



**HARRIS COUNTY  
FELONY MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

**PROGRAM PHASES**

**JUDGE BROCK THOMAS**

## **Felony Mental Health Court Program**

The Felony Mental Health Court (FMHC) Program **requires a minimum of 18 months** of participation and is comprised of 4 distinctive phases. The length of time that you spend in each of the phases will depend upon your progress as well as your individual strengths and needs. Initially, the FMHC Team involvement will be intense but as you progress through the phases more freedom is given to you to make your own choices. **Movement through the phases is completely individual and will not be based merely upon the time you spend in a phase.**

The FMHC Program was designed to help you develop a healthier and more successful lifestyle. We anticipate that transitioning through each phase will help bring you closer to your goals for your life.

## **The FMHC Team**

We know support is an essential ingredient to recovery and on-going wellness and that contact with positive, supportive and helpful persons can be the beginning of creating a rewarding life. Listed below are the FMHC Team members who will work with you and on your behalf – they are part of your new support system.

**FMHC Main Line** (832) 927-4350

Your FMHC **Court Clinician** is: Giuliana Lozano (832) 927-4351

Your FMHC **Court Clinician** is: Jewlina Coleman-King (346) 286-5541

Your FMHC **Clinical Case Manager** is: Lunden Davis (346) 286-5499

Your **Defense Attorney** is: Tanya Kelley (713) 274-6936

Your **Community Supervision Officer** is: Sonja Scurlock (Monday) (346) 286-5054

Your **Community Supervision Officer** is: Courtney Clark (Thursday) (346) 286-5069

The Harris Center for Mental Illness and IDD Main Central Number (713) 970-7000

Neuropsychiatric Center (NPC) (713) 970-7070

**The Harris Center for Mental Illness and IDD Crisis Hotline** (713) 970-7000

Please feel free to contact the persons listed above with any questions or concerns about the FMHC. The FMHC Clinical Team can be reached at (832) 927-4350 or FMHC@csc.hctx.net

## **Phase 1: ENGAGEMENT**

During this phase, you will be engaged in a higher level of court activity as we make every effort to get to know you better. We consider getting to know you and you getting to know us as one of our most important initial activities. Our sincere hope is to foster an open dialogue and environment of trust with you. In order to achieve this, we will work with you during your **weekly Court appearances** and are available to meet with you on non-Court days as well.

### **Minimum Requirements for Phase 1 FMHC Participants**

- Abstain from alcohol and illicit drugs
- Abide by ALL rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and follow ALL of the conditions ordered by the Judge
- Follow ALL rules and recommendations of the FMHC
- Attend ALL appointments, sessions and meetings as scheduled and on time
- Meet with the FMHC Team as directed
- Attend weekly court appearances on time (2:00 sharp)
- Adhere to your Re-Entry plan and let your Treatment Provider and FMHC Team know if you think the initial plan needs adjusting
- Submit to random drug and alcohol testing
- Demonstrate prescribed medication compliance
- Begin working with the FMHC Team in obtaining services which may include: housing, mental health care, medical care, substance abuse treatment, benefits, employment, pro-social activities, and/or educational options
- Work with your CSO to establish a payment plan for court fees and/or restitution unless otherwise indicated by the Court
- Identify and begin attending your chosen support group(s) (e.g., 12 Step groups; NAMI; DBSA) if stipulated in your Re-Entry Plan or as directed by the Judge

### **Advancement Criteria from Phase 1 to Phase 2**

**For 4 consecutive weeks**, FMHC Participant will have documentation confirming all of the following:

- All negative UAs
- Only excused absences from court
- Only excused absences from scheduled appointments with the FMHC Team
- Only excused absences from appointments with Treatment Providers
- Neutral or positive reports from Treatment Providers and CSO
- Medication compliance
- Draft of Personal Crisis Plan
- Completed Phase 1 Promotion Worksheet

## **Phase 2: ACTIVE TREATMENT**

During this phase, you will be actively engaged with your Treatment and Service Providers. Likewise, we look forward to continuing to deepen our working relationship with you. Based on *your* individual progress, the Judge will determine **the frequency of your Court appearances, which may be reduced from one time a week to one time every other week and then to one time every third week**. The overall goal of this phase is for you to begin to experience a sense of well-being and empowerment.

