Hays County

Mental Health Court

Handbook

Contact Information

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Overview

The Mental Health Court (MHC) is a year long, three-phased, specialized treatment court designed to support individuals whose serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities have played a role in their involvement in the justice system. These individuals often face additional barriers such as homelessness, unemployment, and lack of access to consistent treatment and services and have fallen through the cracks of traditional systems of care. Mental Health Court addresses this issue by diverting eligible participants into community based treatment and mental health services, partnered with the accountability of attending court and meeting with the Judge regularly. With both the treatment and accountability components, program participants are supported in their mental health and wellness journey while reducing recidivism through a coordinated multi-disciplinary team-based approach.

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Hays County Mental Health Court is to divert individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities from the criminal justice system into long term community-based treatment and support. Through accountability, compassionate care, and community collaboration, we aim to promote stability, recovery, and long-term wellness."’

Program Goals

* **Identify individuals with mental health needs as early as possible** - this includes at point of arrest, while incarcerated in the county jail, on pretrial, and during court proceedings. Referrals can be received from all sources.

* **Coordinate access to treatment and support services**, including mental health care, substance use services, transportation, housing, basic needs items, and social services. This also includes insuring smooth transitions out of jail into the community, hospital discharge, or residential facility discharge into outpatient services.

* **Ensure that participants receive evidence based and clinically appropriate services** by ensuring multiple clinicians and multi-disciplinary professionals are part of the of the MHC team, utilization of evidence-based assessments, treatment, and interventions to address the participants' wide range of needs.

* **Continuously evaluate outcomes to measure effectiveness and guide improvement** by tracking participants symptoms and progress before, during, and after the program, monitoring the success rate and recidivism rate, and staying up to date with research and best practices for treatment court by attending conferences and trainings.

* **Build partnerships with community organizations, social service providers, and law enforcement** to expand access to resources, increase support for participants across multiple areas of need, provide education and trainings to the community, and identify service gaps and solutions to bridge these gaps.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria:

- Hays County resident (out of county residents are on a case by case basis)
- 17 years of age of older
- Diagnosed with a mental health disorder such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective, major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder. Substance use disorders and intellectual or developmental disabilities are also diagnoses that are considered for Mental Health Court.
- Misdemeanor offense(s) or felony offense(s)
- Link between the mental health/ substance use/ or IDD disorder and the current offense.
- Assaultive offenses will be considered on a case by case basis

Disqualifiers:

- No past or current charge of a sex offense
- No substantial history of violent offenses
- Competent
- Pre or Post Adjudication

Referral Process

1) Referral is submitted online or directly to Mental Health Court Administrator that includes the name of the individual being referred, date of birth, and clinical information pertaining to the individual's mental health symptoms, mental health history, etc.
2) Court staff receives the referral and examines the case to review criminal history, current charge details, file status of the case, and if the individual has obtained legal representation.
3) Court staff starts referral email to include the individual's attorney and District Attorney's office request to complete an initial evaluation and provides clinical justification for the evaluation.
4) If both parties approve, the attorney must complete a Permission to Screen (Exhibit A), giving court staff permission to speak directly with the potential participant to schedule an intake.
5) Court staff meets with the potential participant to complete clinical assessments and intake.
6) Court staff refers potential participant to third party mental health provider who completes a second evaluation to identify diagnoses and provide treatment recommendations to the team.
7) Court staffing is held to review medical records and treatment plan.
8) DA and attorney negotiate legal terms of the plea
9) Potential participant admits to Mental Health Court and begins the program

Mental Health Court Team

The Mental Health Court Judge makes all decisions regarding participation in the Mental Health Court with support and recommendations from the Mental Health Court team. All team members work collaboratively to monitor and support a participant's adherence to the treatment plan and court conditions. All team members attend weekly or bi-weekly staffings and MHC hearings to provide input and recommendations to the court.

