



BOULDER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION PROGRAM



The Boulder District Attorney's Office has multiple diversion programs across multiple system intersects. The Mental Health Diversion Program (MHDP) specifically targets individuals involved with the criminal justice system who need support with mental health. Prior criminal history is not a bar to the program. MHDP uses an "all carrot, no stick" framework, recognizing that traditional criminal justice systems have not been effective and that we need different approaches to disentangle behavioral health challenges from the legal system. MHDP is a highly collaborative program between the DA's Office, Community Justice Services, Sheriff's Office and Jail, and other law enforcement and community partners. Despite funding cuts, our collaborative efforts continue to grow as we work to increase co-responder and other diversion and deflection options to create a continuum of care that enhances community safety and wellness.

Jail Arrests

- SCREENED DIRECTLY AT JAIL
- PRE-FILING (CASE NEVER SENT TO DA'S OFFICE)
- IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL

Misdemeanors

- CASE REFERRED BY DA or OTHER PARTY
- PRE- and POST-FILING OPTIONS
- IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL

Felonies

- CASE REFERRED BY DA or OTHER PARTY
- PRE- and POST-FILING OPTIONS
- 6-MONTH REVIEW

Criminal Case Dismissed

Individuals receive targeted case management for six months with a Behavioral Health Navigator who is a licensed clinician. Participants are screened and given a full criminogenic and behavioral health assessment. Diversion plans are highly individualized and use a harm reduction lens, meaning that the initial focus prioritizes basic needs in lieu of standardized treatment requirements. Diversion meetings often take place in the community.

Contact

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