

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Mental Health Court Program
(626) 403-4370**

MISSION

The mission of the Mental Health Court Program is to assist mentally ill defendants in the criminal justice system.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Mental Health Court Program assists mentally ill defendants by providing two distinct types of services:

- Consultation and referral services at 22 Los Angeles County Superior Courts
- Community Reintegration Program

CONSULTATION AND REFERRAL

The Mental Health Court Program was the first program in California to serve mentally ill defendants in court by providing mental health consultation services. Mental health professionals work collaboratively with defense attorneys on cases involving mentally ill defendants. These professionals identify mentally ill defendants at the beginning of the criminal justice process, intervene with appropriate referrals and assist in developing dispositions that include mental health treatment. In some cases mental health staff facilitates the diversion of mentally ill persons out of the criminal justice system without a conviction. Perhaps their most important function is to educate judicial officers about mental illness and the resources available to assist mentally ill defendants. Services provided by the Program include:

Assessments

- Mental health evaluations at arraignment or at any point in the legal process
- Evaluations for inpatient hospitalization under PC 4011.6
- Assessments for placement and housing needs

Linkage

- Referrals to jail mental health services for
 - ◆ Medication management
 - ◆ Acute hospitalization

- ◆ Day treatment
- ◆ Board and care
- Referrals to other forensic mental health programs
 - ◆ AB 2034
 - ◆ Sidekicks
 - ◆ AB 1421
- Referrals to community-based mental health treatment and residential services
- Referrals to emergency housing, drug rehabilitation, domestic violence and other social services

Consultation

- Crisis intervention for defendants and family members
- Consultation with judicial officers on appropriate dispositions
- Coordination of services with jail and community mental health to ensure continuity of care

Community Reintegration Program

The Mental Health Court Program’s Community Reintegration option offers mentally ill defendants community-based treatment as an alternative to incarceration or as a condition of probation. During the disposition of their criminal court case, defendants who desire mental health treatment may be referred by the Court to participate in one of two specialized treatment programs. These specialized programs focus on providing rehabilitation skills and reintegration into the community. A total of 70 beds are available for defendants who reside at these programs for six (6) months to one (1) year. The Department of Mental Health contracts for Community Reintegration services with the following mental health facilities:

<u>Olive Vista</u>	50 beds
Locked – Licensed as a Skilled Nursing Facility	
 <u>Gateways Residential Program</u>	 20 beds
Unlocked – Includes on-site sheltered workshop	

**Court Locations Served By The
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Mental Health
Court Program**

Airport
Alhambra
Beverly Hills
Burbank
Central Arraignment
Clara Shortridge Foltz (CCB)
Compton
Department 95
East Los Angeles
El Monte
Glendale
Hollywood
Inglewood
Long Beach
Metropolitan
Pasadena
San Fernando
Santa Clarita
Torrance
Van Nuys
West Covina
Whittier