### **Minimum Requirements for Phase 2 FMHC Participant:**

- Abstain from alcohol and illicit drugs
- Abide by ALL rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and follow ALL of the conditions ordered by the Judge
- Follow ALL rules and recommendations of the FMHC
- Attend ALL appointments, sessions and meetings as scheduled and on time
- Meet with the FMHC Team as directed
- Attend weekly, bi-weekly or tri-weekly court appearances on time (2:00 sharp)
- Continue to demonstrate progress with your Re-Entry plan and let your Treatment Provider and FMHC Team know if you think your plan needs adjusting
- Submit to random drug and alcohol testing
- Demonstrate prescribed medication adherence
- Develop a relapse prevention plan and obtain a sponsor (if applicable)
- Develop a support system for your mental health and substance abuse treatment needs (if indicated)
- Provide proof of attendance at your chosen support group(s) (e.g., 12 Step groups; NAMI; DBSA) if stipulated in your Re-Entry Plan, Provider's Treatment Plan or as directed by the Judge
- Obtain and maintain community-based services which may include: housing, mental health care, medical care, substance abuse treatment, benefits, employment, pro-social activities, and/or educational options
- Make payments towards court fees and/or restitution unless otherwise indicated by the Court
- Begin working on your Wellness Action Plan

### **Advancement Criteria from Phase 2 to Phase 3**

**For 3 consecutive months**, FMHC Participant will have documentation confirming all of the following:

- All negative UAs
- Only excused absences from court
- Only excused absences from scheduled appointments with the FMHC Team
- Only excused absences from appointments with Treatment Providers
- Medication compliance
- Maintained adherence to Court directives
- Continued neutral or positive reports from Treatment Providers and CSO
- Rough draft of your Wellness Action Plan
- Completed Personal Crisis Directive
- Completed Phase 2 Promotion Worksheet

### **Phase 3: STABILIZATION**

Entering this phase, you will have demonstrated to the Judge, the FMHC Team your Treatment Providers and YOURSELF that you are working hard to achieve your goals. During this phase, our collective goal will be to help you maintain your focus and your progress. As long as you continue to follow your Treatment Plan and Court directives **your court appearances will be reduced to 1) once a month, then 2) once every six weeks and then 3) once every eight weeks, as you become eligible.**

#### **Minimum Requirements for Phase 3 Participants:**

- Abstain from alcohol and illicit drugs
- Abide by ALL rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and follow ALL of the conditions ordered by the Judge
- Follow ALL rules and recommendations of the FMHC
- Attend ALL appointments, sessions and meetings as scheduled and on time
- Meet with the FMHC Team as directed
- Attend all monthly or bi-monthly court appearances on time (2:00 sharp)
- Maintain medication adherence
- Maintain Re-Entry Plan adherence
- Maintain your established formal and informal support system around your mental health and substance abuse treatment needs
- Provide proof of attendance at your chosen support group(s) (e.g., 12 Step groups, NAMI, DBSA) if stipulated in your Re-Entry or Provider's Treatment Plan
- Follow your relapse prevention plan and maintain contact with your sponsor (if applicable)
- Submit to random drug and alcohol testing
- Maintain community-based services which may include: housing, medical care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, benefits, employment, pro-social activities, and/or educational options
- Continue to make payments towards court fees and/or restitution unless otherwise indicted by the Court
- Continue to develop your Wellness Action Plan

#### **Advancement Criteria from Phase 3 to Phase 4**

**For 4 consecutive months**, FMHC Participant will have documentation confirming all of the following:

- All negative UAs
- Only excused absences from court
- Only excused absences from scheduled appointments with the FMHC Team
- Only excused absences from appointments with Treatment Providers
- Medication compliance
- Maintained adherence to Court directives
- Continued neutral or positive reports from Treatment Providers and CSO
- Completed Wellness Action Plan
- Draft of FMHC Graduation Application Packet
- Completed Phase 3 Promotion Worksheet

#### **Phase 4: REINTEGRATION**

You are now nearing FMHC Graduation! Reaching Phase 4 indicates that you've accomplished the primary goals that you and the FMHC Team identified when you entered the Court. During this phase, our goal is to ensure that you have all of the skills and tools needed to maintain your progress even after you've completed the FMHC Program. To that end, during this phase **you will attend Court monthly** so that we are confident that you are prepared for life beyond FMHC Graduation.

