

## **MIDD 2 Initiative TX-SMC: Seattle Mental Health Municipal Court (SMC)**

*How does the program advance the adopted MIDD policy goals?*

This initiative will impact the adopted MIDD policy goal of “divert individuals with behavioral health needs from costly interventions, such as jail, emergency rooms, and hospitals.”

Mental health courts provide a post-jail booking diversion<sup>196</sup> intervention, engaging individuals in community-based treatment and supportive services and reducing future jail bookings. In addition to diverting more individuals with mental illness from unnecessary emergency department (ED) and psychiatric hospitalizations, this process provides a more efficient, safe, cost effective process as well as improved resource utilization. However, when individuals who may have been considered for a mental health court are deemed not legally competent to proceed with a criminal case, and their charges are dismissed, typical mental health court interventions are no longer a resource. For this population, outreach and engagement services are needed.

### **1. Program Description**

#### *◇ A. Service Components/Design (Brief)*

This initiative provides clinical staff focused on outreach and engagement to respond to individuals charged with a City of Seattle Municipal Court misdemeanor who are likely to have, or have had, their criminal charges dismissed due to lack of legal competency. Most if not all of these individuals are not currently engaged in the public behavioral health system. The clinical staff provides assertive outreach and engagement for these individuals to offer services, respite supports, assistance with entitlements, housing and other essential needs, with the ultimate goal of reducing contact with the criminal justice system.

#### *◇ B. Goals*

This initiative provides outreach and linkage services into the community to locate and serve a group of individuals that are committing low-level criminal offenses, and are appearing in Seattle Municipal Court Mental Health Court (MHC) on a frequent basis. The goal is to address the individual’s health and human services needs in order to prevent future contact with the criminal justice system.

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<sup>196</sup> Sequential Intercept 3.

◇ C. Preliminary Performance Measures (based on MIDD 2 Framework)<sup>197</sup>

1. How much? Service Capacity Measures

This initiative serves at least 130 unduplicated individuals annually.

2. How well? Service Quality Measures

- Increased use of preventive (outpatient) services

3. Is anyone better off? Individual Outcome Measures

- Reduced behavioral health risk factors
- Improved wellness and social relationships
- Reduced unnecessary incarceration

◇ D. Provided by: Contractor

**2. Spending Plan**

Year	Activity	Amount
2017	Outreach and engagement for SMC individuals who have frequent contact with the criminal justice system.	\$ 93,150
<b>2017 Annual Expenditure</b>		<b>\$ 93,150</b>
2018	Outreach and engagement for SMC individuals who have frequent contact with the criminal justice system.	\$ 95,572
<b>2018 Annual Expenditure</b>		<b>\$ 95,572</b>
<b>Biennial Expenditure</b>		<b>\$ 188,722</b>

**3. Implementation Schedule**

◇ A. Procurement and Contracting of Services

A review and continuous quality improvement process will occur in 2017-2018 involving the current contracted behavioral health provider, including more robust data collection. An RFP is not needed at this time.

<sup>197</sup> Throughout 2017, review and refinement of Results-Based Accountability (RBA) performance measures for MIDD 2 initiatives will be conducted whenever applicable, in consultation with providers. Updates to performance measures that may result from this collaborative process will be reported in the next MIDD Annual Report in August 2018.

◇ *B. Services Start date (s)*

Services continued on January 1, 2017.

**4. Community Engagement Efforts**

Quality improvement efforts feature routine stakeholder engagement, including ongoing service delivery and care coordination improvements. Non-county stakeholders include the contracted provider, court leadership, hospitals, the Seattle City Attorney's Office and Reentry Workgroup and other behavioral health providers.