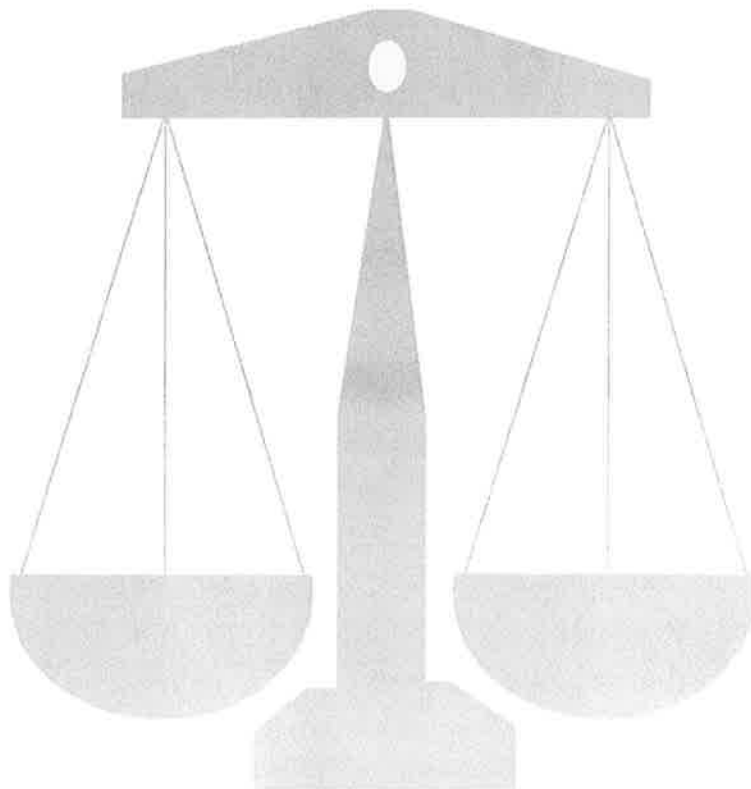


22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District  
Drug Court  
Co-occurring Track  
Participant Manual



## Welcome To Participants

Dear Program Participant,

Welcome to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court's Drug Court Co-occurring track Program. We are glad to have you as a participant and we are here to assist you on your road to recovery. Your recovery may include such things as taking medication and attending co-occurring treatment appointments.

Through cooperation of the Courts, the District Attorney's Office, Probation and Parole Office, Treatment Providers, Drug Court Co-occurring track staff and other community agencies we are offering you a chance to improve your quality of life.

This handbook is provided to offer you an overview of our program, an outline of the phases of Drug Court Co-occurring track and inform you of what is required to successfully graduate from the Program. If program changes are made the participant will be given advance notice.

We hope all your questions will be answered in this handbook, but if you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to ask the Case Manager.

We welcome you to the 22<sup>nd</sup> JDC Drug Court Co-occurring track and wish you every success in the program.

Sincerely,

Heather O'Neill  
Case Manager

## **Mission Statement**

22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Drug Court Co-occurring track will strive to reduce recidivism of individuals in the criminal justice system that have mental illness and provide community protection with a cost effective, integrated continuum of care through the utilization of integrated substance abuse and mental health services concurrently and community resources. It will use the law as a therapeutic agent to improve the quality of lives within the community. This will be done by increased collaborations between the Court, counsel, state and local government agencies, and community mental health treatment services by providing individualized, culturally competent, trauma-informed, evidenced based services based upon participant's level of need. The program will hold defendants accountable and helping them achieve long-term stability to become law-abiding citizens and successful family and community members.

## **What is the Drug Court Co-occurring Track?**

The Drug Court Co-occurring Track is a special Court program given the responsibility to handle cases involving offenders with both mental health diagnoses and substance abuse disorders through supervision and treatment. These programs include such things as: frequent drug testing, judicial and probation supervision, counseling, medication, educational opportunities, co-occurring treatment and the use of sanctions and incentives. The Judge is much more involved in supervising Drug Court Co-occurring track participants than is customary for individuals who are simply placed in a standard probationary or diversionary program.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Federal confidentiality laws protect any person who is receiving treatment for a mental health and substance abuse problem. To participate in this program you must agree to waive some of your rights to confidentiality. For example you will be asked to sign releases so that your treatment providers can confer with the Case Manager.

Generally individuals have a right not to waive these rights. However, program participation requires waiver of these rights.

**Confidentiality and respect are essential in Drug Court Co-occurring track.** Anything that is discussed in group, court, or meetings must remain within the confines of that setting. No information pertaining to any participant should be discussed outside of group unless you have that participant's written permission to talk about it.

