

BJA FY24 Adult Treatment Court Program

Las Vegas Justice Court Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC) would be a voluntary alternative to the traditional court system for individuals with a serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD) where there is some correlation between the offense and their diagnosis. Assistance and treatment would be coordinated throughout the program and progress towards goals closely monitored. Objectives would include early identification of mental illness and SUD in individuals having contact with the justice system, early intervention, and diversion of individuals away from the justice system. CODC would assist those struggling with mental illness and co-occurring SUD who have violated the law by increasing the efficiency of case processing, improving access to treatment and services, developing and completing an individualized treatment plan, improving community functioning of participants in the areas of employment, education, training and housing and by reducing recidivism to improve public safety for the community. There is a substantial unmet need in covering costs associated with mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and supervision. This includes indigent participants who enter the program while still in custody. This population has a high risk of re-offending and a need for treatment. They require wrap-around services including, but not limited to, prescribed medication(s), housing/sober living, counseling, electronic monitoring, public transportation passes, and additional social services. They also frequently require assistance with replacing lost identification such as driver's licenses, identity cards or other government-issued documents. The lack of identification creates a significant barrier for participants seeking employment, housing, or social services, causing them to remain homeless, unemployed and without critical social services required to be successful in CODC. Sober living facilities assist uninsured program participants in getting connected with social services and other community resources, however, the barrier again is lack of funding to allow these participants to be placed into those types of facilities. Participants lacking proper identification face additional challenges as they are prohibited from seeking any social services or enrolling in Medicaid. One of the biggest issues some people with mental illness face is the availability of housing. The cascading effects of mental illness and co-occurring SUD might leave them in a precarious housing situation, or even cause them to lose their homes. Having a safe and secure place to live is an important part of recovery, along with access to services that enable those with mental health conditions to live as independently as possible. CODC would only admit adults, 18 years and older, presenting with a diagnosed mental illness and classified as high risk, high needs and co-occurring substance use disorder. Once a new referral is evaluated, accepted into, and agrees to voluntarily enter CODC, the goals are to (1) have any incarcerated homeless participant released into a stable, (drug-free) housing environment to gain stability; (2) provide participants mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and (3) connect participants with resources to establish self-sufficiency while continuing in treatment to become mentally stable, drug/alcohol free, and a productive member of the community. The barrier is lack of funding to allow participants to be treated and supervised.

Las Vegas Justice Court seeks BJA FY24 Adult Treatment Court Program funding of \$900,000 to plan and implement the CODC program to reduce the disproportionate involvement of individuals with mental illness and co-occurring SUD in the criminal justice system. The CODC team would include presiding Judge Nadia Wood and Judge Eric Goodman, Specialty Courts Specialist, Court Compliance Officer, public or private defense counsel, district attorney, and treatment program representatives. CODC would require a minimum of twelve (12) months to a maximum of 24 months to complete. The program would incorporate extensive oversight and

collaboration with community partners to provide wraparound services in order to increase the likelihood of successful treatment for at least 26 participants over the 48-month grant period. Supervision of court participants would include random urinalysis testing and electronic monitoring. A Specialty Courts Specialist and Court Compliance Officer would link participants to available community mental and chemical health services. Goals of the program include diverting participants from the criminal justice system, reducing recidivism, improving public safety, increasing the quality of the participants' lives, assisting participants in achieving the highest level of stability possible, with an emphasis on that stabilization reducing the likelihood of participants being incarcerated or committing offenses again in the future. CODC intercepts and assists individuals before they escalate to the Nevada Eighth Judicial District Court.