Clark County Mental Health Court: An outcomes-based evaluation model of residential and treatment programs beyond recidivism

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Abstract

The number of America’s mental health courts has grown significantly over the course of the past 15 years, with mental health courts now in use in 46 states and the District of Columbia. This development is seen as a positive step forward in the way mental health courts are implemented, in promoting intersectoral engagement in treatment, improving quality of life, decreasing recidivism, and increasing community safety and overall well-being (Pruneau, 2010).

Reference


Outcome-Based Evaluation Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Outcome Measurements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recidivism</td>
<td>Clients and graduates will be less involved in criminal activity and will have fewer interactions with the criminal justice system.</td>
<td>Comparative analysis of arrests and days in jail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>As a result of the treatment received in MHC, clients and graduates will experience improved mental health.</td>
<td>Comparative analysis of mental health hospitalizations and lengths of stay.</td>
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<td>Independent Living Skills</td>
<td>Intensive case management will result in clients and graduates developing and maintaining independent living skills and an improved quality of life.</td>
<td>Comparative analysis of the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale Anchored Version (BPRS) to assess and monitor the clinical status of client.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse</td>
<td>Clients and graduates will develop skills and support systems to abstain or minimize use of alcohol and other non-prescribed mood-altering drugs.</td>
<td>Comparative analysis of arrests and days in jail for substance abuse related offenses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Functioning</td>
<td>Clients and graduates of MHC will possess an enhanced capacity to interact in the normal or usual ways in society.</td>
<td>Comparative analysis of an assessment tool such as the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF), Social Adjustment Scale Self-Report, or the Social Adaptation Self-Evaluation Scale.</td>
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</table>

References


