell the drugs, make the drugs, assault people and steal. The forced accountability and close supervision of mental health court was unlike anything I had been exposed to and was very effective. I am very proud I was able to go from a hard core deeply involved drug addict to a respectable, hard working, organized responsible and sober man and father. I know that by staying on track with my medications I am less likely to relapse in the future.”

# HISTORY

- Boone County Mental Health Court started in 2003 for nonviolent offenders to address mental health needs and provide essential skills for functioning in society without further intervention from the criminal justice system
- Boone County population 178,271
- 246 beds in Boone County Jail
- Jail overcrowding meeting quarterly
- Mental Health justice task force meeting twice per month
- Stepping Up Initiative
- Added Co-occurring docket in 2018

# MENTAL HEALTH COURT TEAM

- Commissioner
- Mental Health Court Coordinator / Administrator
- Probation officer
- Defense counsel
- Prosecuting attorney
- Law enforcement
- Treatment: Mental health, substance use, co-occurring
- Job placement
- Psychiatrist

# MENTAL HEALTH COURT

- Mostly follows Drug Court Model
- Team training
- Housing
- Peer Support
- Pharmacy vouchers
- Phase implementations
- Commencement

# SCREENING/ELIGIBILITY

- Referrals
- Initial screening (information gathered)
- Eligibility checklist
- Diagnosis and case management needs
- Substance use disorder



# BUDGET

- BJA Implementation grant and Proposition L
- Current funding sources
  - Proposition L
  - Medicaid
- Program capacity
- Fees
- Contractual Services (\$60,000)
- Testing (\$22,000) – modifying frequency

# COURTROOM

- Trauma informed team
- Start on time
- Court in session weekly
- Flexibility
- Essays
- Community support specialists
- All day Court

# INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS

- Praise cards
- Gift cards
- Grab bag
- New baby backpack
- A team / Non-Compliance Docket
- Jail on hold
- Jail you pick
- Schedule Volunteer work
- Corrisoft / EM / SCRAM
- Approved travel
- Treatment response

# LOCAL DATA

- Referrals – 61
- Admissions – 20
- Denials/Not ordered in – 39
  - Mitigating factors
- Graduations – 9
- Terminations – 23
- Recidivism – 30%
- Current census
  - 9 females; 11 males;
  - 15 Caucasian; 5 Black



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