Team Members

- **Judge** – presides at team staffings and court hearings. The primary responsibility is resolving criminal justice issues, to encourage and support participants' progress and achievements by providing incentives as well as to deter participants' noncompliance and violations by using graduated sanctions and clinical responses based on recommendations from the MHC team
- **Prosecutor** -represents the interests of the State and victims while collaborating with MHC team members to resolve problems and facilitate successful outcomes.
- **Defense Attorney** – Explains the provisions of the Mental Health Court Participant Agreement in addition to program requirements and benefits, the legal consequences of participation, and possible consequences of non-compliance. Provides input, pertinent, case-specific information and recommendations as he/she deems appropriate or as requested by the team. The Defense Attorney continues in that capacity until the participant successfully graduates or is unsuccessfully discharged from the court program.
- **Court Administrator** – prescreens referrals for eligibility, completes clinical assessments, is responsible for overall administrative coordination, management and supervision of MHC functions and processes. Maintains the docket and facilitates staffing meetings and collaborative partnerships with treatment providers and maintains data collection and clinical documentation.
- **Court Case Worker** – screens potential participants to determine eligibility for the program, collaborates with team members to coordinate services, link to resources., and make referrals, monitor participants' engagement in services, makes recommendations to the Judge. Creates bimonthly progress reports which is provided to all MHC team members.
- **Community Supervision Officer** – provides supervision of MHC participants in the community. Monitors adherence to alcohol monitoring devices, abstinence from drugs and alcohol, compliance with victim contact restrictions, restitution (if applicable), adherence to Participant Agreement and probation conditions. CSO's report on the participants' progress and any violations of conditions.
- **Treatment Providers** – The Local Mental Health Providers (LMHA) or contracted Mental Health Providers. Participants may also have private mental health treatment providers, but the provider must agree to update court staff as needed.

Providers are responsible for providing mental health and substance use assessments, outpatient and inpatient services, psychiatry, case management, medication management, therapy and counseling, group therapy, and rehabilitative services. They will report on treatment plan goals, symptoms, medications, appointment compliance, and provide recommendations for incentives, sanctions, and recommendations as requested by the Judge and court staff.

Program Participation

Mental Health Court (MHC) is a voluntary program designed to support participants in achieving mental health stability, maintaining sobriety, and reducing further involvement with the justice system. The program requires a minimum commitment of 12 months, though the length of participation may vary based on individual progress, the nature of the offense, and consistent engagement with treatment and program requirements.

What Successful Completion Looks Like:

To graduate from Mental Health Court, participants are expected to meet the following milestones:

- Stabilize their mental health, including consistent medication adherence (if prescribed)
- Maintain sobriety from drugs and alcohol
- Achieve the goals set in their individualized mental health and/or substance use treatment plan
- Follow all court orders, probation conditions, and MHC program guidelines

Please note: Attendance at the formal graduation ceremony is required to graduate from the court program. The commencement ceremony is an important moment to honor your hard work, growth, and the commitment shown during your recovery journey. It is an opportunity to hear from others, share your experiences with others (if desired), and be acknowledged by the community and other program participants.

In some cases, participants on deferred adjudication probation may be eligible to have their case dismissed upon successful completion of the program.

Reasons a Participant May Be Discharged:

While the goal is to support every participant through to graduation, there are certain circumstances where someone may be disqualified or discharged from Mental Health Court, including:

- No community-based treatment option is likely to support stability
- The need for long-term hospitalization due to risk of harm to self or others

- Repeated refusal to participate in treatment or follow program requirements
- Inability to secure an appropriate treatment placement
- Voluntary withdrawal from the program (must be submitted in writing to the Judge; final decision is at the Court's discretion)
- Becoming a fugitive or being charged with a new criminal offense
- Threats or acts of violence directed at MHC team members or other participants
- Reaching the maximum clinical or rehabilitative benefit the program can provide

Program Requirements

All participants must follow expectations outlined in the Mental Health Court Participant Agreement (see Exhibit B). In addition, participants are required to comply with all terms of their probation and actively work toward the treatment goals developed with their providers.

Court Appearances

Mental Health Court is held twice a month, usually held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at from 2:30-3:30 PM. The required frequency of court appearances depends on the participant's current phase in the program, their progress in treatment, if the case is a misdemeanor or felony, and probation requirements.

