

General Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility is determined by the local Behavioral/Mental Health Docket Advisory Committee

Who is Eligible?

Participants:

- Must be voluntary with capacity to consent
- Assessed medium to high risk of recidivism using a validated risk-needs assessment.
- Assessed using a validated clinical-assessment tool that produces a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental illness is related to their current offense.
- Local resources must meet participants' identified needs.

Consequences and outcomes of untreated mental illness



10.2 million

Approximately 10.2 million adults have co-occurring mental and addiction disorders.



#1

Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide and is a major contributor to the global burden of disease.



26%

Approximately 26% of homeless adults staying in shelters live with serious mental illness.



-\$193 billion

Serious mental illness costs billions annually in lost earnings in the US.



24%

Approximately 24% of state prisoners have a recent history of a mental health condition.



90%

Ninety percent of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the US.

<https://newroadtreatment.org/mental-health-awareness/>

Behavioral/Mental Health Docket Standards

Standard 1: Goals. The goals of behavioral health dockets shall include (i) reducing recidivism; (ii) increasing personal, familial, and societal accountability among offenders through ongoing judicial intervention; (iii) addressing mental illness and substance abuse that contribute to criminal behavior and recidivism; and (iv) promoting effective planning and use of resources within the criminal justice system and community agencies.

Standard 2: Administration.

Standard 3: Local Behavioral Health Docket Advisory Committee.

Standard 4: Docket Team. A behavioral health docket team should include, at a minimum, the judge, a representative from the local Behavioral Health Authority/Community Services Board, and a representative from community corrections. The Commonwealth's Attorney and the Defense Attorney are encouraged, but are not required, to participate as members of the court docket team.

Standard 5: Evidence-Based Practices.

Standard 6: Voluntary and Informed Participation.

Standard 7: Eligibility Criteria. Criteria regarding eligibility for participation in the docket must be well-defined and written and must address public safety and the locality's treatment capacity.

Standard 8: Program Structure. A behavioral health docket program should be structured so that participants progress through phases which may include orientation, stabilization, community reintegration, maintenance, successful completion and transition out of the program.

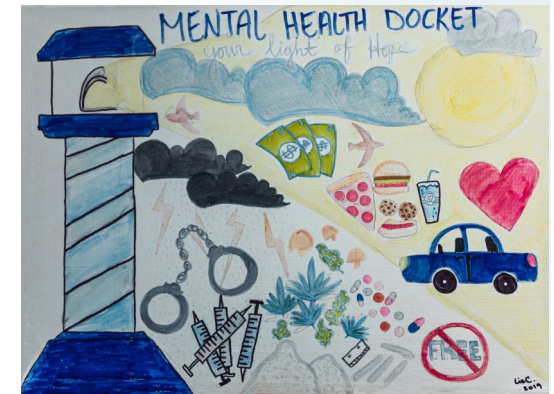
Standard 9: Treatment and Support Services.

Standard 10: Participant Compliance. Behavioral health dockets should have written procedures for incentives, rewards, sanctions, and therapeutic responses to participant behavior while under court supervision. These procedures must be provided to all team members and the participant at the start of a participant's participation in the program.

Standard 11: Confidentiality.

Standard 12: Evaluation and Monitoring.

Standard 13: Education.



Virginia Behavioral/Mental Health Dockets



Behavioral/Mental Health Docket— Light of Hope

Behavioral/Mental Health Docket Program Structure

A behavioral health docket program should be structured so that participants progress through phases which may include:

- orientation
- stabilization
- community reintegration
- maintenance
- successful completion and transition out of the program

Required Training

Approval to establish a behavioral/mental health docket follows the required Virginia Behavioral/Mental Health Docket Application process. This includes completing the required training, **Developing a Mental Health Court: An Interdisciplinary Curriculum (CSG)** facilitated by request . <https://youtu.be/nSy-uy8iMFo>



How does it work and what are the benefits?

Through voluntary admission, eligible defendants are invited to participate in the Behavioral/ Mental Health dockets following a specialized screening and assessment. For those who submit to the terms and conditions of community-based supervision, a team of program and treatment professionals work together to develop service plans and supervise participants.

Preliminary research demonstrates that Behavioral Health/Mental Health docket participants tend to have lower rates of criminal activity and increased linkages to treatment services when compared to defendants with mental illness who go through the traditional court system.

“37% of adults incarcerated in the state and federal prison system have a diagnosed mental illness. 70.4% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosed mental illness.”¹

According to the Mental Illness in Jails Report of 2018, Virginia jails are following the national trend with 19.84%

1. <https://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-By-the-Numbers>.

Application Process

According to Rule 1:25. Specialty Dockets ¹

These are specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia’s circuit and district court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment, supervision, and remediation integral to case disposition.

Authorization Process - A circuit or district court which intends to establish one or more types of these recognized specialty dockets must petition the Supreme Court of Virginia for authorization before beginning operation of a specialty docket, or in the instance of an existing specialty docket, continuing its operation.

http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/dtc/specialty_dockets/bhd_application.pdf

The link above ~~will~~ is to the application to request authorization.

- Application
 - Jurisdiction Name
 - Name of Judge
 - Name of Coordinator
 - Proposed Start Date

http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/dtc/specialty_dockets/home.html

The link above provides information under the Behavior/Mental Health Docket Advisory Committee:

- Standards
- Application Review Checklist
- Behavioral/Mental Health Docket Directory
- Behavioral /Mental Health Docket

¹ http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/scv/amendments/2016_1114_rule_1_25.pdf