



MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY COURT - MHRC

MISSION

- Divert non-violent offenders out of the traditional criminal justice track and into treatment.
- To address the needs of the participants through services that aid mental health recovery.
- Improved access to treatment and support services, including substance abuse.

VISION

- Mental health is stabilized.
- Time in jail may be avoided.
- Recidivism is reduced.
- Reduced emergency room and hospital stays.
- The participant will continue on the path of recovery.

ELIGIBILITY

The participant must:

- Be a resident of Kalamazoo County.
- Suffer from a serious and persistent mental illness.
- Be eligible for case management services through KCMHSAS.
- Be a voluntary participant.
- Not pose an unacceptable risk of harm.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- A year-long program offers the participant continuous support on the path to recovery.
- Participants take part in programs selected to meet their needs.
- Bi-weekly hearings review progress in the programs.
- A sensitive courtroom environment encourages participants.

ACCEPTANCE INTO MHRC

- Acceptance into the MHRC program will happen 1) as a diversion program with the defendant pleading guilty to a criminal charge and the prosecutor agreeing to a delayed sentence or 2) as a condition of probation.
- Defendant must be motivated to work toward recovery.
- Once all terms of the MHRC program are met, the prosecutor agrees to dismiss the charge if on a delayed sentence or the Court successfully discharges the participant from probation.

MHRC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- MHRC is a year-long program.
- Participants will progress through two phases of the program.
- Participants must successfully complete both phases within the year.

Phase 1: 6 months

- The participant must appear for bi-weekly Court hearings where their mental health caseworker, MHRC peer and clinical staff will be present.
- The purpose of the hearing is to provide the court with an update of the participant's behavior and to set obtainable goals to be accomplished by the next court hearing.
- Participants have recovery homework given to them at each session.
- After six months of positive performance in Phase 1, the participant moves to Phase 2.

Phase 2: 6 Months

- The participant must appear for monthly meetings during Phase 2.
- The focus in Phase 2 is less on stability and more firmly rooted in recovery assistance and activities.
- Formal graduation if the participant completes all of the terms.