

## General Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility is determined by the local Behavioral Health Docket Advisory Committee

### Who is Eligible?

#### Participants:

- Must be voluntary with capacity to consent
- Assessed medium to high risk of recidivism using a validated risk-needs assessment.
- Assessed using a validated clinical-assessment tool that produces a mental health diagnosis.
- Mental illness is related to their current offense.
- Local resources must meet participants' identified needs.

#### Consequences and outcomes of untreated mental illness



**10.2 million**

Approximately 10.2 million adults have co-occurring mental and addiction disorders.



**#1**

Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide and is a major contributor to the global burden of disease.



**26%**

Approximately 26% of homeless adults staying in shelters live with serious mental illness.



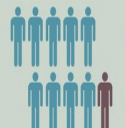
**-\$193 billion**

Serious mental illness costs billions annually in lost earnings in the US.



**24%**

Approximately 24% of state prisoners have a "recent history of a mental health condition."



**90%**

Ninety percent of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the US.

[Mainstream Mental Health Awareness - New Roads Behavioral Health \(newroadtreatment.org\)](http://newroadtreatment.org)

## Behavioral Health Docket Standards

### Standard 1: Administration

#### Standard 2: Team

A team should include, at a minimum, the judge, a representative from the local Behavioral Health Authority/Community Services Board, and a representative from community corrections. The Commonwealth's Attorney and Defense Attorney are encouraged, but are not required.

#### Standard 3: Evidence-Based Practices

#### Standard 4: Voluntary and Informed Participation

All docket participants should be provided with a clear explanation of the docket process. Participation in the docket must be completely voluntary. Participants must have the capacity to consent to participation in the docket.

#### Standard 5: Eligibility Criteria

The criteria should focus on defendants whose mental illness is related to their current offenses.

#### Standard 6: Program Structure

A behavioral health docket program should be structured so the participants progress through phases followed by successful completion and transition out of the program.

#### Standard 7: Treatment and Support Services

Behavioral health dockets must provide prompt admission to continuous, comprehensive, evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation services to participants.

#### Standard 8: Participant Compliance

#### Standard 9: Confidentiality

#### Standard 10: Evaluation and Monitoring

#### Standard 11: Education



## Virginia Behavioral Health Dockets



Behavioral Health Docket— Light of Hope

## Behavioral Health Docket Program Structure

A behavioral health docket program should be structured so that participants progress through phases which may include:

- orientation
- stabilization
- community reintegration
- maintenance
- successful completion and transition out of the program

## Required Training

Approval to establish a behavioral health docket follows the required Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Application process. This includes completing the required training, **Developing a Mental Health Court: An Interdisciplinary Curriculum (CSG)** facilitated by request . <https://youtu.be/nSy-uy8iMfo>



## How does it work and what are the benefits?

Through voluntary admission, eligible defendants are invited to participate in the Behavioral Health dockets following a specialized screening and assessment. For those who submit to the terms and conditions of community-based supervision, a team of program and treatment professionals work together to develop service plans and supervise participants.

Preliminary research demonstrates that Behavioral Health docket participants tend to have lower rates of criminal activity and increased linkages to treatment services when compared to defendants with mental illness who go through the traditional court system.

## Key Statistics

Percent of people in state and federal prisons who have been diagnosed with a mental illness: 37% +  
In locally-run jails: 44% +

Number of people experiencing "serious psychological distress" in jails: 1 in 4 +

Percent of people in federal prisons who reported not receiving any mental health care while incarcerated: 66% +

Portion of people jailed 3+ times within a year who report having a moderate or serious mental illness: 27% +

## Application Process

### According to Rule 1:25. Specialty Dockets <sup>1</sup>

These are specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's circuit and district court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment, supervision, and remediation integral to case disposition.

**Authorization Process** - A circuit or district court which intends to establish one or more types of these recognized specialty dockets must petition the Supreme Court of Virginia for authorization before beginning operation of a specialty docket, or in the instance of an existing specialty docket, continuing its operation.

[https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/programs/bhd/forms/bhd\\_application.pdf](https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/programs/bhd/forms/bhd_application.pdf)

The link above takes you to the application to request authorization.

- Application
  - Jurisdiction Name
  - Name of Judge
  - Name of Coordinator
  - Proposed Start Date

<https://www.vacourts.gov/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/sds/programs/bhd/home.html>

The link above provides information under the Behavioral Health Docket Advisory Committee:

- Standards
- Application Review Checklist
- Behavioral Health Docket Directory
- Behavioral Health Docket Reports