

Project Equinox



Equilibrium

Balance

Stability

MISSION: to promote mental health stability for participants so they can live a healthier, more independent life within the community while protecting the public.

CONTACT INFORMATION

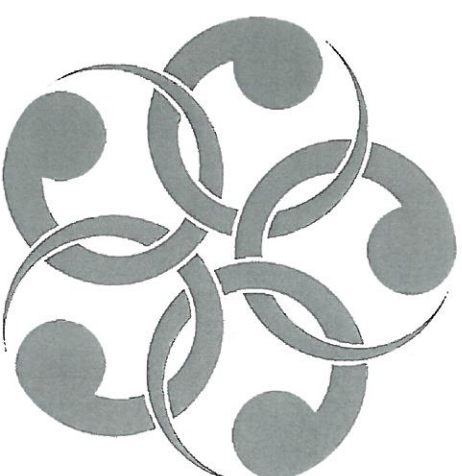
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Project Equinox

Mental Health Court



"Pain of mind is worse than pain of body"
Syrus

Phone: 319-292-1231
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Why Mental Health Court?

Over the past several years the court system has seen a dramatic increase in the number of offenders who suffer from serious and chronic mental illness. According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Justice Center, persons suffering from mental illness are more likely to be arrested than those without mental illness for similar crimes and spend more time in jail and prison than other inmates. In addition, individuals with mental illness may cycle repeatedly through the justice system untreated and become homeless thus putting themselves and the community at greater risk. Overall, the cost of treating an individual in the community is much less than housing an individual in jail or prison.

Eligibility and Criteria

- Must have an Axis I mental health diagnosis
- Must be a Black Hawk County court case
- Services need to be provided within the Black Hawk County Community
- Axis II disorder clients will be screened on a case by case basis
- Needs to have at least 12-24 months of supervision
- A need for intensive team supervision to access community services
- Must have a new criminal charge or Report of Violation
- The individual agrees to participate in court ordered treatment and participation is voluntary
- Sentencing incentive(s) for misdemeanor and felony cases
- No clients with a primary diagnosis of Substance Abuse
- Special needs clients (Brain Injury, Developmental Disabilities) will be reviewed on a case by case basis
- No adjudicated Sex Offenders or Parole cases

The Goals of Project Equinox

- To increase public safety
- To reduce the frequency of encounters with the criminal justice system and lower recidivism rates
- To improve the mental health, well-being and quality of life of the program participant
- A more effective use of community resources
- Faster case processing

Referrals to the Equinox Program (Mental Health Court) can be obtained by contacting any of the individuals listed on the back of the brochure. This program is a collaborative effort with the following agencies: District Court (1st Judicial District), Black Hawk County Attorney's Office, Defense Attorney Dean Olson, Department of Correctional Services (1st Judicial District) and Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center.