## Overview of Requirements

### Program Requirements and Case Plans:

The expectations in each participant's case plan are individualized. The requirements are designed on a case-by-case basis to best meet the needs and abilities of each individual participant, phase by phase. Each participant has a case manager to provide monitoring, accountability, and service coordination. General program requirements include the following:

- Adherence to scheduled sessions and appointments made by the providers
- Medication Adherence
- Compliance with drug and alcohol testing
- Compliance with terms of probation
- Attendance at regular court appearances
- Evidence of productive use of time (employment, volunteer activities, or education) as appropriate
- Other supportive activities such as self-help meeting attendance, spiritual/religious memberships, and services provided by peer support specialist.

#### **Phase I- Acute Stabilization**

- Court weekly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Develop case plan
- 2-3 check ins weekly with case management
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Address housing
- Obtain medical assessment
- Start changing people, places and things
- Meetings 3x weekly *which can include NAMI Connections meetings*
- Sponsor sheet
- TANF documentation
- 60 days in duration
- 30 days verified sobriety to advance
- Take prescribed medications as directed
- Complete weekly medication journal
- BHC group weekly attendance

#### **Phase II- Clinical Stabilization**

- Court *bi-weekly*
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision

- Review case plan
- 2-3 check ins weekly with case management
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Begin peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain housing
- Address financial issues
- Address medical
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Provide verification of a sponsor
- Meetings 3x weekly
- Must provide High school diploma or Hi Set verification, Undergo assessment for vocational/educational services if needed
- Attend all appointments as scheduled and take prescribed medication as recommended
- 90 days in duration
- 60 days verified sobriety to advance
- Take prescribed medications as directed
- Complete weekly medication journal
- BHC group weekly attendance

### **Phase III- Pro-Social Habilitation**

- Court monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Once a week check ins with case manager
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Address life skills
- Begin criminal thinking program
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Establish recovery network
- Establish pro-social activity
- Address medical
- Maintain housing
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Meetings 3x weekly
- Begin discussion with probation payments of fees/fines (Financial Disclosure statements)
- Must be enrolled in Hiset classes if deemed appropriate
- Attend all appointments as scheduled and take prescribed medication as recommended
- Take prescribed medications as directed
- Complete weekly medication journal
- BHC group weekly attendance
- 90 days duration
- 120 days verified sobriety to advance

#### **Phase IV- Adaptive Habilitation**

- Court monthly by zoom if in compliance
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Bi-monthly check ins with case management
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Continue criminal thinking program
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain pro-social activity
- Maintain housing
- Addressing financial issues
- Maintain recovery network
- Address medical
- Address ancillary services (i.e. parenting, family support)
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Meetings 3x weekly
- Possibility of reducing to screen 1x a week
- Employment verification or a full time student, if unable to work then a referral to DRC or NAMI Day Center
- Attend all appointments as scheduled and take prescribed medication as recommended
- Take prescribed medications as directed
- Complete weekly medication journal
- BHC group once per month
- 120 days duration
- 180 days verified sobriety to advance

#### **Phase V- Continuing Care**

- Court appearance only if in violation
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Monthly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests
- Complete criminal thinking program
- Develop continuing care plan
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain recovery network
- Maintain pro-social activity
- Maintain housing
- Addressing financial issues
- Address medical
- Maintain employment, vocational training, or school

- Address ancillary services (i.e. parenting, family support)
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things

To be eligible to graduate:

180 days duration

Minimum of 6 months sobriety

- Compliance with supervision
- Maintain pro-social activities and recovery network
- Maintain employment, vocational training or school
- Address ancillary services (i.e. parenting, family support)
- Articulate continuing care plan

Show ability to maintain mental health treatment and medications without reminders from program staff

Attend all appointments as scheduled and take prescribed medication as recommended

*Take prescribed medications as directed*

BHC group once per month

discuss screening twice a month

meetings 3x weekly recommended

## **Status Hearings**

Attend status hearings as directed. Your Case Manager will complete a status report for each of your appearances, giving the Court information on how you are doing in the Program. You may receive sanctions or incentives depending on your adherence to the Program. Do not arrive late to the status hearings!

Remember that a Status Hearing, regardless of if in person or virtual, is a Court appearance. Proper attire is required. No shorts, cutoffs, bare midriffs, halter-tops, sagging pants, hats, bandanas or other disrespectful/disruptive clothing will be allowed. Men are not to wear earrings and no one should wear any kind of facial piercing.

