



Mental Health Court Support Services



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Toronto



Eligibility Criteria:

- Individuals 18 years of age or older
- Individuals with mental health concerns
- Individuals charged with a criminal offence
- Individuals who agree to accept service



Release planning:

- Assessment and consultation for bail & sentencing
- General psychiatric assessments to inform release plans
- Plans usually include referrals and linkages to community services, monitoring mental health status, and support to minimize risk of further contact with criminal justice system



Mental Health Diversion:

Criteria:

- 18 yrs or older
- Serious mental illness and/or developmental disability
- Charged with Class I or II offence
- Individual is amenable to service care plan
- On consent of Crown Attorney



Case management:

- Short- to medium- term support in the community
- Attending appointments, facilitating access to resources, assistance with ADLs, supporting adherence with treatment plan, liaising with other service providers, and family support



Psychiatric assessment:

- Brief general assessments for bail and sentencing
- Fitness to stand trial
- Assessments for diversion



Psychiatric follow-up:

- Off-site, one half day per week
- Quick access to treatment until referral can be made for long-term follow-up if needed
- Case manager coordinates and attends weekly clinic to facilitate team approach



Forensic assessments:

- Co-ordinate and arrange court-ordered forensic assessments
- Fitness, NCR, treatment orders, section 21 and 22 MHA assessments, section 34 YCJA assessments



Consultation:

- Information and consultation to service users, family members, service providers, court personnel and the public about mental illness, mental health services, mental health system and MHA
- Consultation and advice to judiciary for cases referred regarding disposition

Mental Health and Justice Prevention Program



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
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Program Goal

To prevent and reduce an individual's contact with the criminal justice system by providing services and supports to persons living with serious mental illness.



Program Objective

- To assist individuals with mental illness who are at significant risk of incurring criminal charges by assisting them to use mental health and other services and supports.



Target Population

- Any individual age 16 years or older with a serious mental illness who has or is at significant risk of involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Includes possible co-occurring conditions such as
 - ✓ Concurrent disorder (mental illness and addiction)
 - ✓ Dual diagnosis (mental illness and developmental disability)
 - ✓ Other cognitive disabilities

**In addition, individuals must meet one of the following criteria:*



Admission Criteria

1) Be referred by a police or probation officer who identifies the individual as being moderate to high risk of being charged with an offence

OR

2) Currently facing charges or has had criminal justice charges or was released from jail within the past year

OR



Admission criteria continued

3) Meet 5 or more of the following:

- ✓ Two or more prior convictions
- ✓ Current substance abuse or significant history of substance abuse
- ✓ Poor living arrangement (i.e. homeless or at risk of homelessness)
- ✓ Current family conflict
- ✓ Experiencing significant financial stress
- ✓ Lacks informal social supports
- ✓ Subject of 2 or more police mental health calls or apprehensions within the past year
- ✓ History of violence
- ✓ Active symptoms of major mental illness
- ✓ Absence of participation in an organized activity



Services Provided

- Case Management
- Consultation
- Information



Referral Sources

- Priority given to police and other criminal justice system personnel
 - Service providers
 - Family/friends
 - Self referrals
- * Participation in the program is voluntary



Accessing Services

- Consultation by phone is available for police and other criminal justice personnel at (416) 458-9466
- Home or community based visits are available for those referred to the program
- Referrals may be made by calling our intake line or by faxing referral form to our office
- Hours of operation are Monday to Friday 9am – 8pm



Benefits of Mental Health and Justice Crisis Prevention Program

- Focused on intervening before a situation escalates to the criminal arrest of persons with mental illness.
- Prompt response to inquiries and referrals (within 2 business days)
- Focused on reducing risk factors that contribute to involvement in the criminal justice system



Benefits cont'd...

- Link mentally ill persons to supports and services aimed at increasing quality of life
- May provide an alternative to criminal arrest where in the judgment of police or probation officer, the person with mental illness and the community is better served by linking the person to mental health services



Areas Served

- CMHA Mental Health and Justice Crisis Prevention Program catchment area is Scarborough (Victoria Park Ave. to Port Union Rd, Lake Ontario to Steeles Ave.)
- * This program is part of a larger, city wide initiative. Contact information for other crisis prevention programs is available in our brochure and referral form

Questions

