

# Adult Mental/Behavioral Health Treatment Courts

New Mexico Administrative  
Office of the Courts

Presenters:  
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June 26, 2024

# Treatment Courts

Adult  
Hybrid

Behavioral  
Health

DWI

Veterans

Young  
Adult

Juvenile

Family

# What is a Behavioral Health Court?

A Behavioral Health Court is a voluntary program for adult individuals who have been arrested or convicted of a crime, have a primary behavioral health diagnosis, and have a moderate to high criminogenic risk level.

Individual's needs are matched and they are provided with a clinically appropriate level of care and support.

## Goal

To support participants successful reintegration into society and reduce recidivism; increase public safety; and, improve the individual's quality of life.

# Eligibility Criteria

Adult individuals who have:

- Been arrested or convicted of a crime due to behavior that is a result of mental illness;
- Diagnosed Behavioral Health Disorder
- High Risk / High Need based on an objective risk need screening tool that identifies level of criminogenic risk and level of needs (housing, treatment, access to medical care, education, employment etc.)

# The Behavioral Health Program Team



# How Does Someone Enter the Program?



Sally is 32 years old, lives with her mother, and is unemployed. She graduated high school and has some college education. Sally has a history of behavioral health disorders and law enforcement contact. Sally is competent but her behavioral health is unmanaged.

Sally was arrested for a domestic violence charge involving her mother. Sally continues to live with her mother.

# Referral Process



# Program Structure

- Typically 1 year in length
- 5 Phases
  - ◆ Phase 1: Stabilization, Orientation, & Treatment planning
  - ◆ Phase 2: Stabilization, Symptom Management, Behavioral Health & Cognitive Impairment Support
  - ◆ Phase 3: Behavior modification & Problem Solving Skills
  - ◆ Phase 4: Life Skills & Clinical Stability
  - ◆ Phase 5: Recovery Management
- Treatment
  - ◆ Medication referral & monitoring
- Coordinated Team Support
- Compliance Support



# Program Guidelines & Support

- ◆ Treatment attendance according to individual treatment plan
- ◆ Court attendance 1-4 times per month
- ◆ Meetings with Supervision Officer
- ◆ Medication adherence
- ◆ Random drug and alcohol testing minimum of 2 times per week
- ◆ Team Discussion & Staffing
- ◆ Connection to Resources
- ◆ Completion of mandatory minimum sentence requirements (if applicable)

# NM Behavioral Health Programs

July 2003 → 2nd JD Metro Behavioral Health Court

October 2003 → 2nd JD Bernalillo District Court BHC

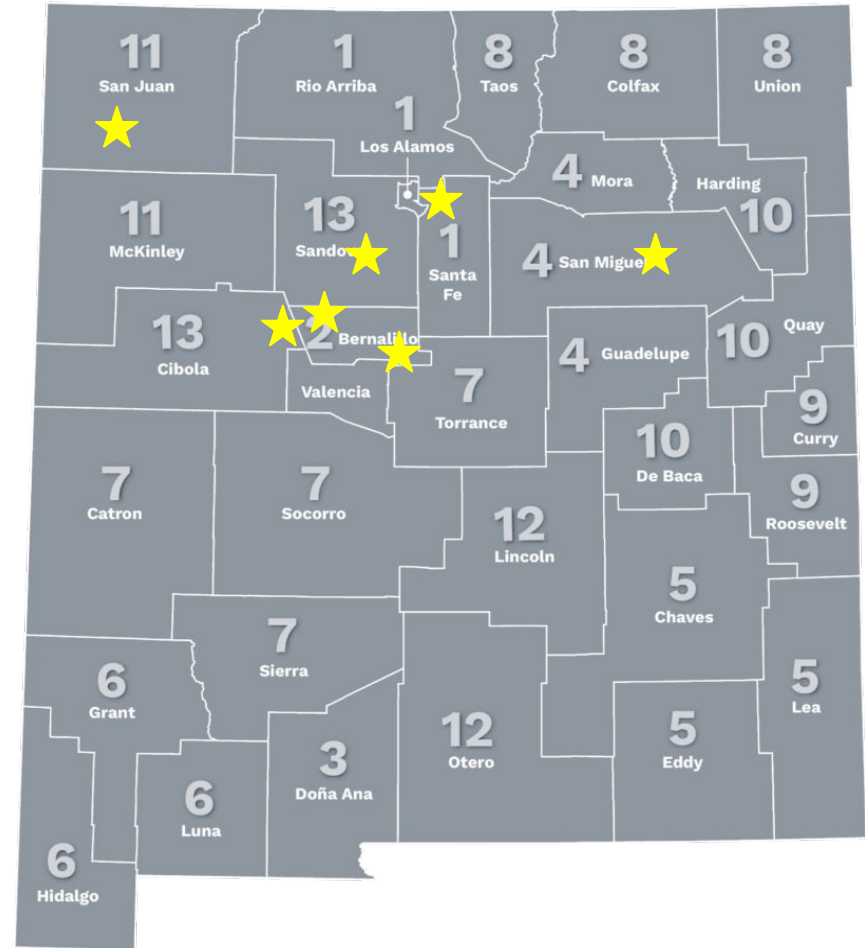
October 2005 → 1st JD Santa Fe BHC

August 2007 → 11th San Juan BHC

July 2009 → 13th JD Sandoval BHC

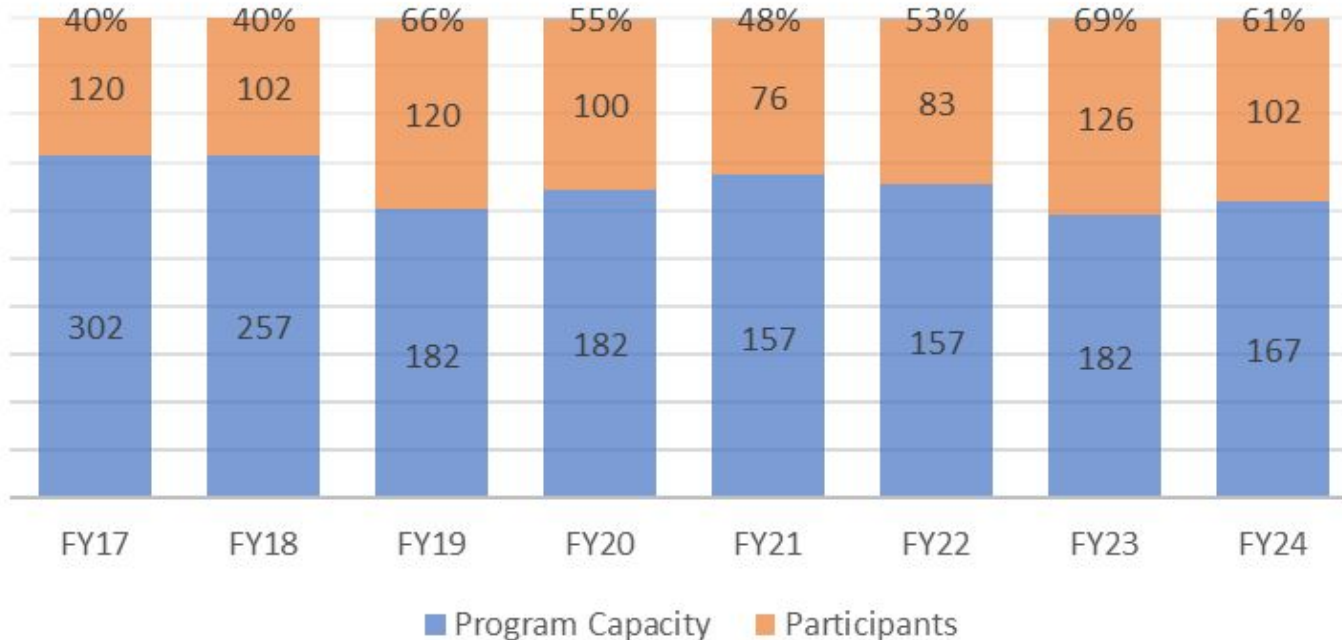
May 2016 → 2nd JD Metro DWI BHC

October 2023 → 4th JD Las Vegas BHC



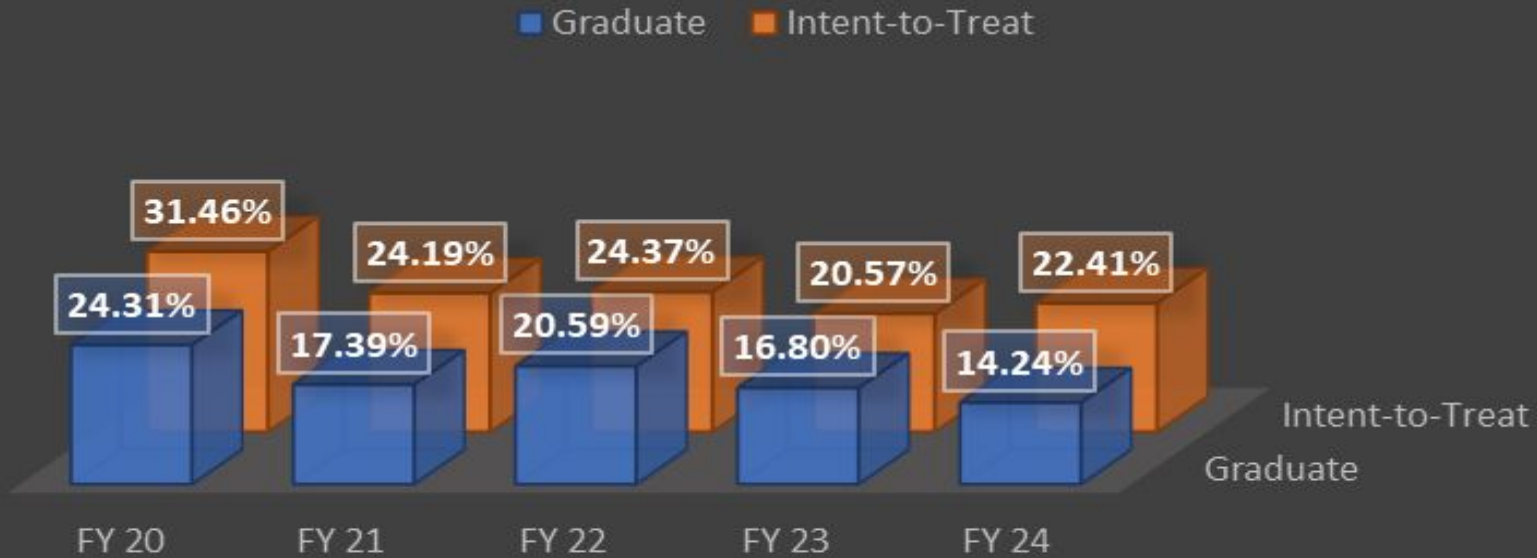
# Program Utilization

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT COURT UTILIZATION RATES

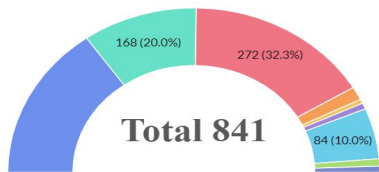


# Recidivism

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT COURT RECIDIVISM FY20-FY24

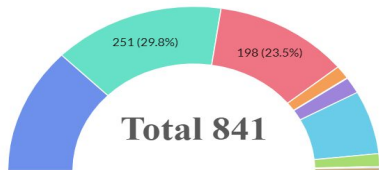


Discharged participants excl. Juveniles- Living arrangement or housing at admission



- LivingArrangement At Admission
- Independent/Permanent Housing -OWN 256
- Independent/Permanent Housing -RENTING 168
- With friends relative/significant other (not my own home) 272
- Transitional Housing Dependent -RENTING 22
- + 5 more...

Discharged participants excl. Juveniles- Living arrangement or housing at discharge



- LivingArrangement At Discharge
- Independent/Permanent Housing -OWN 209
- Independent/Permanent Housing -RENTING 251
- With friends relative/significant other (not my own home) 198
- Transitional Housing Dependent -RENTING 22
- + 6 more...

# Housing & Education

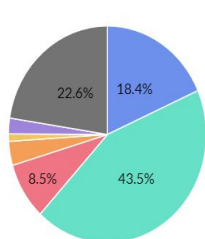
Number of clients with Housing improved- Excl Juvenile

128