Participants may be called to appear outside of their regular schedule if there are concerns about non-compliance with treatment or probation. All court hearings are mandatory and must be attended to stay in compliance with the court program.

Before each docket, the Judge meets with the Mental Health Court team to review each participant's progress. This includes attendance, adherence to treatment and medication plans, and compliance with probation conditions. During the court session, the Judge will receive updates from the team and engage directly with the participant to acknowledge progress or address any concerns.

Failure to appear in court may result in serious consequences, including:

- A special court hearing or more frequent court hearings to address attendance
- A new charge for failure to appear
- Court sanctions

Graduation Requirements

- **Attendance at the formal graduation ceremony is required for successful program completion.** While participants may complete all treatment and probation requirements a month or two before the scheduled graduation, the ceremony serves as the official conclusion of the Mental Health Court program.
- Failure to attend graduation may result in the participant being marked as **incomplete.**
- This final step is more than symbolic – it honors each participant's commitment to accountability, healing, and long-term recovery.

Incentives and Sanctions

To encourage growth and accountability, the Judge may issue:

- **Incentives** for continued compliance, demonstrated progress, meeting special milestones
- **Sanctions** to address non-compliance and help redirect behaviors that interfere with treatment, probation, or program requirements.

Incentives for Progress

Mental Health Court recognizes and rewards participants who are consistently meeting program expectations, complying with probation conditions, and making meaningful progress toward their treatment goals. Incentives are designed to encourage continued engagement, build self-confidence, and celebrate personal growth.

Incentives may include, but are not limited to:

- **Court Fast Pass** (voucher to be first on the docket and able to leave early)
- **"Skip-a-Court" Pass** (voucher that can be used at the participant's discretion for a future court hearing however must inform court staff and send a photo of the skip a court pass in advance)
- **Recognition in Court** (verbal praise from the Judge or team)
- **Phase promotion and certificate** (certificate of acknowledgement provided and verbal praise)
- **Voucher for community service credit** (voucher to decrease community service hours)
- **Decrease in supervision requirements** (voucher)
- **Decrease in treatment sessions** (voucher)
- **Decrease in required court appearances** (voucher)
- **Verbal encouragement from team members**

These rewards are determined by the MHC team and tailored to each participant's needs and progress.

Graduated Sanctions for Non-Compliance

When participants struggle to meet program expectations, MHC uses a graduated response model. This approach allows for accountability while still offering opportunities for reflection, course correction, and continued support.

Non-compliance may include:

- Missing or arriving late to appointments
- Not taking prescribed medication
- Failing or refusing drug tests
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Committing a new offense
- Failing to follow supervision or probation requirements

- Using drugs or alcohol
- Committing a new offense
- Failing to follow supervision or probation requirements

Sanctions are determined on a case-by-case basis and may include:

- **Judicial reprimand**
- **Increased court appearances**
- **Additional community service hours**
- **GPS or electronic alcohol monitoring**
- **Curfew requirement**
- **Writing assignment (e.g., reflection or apology letter)**
- **Increased drug/alcohol testing**
- **Increased supervision visits**
- **Placement last on the court docket**

MHC staff work collaboratively with each participant to understand barriers to compliance and to re-engage them in treatment and recovery. The goal of any sanction is not punishment, but rather redirection and support.

Clinical Responses to Non-Compliance

When a participant shows signs of clinical instability, has difficulty maintaining sobriety, or is otherwise struggling to meet program expectations, the Judge may order additional treatment interventions. These clinical responses are not punitive—they are intended to provide increased support, ensure safety, and help the participant re-engage with their recovery plan.