## **Sanctions and incentives**

Failure to follow through with responsibilities produces consequences. There are many sanctions that the Judge may choose, including: verbal reprimands, community service, increase in frequency of drug screening, increase in the number of peer support meetings or other court approved meetings required weekly, a written assignment, fines, appropriate jail term or dismissal from the program which would result in the scheduling of a revocation hearing.

Sanctions are not merely punishments, but are imposed as tools to assist the participant in meeting program expectations. Honesty is always the best policy and dishonesty will usually result in an increase in the intensity of sanctions imposed. Discharge from the program is only a last resort for people who clearly cannot or will not comply with the structure of the Drug Court Co-occurring track Program.

Incentives are provided to individuals who have demonstrated a desire to change their behavior and work toward a successful completion of the Drug Court Co-occurring track Program. These rewards could range from public praise in court from the Judge, ceremonies and tokens of progress, reduced supervision and/or frequency of drug screens, dismissal of criminal charges, reduction in the term of probation, coupons for free or reduced price drug screen, reduced or suspended incarceration and decreased frequency of court appearances.

### **Treatment / Meetings**

You are expected to attend and participate in all required treatment activities. You will be required to turn in a weekly appointment log. This log is dated and signed by treatment providers. Providers are encouraged to write comments about participant's progress with treatment.

You are also required to present verification of peer support meeting attendance, as a partial measure of your recovery. You are required to fill out a meeting verification sheet for each peer support meeting that you attend. Remember that these peer support groups are not affiliated with Drug Court Co-occurring track. Some may not be willing to sign forms. That is their right, and you should find another meeting.

### **Medication**

You are responsible for informing both providers and your Case Manager of all prescription medications you are taking or of any changes to your medication protocol. Prior to filling any medications prescribed by your doctor you must contact your case manager.

You are required to get approval from your Case Manager before taking any over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal supplements, nutritional aids or similar products.

You are required to keep a medication journal. In this journal you will record all medications taken. These logs are to be done daily and you are to include then name of the medications, the time taken, the prescribing doctor and the dose.

Your Case Manager may ask to do a random pill count at any time.

### **Drug Screens**

You are required to submit to observed random urine drug screens. You will be required to install the Reconnect app on your phone if able. If you are unable to install the app you will be required to call the check-in number daily. Daily check-in times are from 5 a.m. until 1 p.m. The phone number is (985) 202-5965. If you are instructed to screen via the app or the call in number you are required to screen that day. You are required to have a picture ID and pay the cost of the screen. If you are going to be positive for a screen inform your case manager before you give the urine specimen. Honesty is always best.

**The Covington Drug Screening Office** is located at 1133 N. Lee Rd. in Covington. The screening hours in Covington are:

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday,



8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Saturday and Sunday.  
The office is closed from 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM.

**The Slidell Drug Screening Office** is located at 1423-B Fremaux Ave. in Slidell.  
The screening hours in Slidell are:

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday,  
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Saturday and Sunday.  
The office is closed from 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM.

If you have not arrived to the screening site by the time we stop screening, you will receive a stall (presumptive positive) for that screen. If you have not produced specimen by 15 minutes after closing time, you will receive a presumptive positive for that screen.

Adulteration of a screen (trying to cover up/change results) will result in appropriate sanctions.

Your Treatment Provider may require drug screens. The results of the screens will be viewed in the same manner as screens in the drug court office.

You may also be required to submit to breath tests to verify that you are alcohol free.

### **Inpatient / Detoxification**

Some participants, as part of their treatment plans, may be referred for chemical detoxification and/or inpatient treatment. Participants will be expected to follow all recommendations of the treatment provider, as an expectation of the Drug Court Co-occurring track Program.

Upon discharge from chemical detoxification and/or inpatient treatment, participants will resume the specified treatment protocols of the Drug Court Co-occurring track Program.

### **Drug Court Co-occurring track Team**

The Drug Court Co-occurring track Program is fortunate to have a team of co-occurring professionals and criminal justice professionals as part of its weekly review process. Other team members who may also appear in the court room represent various community resources.

### **Probation**

Probation Officers are members of the Drug Court Co-occurring track Team. While you are in the program you must comply with the conditions of your probation. Violations can result in a revocation hearing being scheduled.

## **A Final Word**

Please notify your Case Manager of any stressful issues affecting your recovery. The Court is always ready to assist where appropriate. We want you to have a successful recovery. The Court will work with you in every way possible to achieve this goal.