



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Mental health for all

CMHA Toronto

MENTAL HEALTH COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Jan 12, 2022

Locations

ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE – CRIMINAL COURTS

METRO EAST (SCARBOROUGH) - 1911 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST, SCARBOROUGH ON

METRO WEST (ETOBICOKE) – 2201 FINCH AVE WEST, ETOBICOKE, ON





East Court Support Team

COURT SUPPORT COORDINATORS: TINA SKEETE & RACHEL ROSS-VANCE
ON SITE – COURT SUPPORT

COURT SUPPORT CASE MANAGERS: NETASHA SUNDARALINKAM & TBA
SUPPORT

Program Description

- CLIENTS: Individuals (18 yrs old and over)
Living with serious mental illness
Current criminal charges (before the Metro East or Metro West Courts)
- SERVICES: Release planning for bail or sentencing purposes
Mental Health Diversion
Referral to community mental health supports and treatment
Consultation (lawyers, family, service providers etc.)
Coordination of forensic assessments (Fitness, NCR etc.)



Release Planning:

- Assessment and consultation for bail and plea court
- General psychiatric assessments to inform release plans
- Plans usually include referrals and linkages to community services, monitoring mental health status, and support to minimize risk of further contact with criminal justice system



Mental Health Diversion:

Criteria:

- 18 yrs or older
- Serious mental illness
- Charged with minor offences
- Client amenable to service care plan
- On consent of Crown Attorney



Case Management:

- Two full-time case managers
- Short- to medium- term support in the community
- Attending appointments, facilitating access to resources, assistance with ADLs, supporting adherence with treatment plan, liaising with other service providers, and family support



Psychiatric Follow-Up:

- Off-site, one half day per week
- Quick access to short-term follow-up until referral can be made for long-term follow-up
- Case manager attends weekly clinic to facilitate team approach



Forensic Assessments:

- Co-ordinate and arrange court-ordered forensic assessments
- Fitness, NCR, treatment orders, section 21 and 22 MHA assessments, section 34 YCJA assessments



Consultation:

- Information and consultation to consumers, family members, service providers, court personnel and the public about mental illness, mental health services, mental health system and MHA
- Consultation and advice to judiciary for cases referred regarding disposition

Appendix II: Mental Health Courts in Ontario

Location	Name of Court	Year Established
Barrie	Barrie & Orillia Mental Health Courts	2012
Belleville/Hastings	Belleville Community Treatment Court	2007
Burlington	Burlington Community Treatment Court	2012
Kawartha Lakes	City of Kawartha Lakes Community Court	2010
Kenora	Kenora Mental Health Court	2010
London	Adult Therapeutic Court	1997
Newmarket	The Community Treatment Court	2001
Ottawa	Ottawa Mental Health Court	2005
Owen Sound	Owen Sound Courthouse	2004
Oxford (Woodstock)	Woodstock Community Treatment Court	2014
Peel	Alternative Resolution Court (ARC)	1999
Peterborough	Peterborough Community Support Court	2012
Sault St. Marie	Sault Community Court	2010
St. Catharines	Robert S.K Welch Court	n/a
Sudbury	Sudbury Community Wellness Court	2014
Toronto	102 Court, Old City Hall	1998
Walkerton (county of Bruce)	The 672 Court	2011
Waterloo	Region of Waterloo Courthouse	2005
Windsor	672 Therapeutic Court	2006
Total: 19		

Source: Mental Health Courts in Ontario: A Review of the Initiation and Operation of Mental Health Courts Across the Province, October 2017

Benefits

- ▶ Improved mental health functioning/outcomes for clients
- ▶ Reduced recidivism and hospitalization
- ▶ Reduced pressures on the criminal justice system
- ▶ Increased access to mental health services

Goals

- ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM RECEIVE APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY SUPPORT AND TREATMENT;
- REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS WHOSE OFFENCE IS CONSIDERED TO BE LOW-RISK WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES;
- REDUCE CRIMINALIZATION AND STIGMATIZATION OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM;
- STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS