

## What happens to a case accepted by MHRC?

A case may be disposed of by pre-plea diversion, post-plea diversion or a probationary sentence.

The defendant appears before the Treatment Court Judge for disposition and entry into the MHRC.

The defendant must agree to comply with a comprehensive service plan as a condition of MHRC participation and supervision.

MHRC assigns a MHRC Probation Officer and Case Manager to closely supervise the defendant and report progress to the Judge.

The defendant/consumer attends Reinforcement Hearings before the MHRC Judge at 30-60-, or 90 day intervals depending on progress.

Negative Reinforcement Hearings are scheduled promptly if the defendant/consumer violates conditions of MHRC or fails to follow their service plan.

Individualized and graduated incentives and sanctions are used to reward positive behavior and to promptly address negative behavior.

## *The Mental Health Court is a collaborative effort of:*

- **Chester County Commissioners**
- **Court of Common Pleas**
- **District Attorney's Office**
- **Public Defender's Office**
- **Chester County Prison**
- **Bail & Pretrial Services Agency**
- **Dept of Human Services**
- **Dept of Drug & Alcohol Services**
- **Dept of Community Development**
- **Chester County Crime Victims Center**
- **Chester County NAMI**
  
- **Chester County Adult Probation & Parole**  
Phone 610-344-6290\*  
Fax 610-344-6321  
[www.chesco.org/adprob](http://www.chesco.org/adprob)
  
- **Chester County Mental Health**  
Phone 610-344-6265\*  
Fax 610-344-5997  
TTY 610-344-5942  
[www.chesco.org/mhmr](http://www.chesco.org/mhmr)

\*Toll Free 1-800-692-1100, ask for the desired department

# *Mental Health Recovery Court Of The Chester County Treatment Court*



*"A Bridge to Recovery"*

*A collaborative effort of the  
Chester County Mental Health &  
Criminal Justice Systems*

## What is Mental Health Recovery Court ?

Mental Health Court is a joint effort between the Chester County Department of Mental Health and the County Criminal Justice System to address the needs of offenders with serious and chronic mental illness. Participants are offered a treatment based sentence, which utilizes judicial oversight as a component of the program. The MHRC coordinates an array of services designed to address the many needs of this population.

The goals of the Mental Health Recovery Court are:

- To preserve public safety
- To divert offenders with mental illness from incarceration and into community treatment
- To maintain treatment, housing, benefits & community support services for offenders with mental illness
- To reduce repeated criminal activity by offenders with mental illness
- To support effective communication between the criminal justice and mental health systems

## Who is eligible for the Mental Health Court Recovery?

An adult offender/consumer who:

- Has a diagnosis of mental illness, mental disability or is dually diagnosed with a mental illness and substance abuse;
- Is currently charged with committing a misdemeanor and/or felony in Chester County;
- Agrees to comply with MHC program requirements

## Who is not eligible for Mental Health Recovery Court?

Those who have an out-of-county-or-state detainer or who have committed the following crimes:

- Assault while a prisoner
- Homicide Offenses
- Sexual Offenses
- Theft by extortion with threats of violence

DUI, Drug Trafficking, Probation Violations, Aggravated Assault, Arson, Burglary, Robbery and Violation of Firearms Act offenses are reviewed on a case by case basis.

## How do I make a referral to MHRC?

MHRC accepts referrals from Police Officers, Magisterial District Judges, District Attorneys, Defense Attorneys, Probation Officers, Prison staff, family members, and members of the public.

MHRC Referral Forms are available from the Police, the Magisterial District Court, Adult Probation & Parole, and the Department of Mental Health or at:

[www.chesco.org/adprob](http://www.chesco.org/adprob)  
[www.chesco.org/mhmr](http://www.chesco.org/mhmr)

**FAX the completed Referral Form to the MHRC Probation Officer at 610-344-4332.**

## What happens to a case after referral to MHRC?

MHRC staff screen the defendant for eligibility and, if eligible, develop an initial service plan. The defendant may be released on bail under court supervision to begin treatment in the community. The MHRC decides if the case is legally and clinically eligible. With the advice of counsel, the defendant/consumer voluntarily decides whether to participate in MHRC.