Possible clinical recommendations may include:

- **Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)** for substance use
- **Detoxification services** when clinically necessary
- **Residential treatment placement** for stabilization
- **Supportive residential treatment** or **sober living housing**
- **Jail-based detox** while awaiting placement, if needed
- **Signed Release of Information (ROI)** to allow for doctor-to-doctor consultation
- **Mandatory attendance at recovery support meetings** (AA/NA/CA)
- **Increased medication monitoring** to ensure stability
- **More frequent case management visits** to enhance support
- **Referral to individual counseling**
- **Participation in structured group programs**, such as anger or stress management, parenting classes, or Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)
- **Medical follow-up** to address physical health needs

Phases and Graduation

Phases of the Mental Health Court Program

Mental Health Court is structured around a three-phase treatment model, designed to promote clinical stabilization, build healthy routines, and support long-term recovery and reintegration. Each phase has specific goals and expectations. Advancement is based on individual progress, treatment engagement, and overall compliance with program and probation requirements.

The three phases are:

- **Phase I – Clinical Stabilization**
  Focuses on establishing safety, stability, medication adherence, and consistent treatment participation.
- **Phase II – Pro-Social Habilitation & Rehabilitation Skills**
  Emphasizes building healthy relationships, developing coping strategies, and participating in pro-social activities such as work, education, or community engagement.
- **Phase III – Adaptive Habilitation & Continuum of Care**
  Prepares participants for independent success by reinforcing learned skills, strengthening natural supports, and coordinating long-term care and housing, if needed.

Exhibits (on following pages)

A - Attorney Permission Form

B – Release of Information

C – Participation Agreement

D – Phases

Exhibit A

Attorney Permission to Screen

Authorizing Mental Health Court Staff to Screen for Eligibility

I, _____, Attorney

for_____

DOB: _____

Hereby give permission and consent for the Hays County Mental Health Court (MHC) staff to meet with and screen my client for the purpose of determining eligibility and enrollment status for MHC program participation, provider services, as well as mental health treatment and support services needed by my client.
Mental health treatment and support services may include the following information and referrals to community-based services or non-profit providers:

- **Enrollment in Mental Health Court**
- **Case Management**
- **Access to Mental Health Treatment and Medications**
- **Substance Abuse Treatment**
- **Counseling/Support Groups**
- **Housing**
- **Transportation**
- **Food and/or clothing**

I understand that in order to provide these services, the Hays County Mental Health Court staff will have to secure an Authorization for Disclosure and Consent form from my client to participate. I understand that information collected by MHC staff is not confidential or privileged.
_____I will participate in the meeting where my client will be presented with these forms.
_____I will not participate in the meeting where my client will be presented with these forms: however, I give permission for the MHC staff to meet with my client without my being present.
_____I will not participate in the meeting where my client will be presented with these forms and do not give permission for the MHC staff to meet with my client without my being present.

_____ _____

Attorney at Law Date

Client's Phone#_____

Contact Name associated with phone #(if not client) _____

Exhibit B

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY MHMR CENTER NAME AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION CASE

Patient: _____ SSN: _____DOB:_____

I authorize and request the Hill County Community Mental Health Providers_____ to provide/receive the following information with regard to my clinical/hospital records on (specify dates of treatment):_____.

If I am signing as a parent/guardian/managing conservator of a minor or guardian of the person of an adult, I further understand the record released may contain references to family and myself. Provide to/Receive from: __ Hays County Mental Health Court Team. (including Probation, District Attorney's Office, Judge, Mental Health Court Administrator, and Mental Health Court Case Worker)

I understand that such disclosure will be made for the following purpose: To assist in additional funding, to coordinate discharge placement/planning, to assist in evaluation and treatment, to assist in educational placement, and to provide information to person(s)

_____

To request that the following information/authorizations (in addition to school records) be provided to assigned Service Coordinator:

- **Notification of all ARD meetings**
- **Copy of IEP (Individual Educations Plan) resulting from any ARD Meetings**
- **Visits and observations in the classroom and/or work locations**
- **Information regarding outcome of IEP implementation from teachers and other staff**

I also authorize the disclosure/use/receipt of my health information regarding:

HIV/AIDS (pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter F)

Alcohol and drug abuse treatment (pursuant to 42 CFR, Part 2, Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records)

Other _____

And will be limited to the following specific types of information:

_____

_____

Exhibit B

I understand that I have the right to refuse to sign this authorization. Community Mental Health Providers will not withhold treatment, Medicaid benefits, or payment processing if I refuse to sign this authorization. I will receive a copy of this signed authorization.

