



Mercy Care Court Team Functions

Paula Krasselt, Justice Services Administrator
krasselt@mercycaresaz.org



Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
Arizona's Medicaid agency that offers health care programs to serve Arizona residents. Individuals must meet certain income and other requirements to obtain services.



Federal and State Funding -
Medicaid

Contracted Health Plans

Medicaid Behavioral Health Designations

Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI)

- A determination that is dependant upon:
 - A qualifying Diagnosis
 - Functional limitations

Served by 3 health plans throughout the entire state: Mercy Care, Arizona Complete Health, and Health Choice

In the Central Region these evaluations are administered by an organization called CPR – Crisis Preparation and Recovery



General Mental Health / Substance Use

- This category covers the vast majority of members – and most of the general population.
 - The walking well
 - Periodic need for behavioral or mental health services.

No evaluation is required, it is sort of a default category

Served by 7 Health Plans - AzCH, Banner, Care 1st, Health Choice, Magellan, Mercy Care, United

Mercy Care Mission: to address and advocate for the comprehensive health of our members and families, including circumstances that impact their well-being, with special consideration for the underserved and those with complex health needs.

Justice Services Team

- Team of 9 in the Community – including a 2 who serve the Juvenile system
- Team of 3 in the Jail

The Justice Services Team carries out the Mission of Mercy Care through relationships that we have developed with criminal justice entities such as the courts, probation, parole, the Sheriff's Office/Jails, prisons, and other administrative entities such as the Administrative Office of the Courts and Department of Child Safety.

Our number one goal is to disengage our members from the criminal justice system through engagement with the supports and services that they need to be able to reduce and/or eliminate behaviors that subject them to this system.



Activities of the Justice Team

Courts
Release Planning -
Incarceration
Juvenile Justice Engagement



Problem Solving Courts

Mental Health Courts

- Criminal Courts v. Civil Courts (Title 36)
- Court Liaisons serve
 - Superior Court – Felony
 - City Courts – Misdemeanor
 - Phoenix
 - Glendale
 - Tempe
 - Chandler
 - Scottsdale
 - Apache Junction
- Drug Courts – Pinal County

Problem Solving Courts

- Maricopa County Superior Court
 - Felony Cases
 - Eligibility for Superior Court: convicted and sentenced to probation and assigned to an SMI caseload
 - 2 Courts at the Superior level
 - Probation Violation Court
 - Review Hearings
- Many cities have their own Problem Solving Courts for misdemeanor cases.
 - Serve both SMI and GMH members
 - Pre-adjudication
 - We support Tempe, Glendale, Chandler, City of Phoenix, Mesa, Apache Junction, Scottsdale and Pinal County Mental Health and Drug Courts.



Activities of the Justice Team

Courts
Release Planning -
Incarceration
Juvenile Justice Engagement



Release Planning

Release Planning is done by all members of the team to some degree – but there are 2 dedicated staff whose primary responsibility is release planning and Reach In.

Reach In = process of reaching in to our members who are incarcerated in jail or prison to engage them in order to ensure that they are seen by a PCP or BMHP within 7 days of release.

- Goals:
 - Reduction in recidivism
 - Improved health outcomes
 - Breaking of cycle in families/communities
 - Reduction in use of jails/prison for housing of mentally ill
 - Reduction of unnecessary Emergency Department use/Inpatient stays
 - Reduced cost to taxpayers
 - Safety for communities.
- Cases come from prison release planners, Corrections Health Services, court calendars, and several databases/data sharing links.
- Mercy Care Court team assists in coordination of care for members releasing from prison and jail.

Reach In

AHCCCS Initiative for collaboration with Jails/Prisons

Who Qualifies for Justice System Reach In?

- GMHSU/DDDD/ALTCS and SMI T19 members
- Incarcerated 30+ days
- Have a set release date from prison or jail.
- If they had AHCCCS before going in, intention is to do Reach in prior to release.
- We also coordinate care for NT19 SMI Members and GMHSU Members with significant chronic medical conditions that do not qualify for Reach-In

Post-release follow-up

- Follow up: Prescriber appts, and PCP appts- Did they show? If not, was the appointment rescheduled and outreach completed?
- Did the member check in with Probation/Parole?
- Hope Lives Forensic Peer Support Services: Has there been follow up with Hope Lives? Do they need a new referral for the member? Is the member engaging?
- Is the member able to get their medications from the pharmacy?
- The member needs to meet with SMI Clinic Benefits Specialist ASAP to confirm AHCCCS application was completed, or to complete it if needed. They can also go to the DES Office directly and may qualify for emergency SNAP assistance.
- The member needs to meet with Housing Specialist to discuss housing ASAP. There are options for NT19, felons, and Sex Offenders!



QUESTIONS?



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH
OUT TO MERCY CARE COURT
TEAM REGARDING ANY
JUSTICE INVOLVED
MEMBERS!



mercy care

Thank you for your time!