

If you have questions regarding the Mental Health Court program, please send us an email or call.



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Marinette County Mental Health Court



The mission of the Marinette County Mental Health Court is to increase public safety and restore productive and law abiding citizens to the community by breaking the cycle of criminal behavior through effective long-term mental health treatment and intensive court supervision.

What is Mental Health Court?

Marinette County Mental Health Court is a problem solving court that serves defendants charged with a criminal offense who are struggling with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. Jail alone as punishment has proven to be costly and ineffective for many individuals. Mental Health Court holds its participants accountable for their behavior, provides them with support and assistance, and works collaboratively with service providers for quality care of that individual. It is an 18-24 month voluntary program that promotes stability and sobriety through the cooperation and collaboration of the courts, mental health system, and corrections. This comprehensive care model allows for a rapid response to unmet needs of participants by removing barriers and providing access to mental health services. The program couples judicial reviews with intensive probation supervision including input from a multi-disciplinary team of professionals led by the judge.

Location

Marinette County Mental Health Court is held Tuesday mornings at 8:30 AM at the Marinette County courthouse and is open to the public.

Who is Eligible?

Eligibility is evaluated by the Mental Health Court Team on a case-by-case basis. General requirements include:

- Charged in Marinette County with a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor offense
- Marinette County resident
- Diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness.
- Face at least 6 months jail time if convicted, or if already convicted, currently under supervision for a charge with a legitimate potential of at least 6 months jail time if revoked from probation.

Benefits

Services: The Mental Health Court Team will help you get needed services to help you reach your goals.

Recognition of your progress: Achievements will be publicly recognized by the judge. You may also receive gift cards as incentives for positive progress in the program.

Potential avoidance of time in jail and/or prison.

Opportunity: The Mental Health Court offers a chance to avoid jail or prison on current charges and to move forward in life.

Mental Health Court Goals

- Reduce criminal recidivism
- Increase compliance with court ordered conditions
- Improve life stability
- Reduce hospitalizations and emergency room visits
- Reduce jail time
- Facilitate access to services
- Increase participant satisfaction with court process

Mental Health Court Services

- One-on-one judicial reviews
- Intensive probation supervision
- Substance abuse, mental health, family and other counseling
- Random drug and alcohol testing
- Medication monitoring
- Access and connection to case management
- Employment and housing assistance

Graduation

Upon completion of the Mental Health Court program, participants receive a certificate of completion and there will be a celebration to acknowledge the graduate. Participants are encouraged to invite guests to their graduation celebrations.

Entry & Referral Process

1. The Mental Health Court Coordinator receives the referral.
2. The defendant is scheduled for a screening interview.
3. At the interview, the screener will complete an assessment, which includes interviewing the defendant and reviewing relevant information systems to determine if the defendant is receiving or has received social services or has a prior criminal record.
4. At the next Mental Health Court date, the Coordinator advises the team as to whether the defendant meets admission criteria and makes a recommendation regarding acceptance.
5. An accepted defendant is placed on conditional release or probation by the judge and is assigned to a supervising probation officer.
6. The defendant then appears for periodic judicial reviews to monitor compliance.

What is recovery?

Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. We focus on four major dimensions that support a life in recovery:

Health: Overcoming or managing one's own disease(s) as well as living in a physically and emotionally healthy way.

Home: A stable and safe place to live.

Purpose: Meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society.

Community: Relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love and hope.

The Marinette County Mental Health Court Program is committed to the **10 Guiding Principles of Recovery** stated below, and integrate these principles into the implementation of the Mental Health Court and delivery of services. Marinette County Mental Health Court is dedicated to providing evidence-based services to promote recovery.

- Recovery emerges from hope.
- Recovery is person-driven.
- Recovery occurs via many pathways.
- Recovery is holistic.
- Recovery is supported by peers and allies.
- Recovery is supported through relationship and social networks.
- Recovery is culturally based and influenced.
- Recovery is supported by addressing trauma.
- Recovery involves individual, family, and community strengths and responsibility.
- Recovery is based on respect.