I understand that if I am authorizing disclosure of information, then, except for information related to alcohol or drug abuse treatment, the potential exists for the information described in this authorization to be re-disclosed by the recipient. If the information is re-disclosed, then it is no longer protected by medical privacy laws.

I understand that I (or my personal representative, if any) have the right to revoke this authorization. To revoke this authorization, I must deliver a written statement, signed by my representative or me, to the organization or facility where I gave my authorization (identified above), which provides the date and purpose of this authorization and my intent to revoke it. My revocation will be effective the date it is received by the organization/facility, except to the extent that the organization/facility has already relied upon my authorization to use or disclose my health information as described in the Notice of Privacy Practices.

If not earlier revoked, this authorization shall terminate on: _____.

_____ _____

Consumer Date _____ _____

Representative Date _____

Relationship to Consumer _____ _____

Witness Date _____

NOTE: A photocopy or facsimile is as valid as the original

Exhibit C

Judge Elaine Brown
Hays County Court at Law 3

Hays County Government Center
712 South Stagecoach Trail San Marcos, Texas
Hays County Mental Health Court Participant Agreement

Hays County Mental Health Court Participant Agreement

Name: _____

Case Number(s): _____

I have chosen to pursue treatment and services in the Mental Health Court (MHC). This agreement is a contract between myself and the Judge. I understand that the purpose of the Mental Health Court is to help me stay engaged in treatment for my mental illness so that I can live a better life and remain law abiding. I acknowledge the opportunity to participate in this program is a privilege, not a right. I understand that personal accountability, engagement in services, and compliance with the court is an important part of the program. I acknowledge I have been accepted into the Mental Health Court; thus the following terms and conditions will apply to me (and I am bound to comply with them) as long as I am a participant in the program: (initial each term and condition)

_____ 1. Legal Obligations: I understand that entrance into the Mental Health Court requires a plea of "guilty" or "no contest." If I am granted in from regular probation, I agree to have my probation term extended as such to complete the Mental Health Court Program. For a felony, time in the program is a minimum of 18 months, and 12 months for a misdemeanor.

_____ 2. Payment of Fees: I agree to pay the Mental Health Court fee, not to exceed $250.00 to subsidize program costs. If I am unable to pay this fee due to financial restraints, a payment plan or arrangement will need to be discussed, agreed upon, and communicated with Mental Health Court staff, Attorney, and Probation Officer.

_____ 3. Legal Representation: I understand that upon entry into the Mental Health Court Program, I will be represented by a Defense Attorney assigned to the Mental Health Docket. This attorney will represent me for the duration of my program, or I can choose to hire a private attorney at any time.

_____ 4. Confidentiality with Attorney: I understand that attorney-client privilege is maintained throughout my participation in the MHC. The MH Defense Attorney will not disclose confidential information to the MHC team without my consent. The Attorney will attend and advocate for me throughout all phases of the MHC program, to include at staffing, court reviews and admonishment hearings. The MH Attorney is not my "best interest"

Exhibit C

_____ 5. Mental Health Court Reviews and Hearings: I understand I am required to appear at all Mental Health Court Reviews as instructed by any member of the Mental Health Court team. The Mental Health Court team is comprised of representatives from Hays County Probation Office, Defense Attorneys, Court Case Managers, treatment providers, Hays County Criminal District Attorney's Office, and the Judge. I understand that MHC is an open court and that my case will be discussed in front of other participants and any members of the public who may be in attendance. I also understand that court reviews will not be recorded by a court reporter unless I or my attorney so request since reviews are informal and non-adversarial in nature

_____ 6. Probation and Community Supervision: I understand that Hays County Probation Officers will conduct supervisory contacts concerning me. These contacts may occur at my home, my work, the treatment center, the courthouse, or anywhere deemed necessary and confidential. I will report when and whereas directed by the officers so as to keep open communication and remain in compliance. Representatives from the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA), or other contracted mental health provicer may also conduct these supervisory contacts. I understand and agree to the search of my person, property, place of residence, vehicle or personal effects at any time with or without a warrant and with or without probable cause. This search can be conducted by the MHC Probation Officer, Law Enforcement Officer or MHC staff. I specifically consent to the use of anything seized, as evidence in my MHC reviews.