#### **Minimum Requirements for Phase 4 Participants:**

- Abstain from alcohol and illicit drugs
- Abide by ALL rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and follow ALL of the conditions ordered by the Judge
- Follow ALL rules and recommendations of the FMHC
- Attend all appointments, sessions and meetings as scheduled and on time
- Meet with the FMHC Team as directed
- Attend all monthly court appearances on time (2:00 sharp)
- Maintain medication adherence
- Maintain Re-Entry Plan adherence
- Maintain your established formal and informal support system around your mental health and substance abuse treatment needs
- Provide proof of attendance at your chosen support group(s) (e.g., 12 Step groups, NAMI, DBSA) if stipulated in your Re-Entry or Provider's Treatment Plan
- Follow your relapse prevention plan and maintain contact with your sponsor (if applicable)
- Submit to random drug and alcohol testing
- Maintain community-based services which may include: housing, medical care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, benefits, employment, pro-social activities, and/or educational options
- Make a verbal commitment to remain law-abiding
- Complete payments of all of your court fees and/or restitution unless otherwise indicated by the Court
- Complete, submit and present your Wellness Action Plan to the Court
- Complete, submit and present your FMHC Graduation Application packet to the Court

#### **Advancement Criteria from Phase 4 to Phase 5**

**For 6 consecutive months**, FMHC Participant will have documentation confirming all of the following:

- All negative UAs
- Only excused absences from court
- Only excused absences from scheduled appointments with the FMHC Team
- Only excused absences from appointments with Treatment Providers
- Medication compliance
- Maintained adherence to Court directives
- Continued neutral or positive reports from Treatment Providers and CSO
- No new law violations within last 6 consecutive months
- Completed payment of fines, restitution and court fees unless otherwise indicated by the Court
- Successful completion of FMHC Re-Entry Plan
- Completed Wellness Action Plan
- Completed FMHC Graduation Packet

## **MAINTENANCE and MENTORING**

Now that you have successfully completed the FMHC Program requirements and have graduated from the Court, we invite you to begin your *next* chapter as a participant in the FMHC Alumni program. As an FMHC Alum, you will be encouraged to attend FMHC Alumni events, share your story of success with others and consider serving as a mentor or peer supporter to newer FMHC Program participants.

### **Minimum Requirements of for all Graduated Participants:**

- Continue to abstain from alcohol and illicit drugs
- If you remain on probation, continue to abide by ALL rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and follow ALL of the conditions ordered by the Judge
- Continue to attend ALL appointments, sessions and meetings as scheduled and on time
- Continue to maintain medication adherence
- Continue to maintain your established formal and informal support system around your mental health and substance abuse treatment needs
- Continue to apply the Personal Crisis Directives and Wellness Action Plan to your daily routine
- Continue to follow your relapse prevention plan and maintain contact with your sponsor (if applicable)
- Consider serving as a mentor to other FMHC participants
- Consider participating in FMHC Alumni events
- Continue to maintain community-based services which may include: housing, medical care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, benefits, employment, pro-social activities, and/or educational options
- Continue to remain law-abiding

### **Criteria for Successful Completion of the FMHC Program**

Though individual requirements will vary, FMHC participants will meet the following criteria for successful completion of the FMHC Program:

1. Long term management of medication regimen  
As evidenced by continued adherence to medication regimen during the last six (6) consecutive months of FMHC Program participation
2. Abstinence from illicit drugs and alcohol  
As evidenced by clean, random UA's during the last six (6) consecutive months of FMHC Program participation
3. Successful completion of FMHC recommended goals  
As evidenced by maintaining stable housing; steady income (benefits/employment); and identified educational, vocational, and socialization needs have been addressed
4. No new encounters with the Criminal Justice System  
As evidenced by no new arrests, charges or motions to revoke probation within the last six (6) consecutive months of FMHC Program participation
5. Completed payment of fines, restitution and court fees unless otherwise indicated by the Court  
As evidenced by a zero balance
6. Completed Personal Crisis Directive, Wellness Action Plan and Application for FMHC Graduation  
As evidenced by presentation of a Personal Crisis Directive, Wellness Action Plan and Application for FMHC Graduation Packet

Successful completion of the above requirements indicates that you may eligible for the next scheduled FMHC Graduation.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**