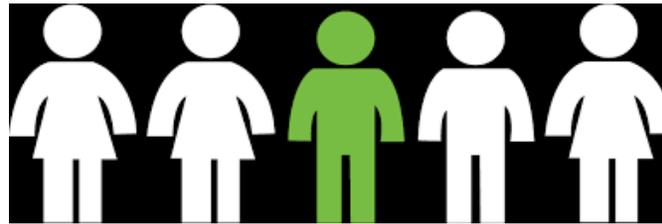


McLennan County Mental Health Court

McLennan County Mental Health Court (MHC) was established to more effectively address the increasing number of mentally ill participants cycling through the courts and jails and in reaction to the growing population of participants with long histories of untreated mental illness, substance abuse, and criminal involvement.

MHC is a four-phase program for adults who have been charged with a misdemeanor or felony offense and who are diagnosed with a mental illness. It is a voluntary program that requires a minimum 12-month commitment. MHC is a collaboration of McLennan County, the Court, Prosecutor's Office, CSCD, MHC defense attorney and Treatment Providers.

The MHC is a pre- and post-adjudication program that primarily serves participants with mental health issues. MHC participation can also be ordered as an initial or modified condition of community supervision for participants who meet the criteria for the MHC.



What to expect

Participants will be assessed by a licensed clinician to complete a needs assessment and be linked to a case-worker for assistance with disability compensation, educational benefits, vocational assistance, housing, employment, substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling and/or medical services.

An individualized treatment plan will be created to meet your needs and will include mental health treatment and substance use treatment if needed.

Participants appear frequently before the Mental Health Court Judge, Hon. David Hodges, for progress hearings.

Contact

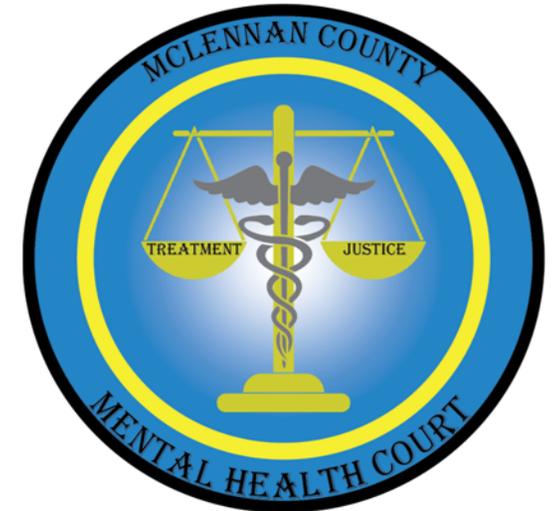
Amy Lowrey, MS, LPC-S, LCDC

Specialty Court Coordinator



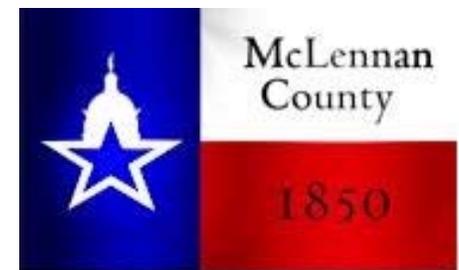
Phone: 254-759-7557

Email: Mental.Health@co.mclennan.tx.us



The mission of the MHC is to integrate mental illness treatment services into the processing of cases in the judicial system in order to divert participants with mental illness to needed services as an alternative to subjecting those participants to the criminal justice system.

This goal is accomplished by ensuring ongoing judicial interaction and oversight with participants, with input from the treatment team, and the development of partnerships with public agencies and community organizations, including local mental health authorities.



McLennan County Mental Health Court

The MHC Team will help you gain access to services and programs such as housing, employment opportunities, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and medical care.

You will be expected to remain arrest free, clean and sober, attend all your scheduled court appearances, take psychotropic medications as prescribed if applicable, and attend all your scheduled appointments. You will be required to attend all scheduled treatment sessions, including counseling, substance abuse and/or mental health sessions, education sessions and all other sessions as directed.

If you would like to be considered for acceptance into the Mental Health Court, ask your defense attorney to help you prepare an application.

Successful completion of the McLennan County Mental Health Court may result in no jail time and/or the possibility of not having a conviction on your criminal record.



Eligibility

- Charged with, convicted of, or on probation for a misdemeanor or felony offense where the behavior that led to the offense was connected to mental illness. Prior criminal history and treatment history in the community mental health system are considerations in determining eligibility.
- At least 18 years of age
- Must be approved by the District Attorney's office and in some cases the originating Court
- Must have charges in, and work or reside in McLennan County (some exceptions may be made for those residing in an adjacent county)
- Must not have holds or warrants from other jurisdictions or have other criminal cases pending
- Must be physically and mentally capable of participating in the program
- Willing to participate in the conditions of the court



Location

The McLennan County Mental Health Court is held at the McLennan County Courthouse, 4th Floor Specialty Court Courtroom, located at 501 Washington Ave., Waco, Texas 76701. Mental Health Court begins at 3pm on alternating Thursdays.



Goals

- Increase public safety.
- Facilitate participation in effective mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Improve the quality of life and maximize resources for people with mental illnesses charged with crimes.
- Increase treatment engagement of the participants during their involvement in MHC and after completion of the program.
- Reduce arrests for participants during their involvement in MHC and after completion of the program.
- Reduce the numbers of jail bed days and hospital bed days utilized by participants during their involvement in MHC and after completion of the program.
- Divert mentally impaired participants from the criminal justice system.
- Reduce cost by using community agencies to address participants needs.