_____ 7. Address Change and Travel: I understand I must maintain my residence of record within Hays County and get approval from my probation officer before changing residence. I understand I must notify my probation officer and Mental Health Court team members of any changes in phone number (or contact phone number) within 24 hours of a change. I understand that when traveling within Texas during the course of the program I will notify court personnel in advance of my travel plans, including the county/counties that I intend to be visiting. Before leaving the state or country, I understand that I am expected to notify MHC staff and my attorney, and the explicit permission is required before leaving the state. I understand the court must be informed of my destination, the length, and the purpose of my trip before engaging in interstate or international travel.

_____8. Employment: I understand that during the early phases of treatment and recovery, I may not be allowed to work or gain employment. However, within time and as directed by the MHC team; I will seek employment, job training and/or further my education as approved by the MHC team. If I am already employed, I need to disclose my employment information and provide proof of employment. Participants are encouraged to work.

_____9. Treatment Plan: I agree to attend and participate in all scheduled appointments with the Mental Health Court staff and treatment providers as ordered by the Judge and/or defined in my treatment plan. I understand that this is essential to my success in the program and my participation and commitment to these tasks will help me to be successful in achieving my goals. This includes but is not limited to meeting with the psychiatrist, taking prescribed medications, attending residential treatment and/or outpatient treatment, aftercare and relapse prevention treatment, support groups, classes, therapy, or any other supplementary treatment, counseling, or education considered essential to attaining my goals. I understand that depending on my income, I may be responsible for some or all treatment costs. I will communicate to my probation officer and Mental Health Court staff if I am facing financial difficulties.

Exhibit C

_____ 10. Psychiatric Medications: I agree to take medications as recommended by my prescriber for my mental health symptoms. I understand it is my duty to communicate any concerns or questions I have about my medications with the prescriber. I agree to receive treatment and medications under the care of one prescriber only. I understand refusal or repeated failure to take my medications will result in sanctions being imposed by the Judge and it may be required for another adult to verify my medication compliance. I agree to reports any and all medications, prescribed or over the counter to my treatment provider and the MHC team.

_____ 11. Drug and Alcohol Testing: I understand that I may be required to provide urine samples at any time during my participation in the program. Failure to provide a timely, valid sample may result in sanctions. Payment of any urinalysis fees are the responsibility of the participant to include confirmations on contested presumptive positive tests.

_____ 12. Drugs and Alcohol**: I will not use alcohol, illegal drugs, synthetic drugs (K2, Spice, Bath Salts, etc.) or medications not prescribed to me and I will not share any of my legally prescribed medications with someone else.** I will not use prescription drugs without a valid prescription and will disclose to the MHC team prior to taking the medications except in case of an emergency, in which disclosure can be the next day. I must disclose to the prescriber writing the prescription that I am a participant in the Mental Health Court. I will not enter an establishment whose primary purpose is to sell alcoholic beverages, nor will I remain at a location where alcohol is the main item for sale or consumption. If there is a relapse in drugs or alcohol, I understand that it is in my best interest to share this information with my probation officer and Mental Health Court staff so that I can be assessed for further treatment and avoid being discharged from the program. I understand that statements made by me to any MHC team member regarding drug use will not be used against me for further prosecution, I must be honest with all members of the Mental Health Court team about my recovery and understand this program is meant to support me in the community. MHC staff will discuss with you the best course of treatment, however sanctions may be required and implemented to remain in compliance with the program. If there is continued violations, I understand it is up to the Judge's discretion if I am to continue in the program or be discharged

____13. Criminal Activity: I will not unlawfully use or possess a firearm or other household. I will not violate the law or associate with any person engaged in criminal activity or affiliate with gang members. I will not commit any criminal law violations. If/when contacted by law enforcement, I shall report such contact to my Defense Attorney or Probation Officer within 24 hours regarding any potential charges and the receipt of any new citations. I understand that any new offenses may result in my discharge from the program.

