

Participating Agencies That Comprise The Mental Health Docket Treatment Team

- **Stow Municipal Court
Community Control Department
4400 Courthouse Drive
Stow, Ohio 44224
(330) 564-4199**
- **Community Support Services
150 Cross Street
Akron, Ohio 44311
(330) 253-9388**
- **Portage Path Behavioral Health
340 South Broadway Street
Akron, Ohio 44308
(330) 253-3100**
- **Summit County ADM Board –
affiliated agencies for treatment of
substance abuse
100 West Cedar Street
Akron, Ohio 44307
(330) 762-3500**

Mental Health Facts

Mental illnesses are neurological brain disorders caused by chemical imbalances in the brain. Individuals with mental illness can recover if the right treatment and support is provided. Usually medication is one part of successful treatment. Jails are ill equipped and not trained to handle these individuals.

More than half of all jail inmates have a mental health problem. About 76% of local prisoners who have a mental health problem met criteria for substance abuse or dependency.

Incarceration of mentally ill offenders costs approximately \$25,000 per person per year. In contrast, a person involved in the Mental Health Docket will cost less than \$3,000 annually. Nearly a quarter of jail inmates who have a mental health problem served 3 or more prior incarcerations.

Mental Health Dockets are an innovative approach in dealing with offenders with mental illness. The premise is to divert them from the justice system using intensive programming and treatment.

The Mental Health Docket is a collaborative effort of local judges, prosecutors, attorneys, community control, and treatment professionals. Their goal is to move the persons with mental illness out of the criminal justice system by teaching them to make healthy changes affecting their lives.

S.T.R.I.D.E. Successful Treatment Results In Developing Excellence



STOW MUNICIPAL COURT

**MENTAL HEALTH
DOCKET**

**Judge Lisa L. Coates
Judge Kim R. Hoover
4400 Courthouse Drive
Stow, Ohio 44224**



Stow Municipal Court Mental Health Docket

What is the Mental Health Docket?

The Mental Health Docket is an option for individuals with a mental illness who have been charged with misdemeanors and are facing a potential jail sentence. The primary goal is to keep defendants psychiatrically stable and crime free by teaching them to make healthy changes affecting their lives.

What are the advantages of choosing the Mental Health Docket?

The program is designed to divert individuals away from jail and coordinate mental health treatment. A variety of services are available to meet the individual's specific needs. For example, there are counseling options, psychiatric care, intensive case management, community services, as well as support and rewards from the Court. Upon successful completion of the program, community control is terminated.

Who is eligible?

Individuals who have been charged with 1st, 2nd or 3rd degree misdemeanors are eligible. Individuals must have a major mental illness such as Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder. However, other primary diagnoses may be considered. Individuals must also have the mental capacity to understand the requirements of the program, the willingness to participate, and the desire to take medication as prescribed. Individuals charged with crimes of violence may be accepted with prior victim consent. Individuals charged with sex offenses, OVI, and crimes involving use of weapons or children as victims are not eligible.

What are the expectations of the defendants in Mental Health Court?

A two year commitment through the Court is a basic requirement. This includes following community control guidelines and intensive case management services. Individuals initially appear in court on a weekly basis and gradually make fewer appearances as they successfully complete their individualized treatment objectives. Abstaining from alcohol and illegal drugs, taking medication as prescribed, and following any additional rules set by the Court is also required.

What happens if the guidelines are not followed?

Success is the intent of the Mental Health Docket and its staff. All efforts will be made in that direction. Sanctions are geared to encourage compliance. Sanctions may include a court reprimand, increased court appearances, house arrest, community service, and/or jail. However, blatant disregard for the program guidelines could result in termination from the program and possible reinstatement of the original sentence.

What is the referral process?

Referrals can be made at the time of arraignment. The Judge, the Prosecutor, or the individual's attorney can make the referral. A referral can also be made by the law enforcement agency. Once a referral has been made, the individual will be contacted for a screening to see if he/she meets the requirements. If you have any questions regarding referral forms or requirements, please contact the Court's Community Control Department at (330) 564-4199.