

**ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY RESOURCE COURT**

INFORMATION SHEET

The Orange County Community Resource Court (CRC) was created to address the treatment needs of people with mental health issues who became involved with the criminal courts. The CRC is a special type of court that links eligible offenders with services and supports that help them to better manage their mental illness. Some people call this type of court a "mental health court" because it helps people with mental illness stay out of trouble with the law by helping them get the mental health treatment they need.

The type of treatment offered varies depending on each person's needs and will be provided by the Orange-Person-Chatham (OPC) Mental Health Area Program or one of its affiliates. Some of the services available at OPC are : individual and group mental health and substance abuse therapies, psychiatric services and medication management, and case management.

Participation in the Community Resource Court is voluntary. To be considered for admission the CRC, the offender must agree to be screened by OPC staff and obtain or provide the court with a mental health assessment. The offender will also be asked to sign a consent form that allows OPC to share information about treatment with attorneys and the court.

People who are found eligible to participate in the CRC, agree to accept mental health or substance abuse treatment instead of receiving a fine or jail sentence for their crime. The court will dispose of these special cases either through a:

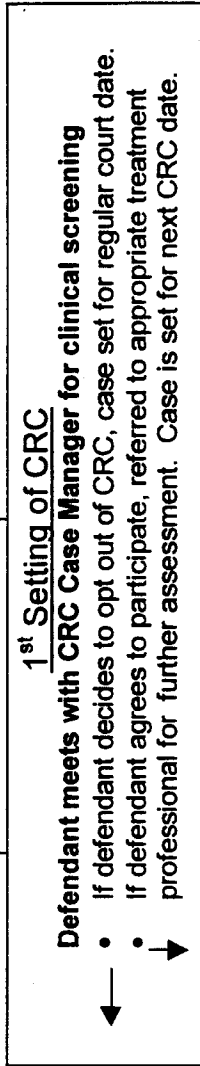
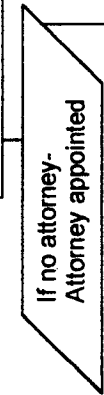
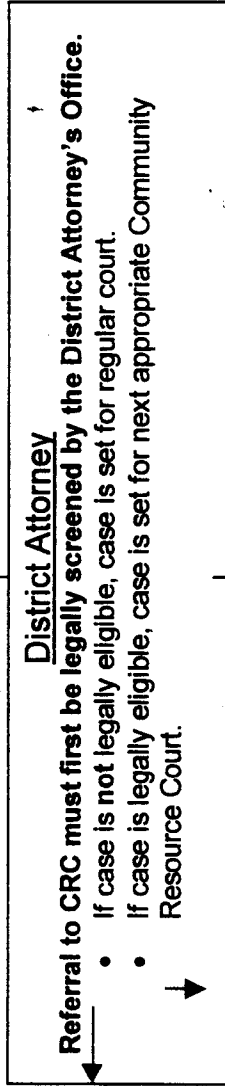
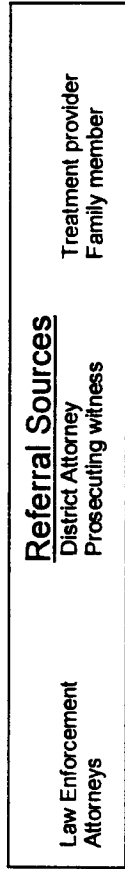
- Deferred Prosecution – defendant could earn a dismissal of charges if compliant with treatment recommendations or
- Supervised Probation – defendant will be supervised by probation officer but will not serve any active time if compliant with treatment recommendations.

The length of time an offender participates in treatment will be set by the court and may last up to six months or longer. If the offender fails to comply with their treatment recommendations, the case can be returned to regular District Court for further disposition.

