

# Adult Forensic Services Mental Health Court Programs

San Bernardino County



# Presentation Goals



- Provide a brief overview of Adult Forensic Services (AFS)
- Provide an overview of AFS Mental Health Court (MHC) Programs - STAR and FACT.
- Review eligibility criteria for Mental Health Court
- Review the referral process for the Mental Health Court

# Adult Forensic Services (AFS)

- AFS offers an array of services that address the needs of consumers living with a severe mental illness (SMI) and involved with the justice system.
- This population includes consumers that are scheduled for release from County jails/prisons and re-entering the community as well as community-referred consumers with a history of SMI and criminal justice involvement.
- Serves consumers:
  - Under formal supervision of the Mental Health Courts located throughout San Bernardino County
  - Under formal supervision of the Mental Health Diversion (MHD) Courts located throughout San Bernardino County
  - Under formal supervised probation with the San Bernardino County Probation Department
  - Who are no longer on formal supervision of Probation, Parole, or Courts

# Who We **Serve**

Supervised – Consumers on formal supervised probation with the San Bernardino County Probation department

Unsupervised – Consumers scheduled for release from County jails who are not on formal probation, or within the community with a history of involvement with the criminal justice system

Supervised Mental Health Diversion – Consumers under the direct supervision of the Mental Health Diversion Courts and informal monitoring of the County Probation Department

# Services Provided

In an effort to reduce recidivism and unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations, services include:

- Assistance establishing supportive community services that help maintain independent self-care and linkage to stable support systems for continued successful reintegration into the community
- Psychiatric/behavioral health services
  - Screening, assessment, individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, medication support, housing services, case management, transportation, linkage, and resource referral

# Services **Provided**

- Assistance for successful re-entry into the community for those enrolled in the program who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and/or require emergency shelter housing services.
- Substance-use disorder treatment, including individual counseling, group counseling, case management, and linkage to community substance-use treatment and recovery programs.

# Adult Forensic Services Mental Health Court Population and Services



**STAR**



**Supervised  
Treatment  
After Release**

**FACT**



**Forensic  
Assertive  
Community  
Treatment**

**VALLEY STAR**



**Mental  
Health  
Court for  
Joshua Tree**



# Supervised Treatment After **Release**

- STAR is a Full Service Partnership (FSP) aimed at reducing hospitalizations and incarcerations
- Services consist of individual and group therapy, psychiatric and medication support services, and case management (housing, medical, financial, and vocational assistance)
- Substance use disorder treatment is also available and includes assessment, individual, family, and group counseling, crisis intervention, case management, substance use education, and referral to aftercare services
- Successful completion of the STAR MHC program allows the consumer the opportunity to have their criminal charges reduced or even dismissed

# Forensic Assertive Community Treatment

- A voluntary treatment program for adults living with severe mental illness who:
  - Have had repeated arrests and contact with the criminal justice system
  - Are under formal supervision of a Mental Health Court; and
  - Have difficulties engaging and/or remaining engaged with a traditional outpatient clinic model
- FACT is an FSP geared at reducing recidivism in jail/prison and reducing psychiatric hospitalization.
- The program is community based with 75% of services being provided in the community or at the home.
- The intensity of services is based on the consumer's level of recovery. Services may consist of 24/7 intensive mental health and case management services including assistance with housing, social support, and outreach.

# Valley Star – FSP/Joshua Tree MHC

- Joshua Tree MHC is a referral source for MHC services consumers and this program is tied to the Yucca Valley FSP service area. The two programs work together, in the best interest of the consumer. The Mental Health Court team is an additional layer of service and is the liaison to the behavioral health community in the provision of medical and psychiatric treatment services , all interfaces with law enforcement, and assist the court with consumer, community organizations, and linking the MHC consumer with the FSP clinic and services.

# STAR/**FACT**/Valley Star

- Have a history of contact and recidivism within the criminal justice system.
- Have a serious and persistent mental health illness that has a substantial history or prior mental health services.
- Can demonstrate compliance with prescribed medication regimen while incarcerated and also a sufficient degree of functioning to be appropriate for placement in the community.
- Will not have been convicted of highly violent crimes, arson, or sexual offenses.
- Individuals are referred by a multidisciplinary team from one of the Mental Health Courts (MHC). Referrals are initiated by a Mental Health Court Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, and/or Jail Mental Health Services.

