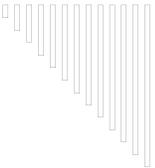


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## Specialty Courts Community Treatment & Special Populations

Jeannie Von Stultz, Ph.D.  
Director of Mental Health Services  
Bexar County Juvenile Probation

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## Crossroads Program

- Partnership
  - 386<sup>th</sup> District Court – Judge Laura Parker
  - Bexar County District Attorney
  - Baptist Child and Family Services Health & Human Services
  - Center for Health Care Services
  - Communities In Schools
  - University Health System – Detention Health Care Services
  - Bexar County Juvenile Probation

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## Crossroads Program

- Females
- 12-15 Years of Age
- First-time, Low Level Offenders
- Mental Health Issues
- History of Trauma
- Deferred Prosecution Contract

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**Specialty Courts  
Mental Health Court Model**

- Problem-Solving Focus
- Judicially Supervised Treatment
- Treatment Plan Developed Jointly by Court and MH Professionals
- Challenge – How to measure compliance?
  - No “drug test” measure

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**Specialty Courts  
Mental Health Court Model**

- Administered by:
  - Court
  - Probation Dept
  - Family Service Agency
  - Separate Docket
- Funding:
  - Federal/State Dollars (redirected placement costs)
  - Health Insurance Reimbursement
  - Foundation Donations
- Multidisciplinary Team Approach:
  - DA, Defense Atty, MH Provider, Case Manager, Probation Officer, School, Judge

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**Specialty Courts  
Mental Health Court Model**

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Wide Range of Charges: Misdemeanor to Felonies
  - Some Focus on Serious Mental Illness
  - Usually exclude Conduct Disorder or Oppositional Defiant Disorder ONLY
- Point of Referral:
  - Some After Adjudication Before Disposition
  - Others PreAdjudication
  - Others Post Placement

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**Specialty Courts  
Mental Health Court Model**

- Monitoring Compliance:
  - Judicial Review Hearings
  - Home/School Visits
  - Collaboration with Provider
- Length of Court Involvement:
  - Varies: 3 months to 2 years
  - Average 10-18 months
- Caseloads: 5-75

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**Specialty Courts  
Mental Health Court Model**

- Using Rewards/Incentives
  - Expunge Records
  - Drop Charges
  - Recognition Ceremonies – Phase Advancement, Graduation
  - Gradual Reduction in Judicial Reviews
  - Curfew Modification
  - Termination Probation
  - Tangible Incentives – Gift Cards, Treats

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**Specialty Courts  
Mental Health Court Model**

- Using Consequences/Sanctions
  - Problem Solving Sessions
  - Written Assignments
  - Presentation Assignments
  - Curfew Modification
  - Community Service
  - Office Reporting
  - House Arrest

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**Specialty Courts  
Mental Health Court Model**

- Resources:
  - Bureau of Justice Assistance Consensus Project
    - [www.consensusproject.org](http://www.consensusproject.org)
  - Criminal Justice/Mental Health Information Network
    - [www.cjmh-infonet.org](http://www.cjmh-infonet.org)
  - National Council for Mental Health & Juvenile Justice
    - [www.ncmhji.com](http://www.ncmhji.com)

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**Specialty Courts  
Drug Court Model**

- 289<sup>th</sup>, 386<sup>th</sup>, 436<sup>th</sup> District Courts –
  - Associate Judge Irma Hernandez – 289<sup>th</sup>
  - Associate Judge Pat Garza – 386<sup>th</sup>
  - Associate Judge Yvonne Gomez – 436<sup>th</sup>
- Higher Risk Misdemeanor Drug Offenders
- Deferred Prosecution Contract

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**Specialty Courts  
Drug Court Model**

- Evidence-based Counseling, Case Management, & Assessment Svcs
  - Originally SAMHSA Grant Funded
  - Now Utilizes Community Referrals & Grant Funded Services
- Monthly Court Appearances
- 3 Phases – all 30 days

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**Specialty Courts**  
**Family Enrichment Court**

- 436<sup>th</sup> District Court – Judge Lisa Jarrett
- Misdemeanor Offenders
- Family History of Assaults/Aggression
- Deferred Prosecution Contract
- Home-based Counseling & Case Mgmt
- Monthly Court Appearances
- 3 Phases – P1 4 wk, P2 4 wk, P3 8 wk
- Upon Completion, Records Sealed

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**Specialty Court Issues**  
**Distinct To Adolescents**

- Include Parent/Guardian
- Address Needs of Family
- Collaborate with Other Systems
  - Schools
  - Foster Care
- Comply with Confidentiality Requirements

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**Specialty Court Issues**  
**Distinct To Adolescents**

- Motivation Strategies Different
- Counter Negative Peers, Gangs, Families
- Identify & Respond to Developmental Issues

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## Contact Information

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