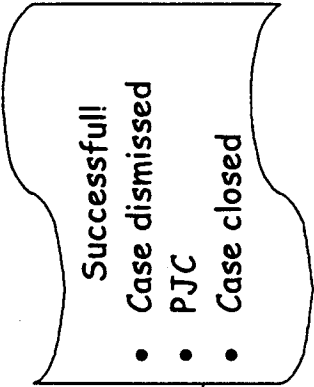
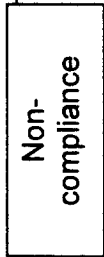
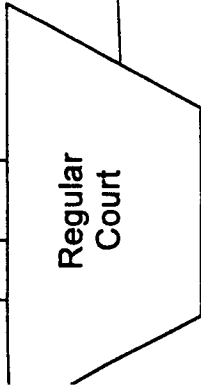
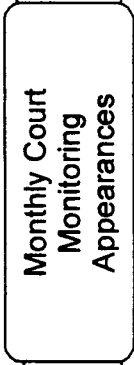
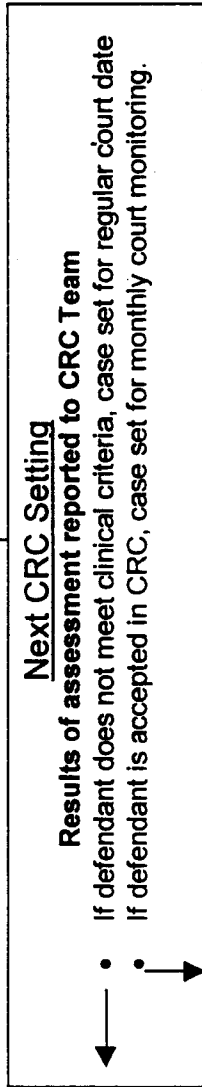
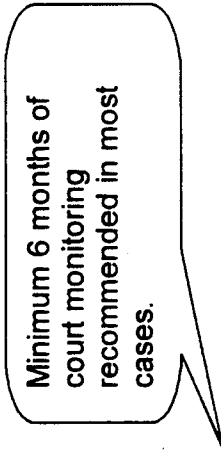
COMMUNITY RESOURCE COURT

A Cooperative Effort by the Orange County Judicial and Mental Health Systems

COMMUNITY RESOURCE COURT



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COMMUNITY RESOURCE COURT**Eligibility Criteria**

- Must be charged with a criminal offense.
- Must have a mental health diagnosis or mental health treatment history.*

[*Priority will be given to defendants with SPMI (severe and persistent mental illness) diagnosis, who would be eligible for long term case management services by OPC/CRC Case Manager.]
- Must be agreeable to treatment.
- The District Attorney must screen case to see if charges are appropriate for Community Resource Court.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE COURT

DEFENDANT INFORMATION SHEET

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The Orange County Community Resource Court (CRC) was created to address the treatment needs of people with diagnosed mental disorders who become involved with the criminal courts.

*****Participation in the Community Resource Court is voluntary*****

To be eligible to participate in CRC:

- the District Attorney must screen case to see if charges are appropriate
- must have mental health diagnosis, developmental disability or a mental health treatment history
- may also have a substance abuse problem
- must agree to engage in recommended mental health treatment

If you are interested in being referred to CRC:

- you will meet with OPC Mental Health case manager who will ask you some confidential questions about your mental health history
- you will be asked to sign an Informed Consent Form which gives the case manager your permission to talk with other court persons and your attorney about your mental health or medical information
- if you do not have an attorney, the court will ask you questions to see if you qualify for a court-appointed attorney
- you will be asked to get a mental health assessment or provide a copy of a recent mental health assessment

If you are found eligible for CRC—you can expect the following:

- you must agree to comply with your recommended treatment plan, including taking prescribed medications, for a period of time set by the Court (usual treatment period is a minimum of 6 months)
- OPC Case Manager or treatment provider will keep the Court informed of your compliance with your recommended treatment and medication compliance
- you will be required to come to court on a regular basis about your treatment progress and medication compliance

*****Your participation in the Community Resource Court is a voluntary alternative to a regular Court disposition.***

Failure to comply with the Community Resource Court treatment alternative could result in your case being returned to regular court for trial or sentencing.**

COMMUNITY RESOURCE COURT

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2001 Statistics

Total Cases disposed in CRC – 79

(50%) Successful – 40

Cases dismissed – 36

PJC – 1

Probation – 3

(28%) Non-compliant – 22

Returned to regular court – 22

(20%) Referred by never engaged – 15

(2%) Deceased – 2

W/M – 43%

B/M – 22%

W/F – 19%

B/F – 13 %

H/M – 3%

<20
8%

20-29
30%

30-39
27%

40-49
28%

50-59
5%

>60
2%

Active/Pending

(as of December 31, 2001)

Total cases on CRC dockets – 45

Active (engaged in treatment) – 29

Pending (screening/assessment phase) – 12

Other pending (OFA's outstanding < 6 months) - 4

COMMUNITY RESOURCE COURT

2002 STATISTICS

Total Cases Referred to CRC – 77

Compliant – 38 - 49%

(participants complied with recommended treatment for a minimum of 6 months and case(s) were disposed in CRC with positive legal outcomes for participants- considered successful by CRC Team)

Non-Compliant– 25 – 33% –

(offenders who opted to participate and initially engaged in treatment but did not consistently comply with treatment recommendations during the initial 6 months in CRC- cases were returned to regular court track for disposition)

Never Engaged– 14 – 18%

(offenders who initially agreed to participate in CRC but never engaged in treatment-cases returned to regular court for disposition)

Disposition of Compliant Cases

Case(s) dismissed - 25

PJC – 6

Supervised Probation (terminated successful) – 4

Suspended Sentence (case closed-found in compliance) - 3

Demographics

Race/Gender

W/M – 34%

B/M – 34%

B/F – 14%

W/F – 11%

H/M – 1%

I/M – 1%

A/M – 1%

A/F – 1%

Age Range

<20
2%

20-29
27%

30-39
31%

40-49
21%

50-59
7%

>60
7%

Active/Pending Cases

as of December 2002

COORDINATION TEAM

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District Attorney's Office

Beverly Scarlett
Jacqueline Perez
106 East Margaret Lane
Hillsborough, NC 27278
Phone: 732-9334
Fax: 732-1833

Public Defender's Office

Tim Cole
200 N. Greensboro St.
Suite D16
Carrboro, NC 27510
Phone: 968-0200
Fax: 932-1433

Treatment Providers

D.C. Rhyne, Case Mgr.
Jeffrey DeMagistris, Supv.
Sarah Tillis, Clinic Dir.
Northside Clinic
OPC Mental Health Center
412 Caldwell St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Phone: 913-4200
Fax: 913-4201
Email: drhyme@opc-mhc.org
jdemagistris@opc-mhc.org
stillis@opc-mhc.org

Tim Williams, Dir. Adult Mental
Health/Substance Abuse
OPC Mental Health Center
101 E. Weaver St.
Suite 300, Carr Mill Mall
Carrboro, NC 27510
Phone: 913-4031
Fax: 913-4001

Diana Perkins, MD, MPH
George Northrup, MD
Department of Psychiatry
UNC School of Medicine
CB# 7160
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7160
Phone/G.Northrup: 966-7088
Email: gnorthrup@css.unc.edu

Attorneys

Karen Murphy
PO Box 945
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Phone: 929-1478
Fax: 933-9233
Email: kkmpa@msn.com

Glenn Veit
PO Box 1388
Hillsborough, NC 27278
Phone: 732-9742
Fax: 932-1522

Chapel Hill Police Department

Jim Huegerich, Dir. Of
Crisis and Human Svcs.
828 Airport Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Phone: 968-2806
Fax: 968-2846
Email:
Jhuegerich@Town.ci.Chapel-Hill.nc.us

Community Corrections

Tommy Perry, Chief PPO/HB
Nicole Dillard, PPO
PO Box 463
Hillsborough, NC 27278
Phone: 245-2220
Fax: 644-3025

Arnold Foy, Chief PPO/CH
Vicki Feaster Fonville, PPO
PO Box 2306
Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Phone: 967-9237
Fax: 942-7567

UNC School of Social Work

Anna Scheyett, MSW,CCSW
School of Social Work
UNC-CH
301 Pittsboro St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3550
Phone: 962-4372
Fax: 962-6562
Email: amscheye@email.unc.edu

Pre-Trial Services

Joyce Kuhn, Dir.
Ted Dorsi, Coord.
116 Churton St.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
Phone: 644-7160
Fax: 644-2238
Email: joyce@visionet.org

District Court Judges' Office

Pat DeVine, District Ct. Judge
Joe Buckner, Chief District Ct. Judge
Marie Lamoureaux, Project Coord.
PO Box 1088
Hillsborough, NC 27278
Phone: 245-2274 or 2226
Fax: 644-3093
Email: joebuck@mindspring.com
Marie.Lamoureaux@aoc.state.nc.us