# Program Goals

1. To support the recovery and reintegration of Mental Health Court participants into the community and workforce at the highest level of independence possible for the individual;
2. Through coordinated Outpatient Services, to identify and offer appropriate case management services to participants in the Mental Health Court, including linkage to residential resources, mental health treatment, and medical providers.
3. Through Day Rehabilitation Services, to provide a broad spectrum of therapeutic, skill-building and adjunctive services to participants in the Mental Health Court.

# Program Goals

4. To closely coordinate with other departmental components of the Mental Health Court, including the Department of Behavioral Health, Superior Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Department, residential providers, and other involved agencies as necessary;
5. To prevent harm to self or others, or grave disability, resulting from a mental illness;
6. To prevent the mentally ill from decompensating to a more acute state requiring a higher level of care;
7. To prevent, when possible, re-incarceration.

# Collaborative Partners



- San Bernardino County
  - Adult Protective Services
  - Correctional Mental Health Services
  - Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)
  - Office of the District Attorney
  - Office of the Public Defender
  - Probation Department
  - Sheriff's Department
  - Superior Mental Health Courts
  - Transitional Assistance Department

# Collaborative Partners



- Assisted Living Facilities/Programs
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Emergency Shelter Services Housing Providers
- Room and Boards
- Goodwill of Southern California
- Inland Valley Recovery Services
- Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino
- Local Service Organizations
- Social Security Administration (SSA) Institutions Unit



# Adult Forensic Services Mental Health Court Outcomes



# Program **Success**

## **Success in Fiscal Year 2022/23**

- Through participation in the STAR program (typically 18 months), the number of participants experiencing homelessness decreased to less than 5%.
  - STAR provides emergency shelter housing to 46 consumers
- In comparison to pre-enrollment levels, participants enrolled in the MHC programs:
  - Have shown decreases in jail days
  - Have shown decreases in unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations

# Program **Outcomes**

## **STAR/FACT/Valley Star Program Outcomes – Fiscal Year (FY) 22/23**

Total Clients Served: 161

Mental Health Court has had a graduation rate of **73%**.

Clients who completed the program served fewer days in detention after the program (*relative to before the program*) compared to clients who were terminated from the program.

**17** days for those who completed compared to **112** days for those who terminated. Recidivism rates for MHC clients who completed Mental Health Court are **78% lower** than clients who are terminated from the program.

# Mental Health Court (MHC) Jail Days

The following data represents the reduction in jail days for Fiscal Year 2022/23:

| Percentage Reduction in Days in Jail |
|--------------------------------------|
| <b>MHC</b>                           |
| <b>98%</b>                           |

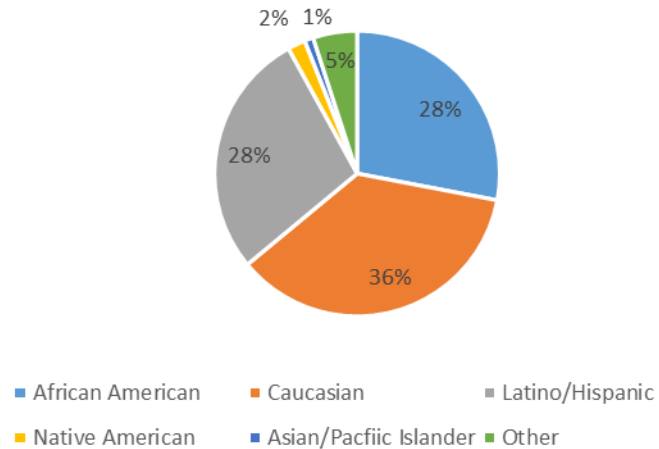
# MHC Psychiatric Hospital Admissions

The following data represents the reduction in psychiatric hospital admissions for MHC Clients enrolled in Fiscal Year 2022/23:

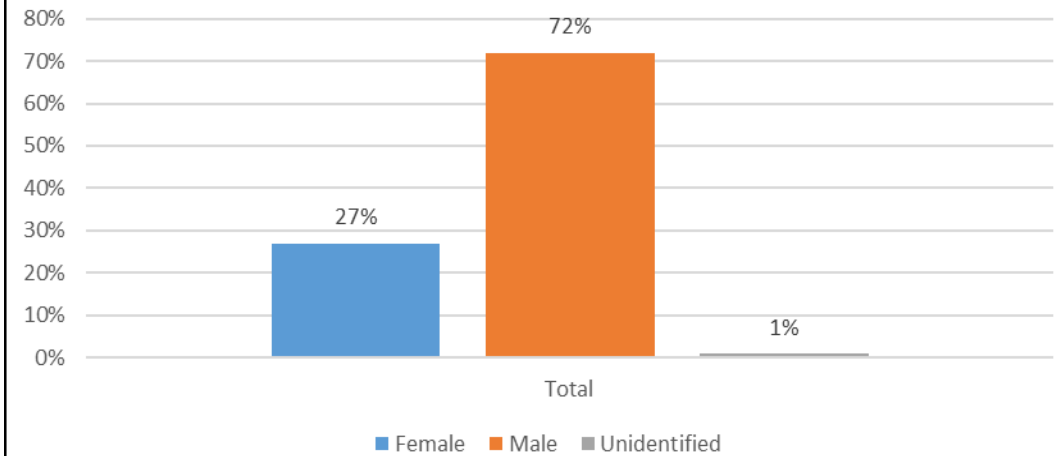
| MHC Program  | Post Enrollment Reduction of Hospital Days | % Reduction to Previous FY 21/22 |
|--------------|--|----------------------------------|
| STAR         | 17   | 63%                              |
| FACT         | 5  | 0%                               |
| Joshua Tree  | 2  | 62%                              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>24 days</b>                             | <b>50%</b>                       |

# MHC Demographics

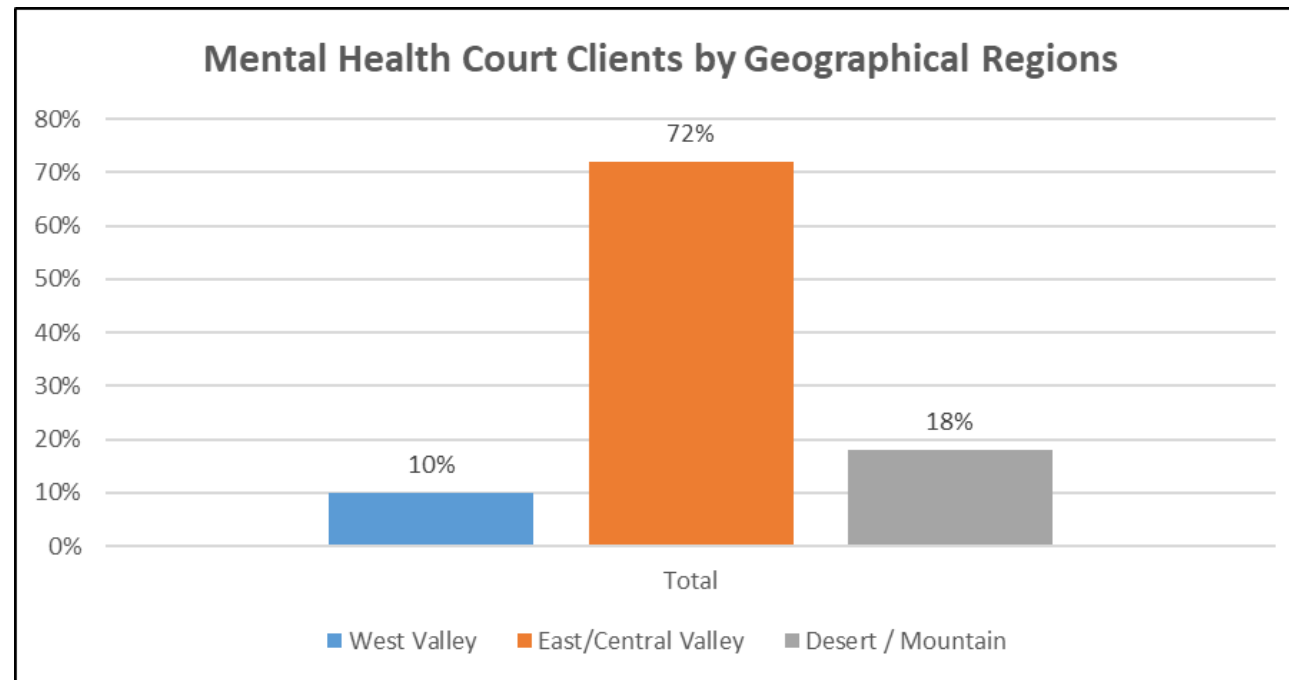
Mental Health Court Clients Served by Ethnicities



Mental Health Court Clients by Gender



# MHC Demographics



# QUESTIONS

**Thank you for your thoughtful participation!**

**Martha Parra, Program Manager II**

Adult Forensics Services

[mparra@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:mparra@dbh.sbcounty.gov)

909-580-3701