

Mental Health Court NEWSLETTER



Hays County

THIS QUARTER'S REPORT

May - August 2024

Summer 2024 Commencement Recap



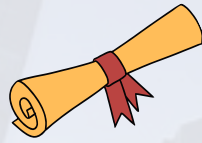
The Mental Health Court has a 94% success rate and 0% recidivism rate for our graduates! 15 individuals have graduated from the program so far, with 7 more planned to graduate in December.

Mental Health Court's Summer Commencement Ceremony was held August 26, 2024 with approximately 80 people in attendance. The court celebrated 5 participant's successful completion of the program. The court hosted 5 guest speakers, heard inspirational speeches from the graduates, the Judge provided graduation certificates and a personalized gift to acknowledge each graduate. We wrapped up the celebration with refreshments, a visit from a therapy dog team, and photo backdrop,



Congratulations to our class of graduates! The Mental Health Court team and community are proud of you and your accomplishments.

Quotes from the Graduates:



“I’ve learned I am stronger than I thought I was. I am stronger than I was before. I was living underneath the bridge. I didn’t have anything. I didn’t know where I was going to go. I didn’t know how I was going to put down that bottle of alcohol, and slowly through this Mental Health Court, I broke free of all of those chains. I’m not on alcohol anymore. I’m not on drugs anymore. I’ve got a house. I’ve got a life.”
-Richard C.

“I’ve gained better reactions to certain things like learning to regulate anger and frustration, improving communication, engaging in positive hobbies and advocating for my needs.”
-Alex S.

“I’ve realized that hard things don’t last forever.
I’ve made it through a very difficult period in my life.
I’m very proud of myself for doing that.”
-Tre S.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Want to learn more about the Hays County Mental Health Court?

Join us for our next virtual Informational session!



Tuesday October 22nd
3:00pm - 4:00pm

Monday November 18th
3:00 - 4:00 pm

Thursday December 19th
3:00 - 4:00 pm

HAYS COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH
COURT

PRESENTS

*Commencement
Ceremony*

FALL 2024

MONDAY DECEMBER 9, 2024
3:00-4:30 PM

HAYS COUNTY ELECTIONS BUILDING
810 STAGECOACH TRAIL
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS 78666

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR FOURTH
CLASS OF GRADUATES!

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

RECENT EVENTS



Judge Elaine Brown was invited to speak for a Community Mental Health Panel for the Homeless Coalition of Hays County at Barnabas Connection. During this panel Judge Brown shared about the Mental Health Court program, the benefits it provides to the community and court participants, as well as the mission and goal of the specialty court program, and answered questions from the audience. Other panelists include NAMI, San Marcos PD Mental Health Unit, Hays County Veterans Services Office, and Hill Country MHMR.

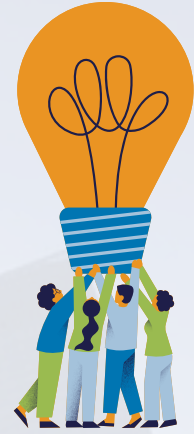


Court Administrator Kaimi Mattila and Court Caseworker Tyler Staton provided a presentation to the Hays County Sheriff's Department during a Crisis Intervention Training for local law enforcement officers on August 15th.

The presentation on the Mental Health Court included the program's criteria, referral process, structure, services provided, program evaluation and success stories from the program. LEO's frequently provide referrals and crisis support to the Mental Health Court so it is essential that we inform them about MHC, that it is a resource to the community, and how to make referrals.



Pictured to the left is Deborah Wotring and Katelyn Rosales with ICON and Court Administrator Kaimi Mattila providing a joint presentation on Mental Health Court and community services for the San Marcos Police Department.



Court Administrator Kaimi Mattila attended the Harris County Mindful Justice Conference in Houston, Texas on June 6th and 7th to learn about racial and health disparities within the criminal justice system and how to combat these issues.

After attending this conference a new clinical scale was added to our intake process, called the ACES. ACES stands for Adverse Childhood Experiences. This questionnaire was used to assess participants in the original Adverse Childhood Experiences study, conducted by CDC and Kaiser Permanente and published in 1998. This widely used and validated tool is used by trained providers to measure the impact of childhood abuse and neglect upon health and well-being.



May of 2024, our previous intern Emma completed her internship with the county and graduated with Master of Social Work from Texas State University! We wish her the best in her future endeavors. We appreciate all that she has done to support the court and court participants.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Tyler Staton
Court Case Worker

This July we welcomed a new member to our mental health court staff, Tyler Staton. Tyler holds a Master of Psychological Research and a Bachelor of Psychology and work experience in recovery and treatment services. We are excited that Tyler has joined our team and is a wonderful asset to the Mental Health Court as the Court Case Worker. Tyler's role includes engagement with the court participants, completing mental health assessments, assisting with program evaluation, community referrals and engagement, as well as ensuring all court participants have appropriate mental health services and treatment.

"I am very excited to work for and help grow Mental Health Court for the community."

This fall, Mental Health Court is hosting two interns from the Master of Social Work program at Texas State University. Jerrod J. and Kaegyn S. will be interning from August to December to support Mental Health Court functions. We are delighted to have them!



Jerrod J.
MSW Intern

"I am happy for the opportunity to grow and learn with such great minds that are intertwined inside the Hays County Mental Health Court. I'm excited for all of the learning opportunities, and to grow and shine as a Social Worker" - Jerrod J.

"I'm most excited to work with a population who is often times overlooked within the criminal justice system. I'm also excited to see the growth within the court participants!" - Kaegyn S.



Kaegyn S.
MSW Intern