_____ 14. Release of Information: I consent to allow information concerning me to be given to all Mental Health Court team members as needed to carry out official tasks for the program. Includes but not limited to: urinalysis testing, group attendance, medical and psychiatric treatment, appointment compliance and overall program progress.

_____ 15. Commencement Ceremony: I can be recognized publicly by the Judge and the MHC team for progress and achievements during the Mental Health Court. I will receive a certificate to acknowledge my accomplishments and advancement to each phase in the program. At the end of the program a Specialty Court Commencement Ceremony will be held to celebrate my graduation, and I am expected to be in attendance. At this time, I may also be terminated from probation depending on terms of my probation. If I have conditions of probation remaining, for example restitution, I may be extended in the Mental Health Court or on probation.

Exhibit C

_____ 16. Mentor Program and Alumni Participation: I understand that I have the opportunity to participate in the Mentor Program and Alumni Association. If I choose to be mentor, I will be trained to mentor incoming participants and provide support and guidance to others during their time on their program. As a mentor, I will be asked to participate in meetings, fundraisers and social activities that support current and past participants.

_____ 17. Sanctions: I understand I must abide by the conditions ordered by the Judge of the Mental Health Court including my individual treatment plan. Failure to comply may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, admonishment, verbal reports, written reports, increased drug/alcohol testing, increased treatment requirements, jail time, or involuntary termination of the program. The sanctions will be up to the Judge's discretion to revoke my probation and sentence me in accordance with the provisions of the law or transfer my case to regular probation.

_____ 18. Removal: If it is claimed that I have failed to comply with the rules or requirements of the Mental Health Court, I give up the right to a hearing or an attorney and agree to proceed with imposition of any non-jail sanction except removal from the Mental Health Court. Before I can be terminated from Mental Health Court, I am entitled to a full hearing with counsel. Jail sanctions will be decided with counsel present

I understand and accept the contents of this agreement which I have read or had read to me and agree to be bound by and follow all conditions.

Participant Date _____

Defense Attorney Date _____

(Assistant) District Attorney Date _____

Judge Elaine Brown Date
Hays County Court of Law 3
Mental Health Court Judge

Exhibit D

Phases

Mental Health Court Phase Overview

Your Progress, One Step at a Time

Phase I: Acute Stabilization

Motto: *Show Up and Be Honest*

Minimum Time: 3 Months

Focus: Establish stability, routine, and trust with your team.

Key Expectations:

- Meet with psychiatrist (within 30 days)
- Meet with counselor/therapist (within 45–60 days)
- Connect with case worker and keep in communication with court staff
- Take medications as prescribed (with verification)
- Attend all court hearings and supervision check-ins
- Begin making court-ordered payments
- Practice honesty and open communication

Phase II: Pro-Social Habitation

Motto: *Build Support, Stay Connected*

Minimum Time: 5 months

Focus: Strengthen your support network, get connected to a community, and strive to reach personal goals.

Key Expectations:

- Stay consistent with all appointments and communication
- Remain active in pro-social and sober support groups
- Complete all court-ordered classes
- Attend court and supervision check-ins

- Join at least one pro-social activity (support group, volunteering, classes, etc)
- Build or maintain a sober support network (sponsor, coach, group)
- Enroll in court-ordered classes (coping skills, psychoeducation)
- Make court-ordered payments
- Start or continue employment, school, or structured activity

Phase III: Adaptive Habitation & Continuum of Care

Motto: *Stay Committed and Look Ahead*

Minimum Time: 4 Months

Focus: Prepare for lasting success and continued stability after completion of the program.

Key Expectations:

- Stay consistent with all appointments and communication with providers and court staff
- Remain active in pro-social and sober support groups
- Complete all court-ordered classes
- Attend court and supervision check-ins
- Join the Alumni Association or Mentor Program (optional)
- Maintain employment, education, or daily structure
- Continue making payments as required
- Termination session with court staff to discuss transition plan and follow up services post graduation