% of clients with Housing improved- Excl Juvenile

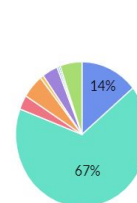
15%

Education at admission- All courts



- EducationAtAdmission
- High School (Did not Complete) 149
- High School, Alternative School or GED Completed 353
- College Grad - 2 Yr Program Completed 69
- College Grad - 4 Yr Program Completed 29
- + 3 more...

Education at discharge- All courts



- EducationAtDischarge
- High School (Did not Complete) 118
- High School, Alternative School or GED Comple... 564
- College Grad - 2 Yr Program Completed 27
- College Grad - 4 Yr Program Completed 45
- + 5 more...

Number of Clients with Education improved- All Courts

94

% of Clients with Education improved- All Courts

11%

13

# Role of AOC

- Support
- Training & Technical Support
- Guidance
- Quality Assurance & Sustainability
- Data Collection
- Evaluation



# Behavioral Health Treatment Program

- Criminal Justice Involved
- Voluntary
- Drug & Alcohol Testing in combination with Medication Management
- Frequent Re-Assessment
- Referrals to Resources
- Supportive Structure, not punitive
- Frequent Meetings with Supervision
- Behaviors are responded individually with incentives, sanctions and service adjustments
- Team centered approach, molded by 30 years of best practices research

# AOC/DTJ Support Team

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# Questions?

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS  
DEPARTMENT FOR THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE

