

ADDENDUM TO THE 2020 PLAN OF THE 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 14 TO INCLUDE THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VETERANS DIVERSION PROGRAM, Judge Tonya Alexander presiding, and the MISSISSIPPI COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT (Project Fresh Start), Judge Alexander presiding.

7. The Second Judicial District Veterans Diversion Program, Judge Tonya Alexander presiding.

a. Through funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Adult Treatment Court Collaborative Funding, the Arkansas Second Judicial District Veterans Diversion Program was implemented in 2015. The implementation of this court was a collaborative effort between Circuit Court Judge Victor Hill, District Attorney Scott Ellington, Public Defender Brian Miles, Craighead County and Mid-South Health Systems. These collaborative partners recognized the unique issues impacting Veterans who had become involved in Criminal Justice System and were moved to develop a program designed to meet and address the specific needs of this population. Judge Victor Hill presided over the court until his retirement. Judge Tonya Alexander assumed this role in 2017 and currently provides oversight to the Court. The Court Currently meets on Tuesday Afternoons in Jonesboro, Arkansas and serves Craighead, Poinsett, Greene, Clay, Mississippi, & Crittenden Counties. The Court has been maintained through local partnerships and resources. However, funding was recently obtained through the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Adult Drug Court Discretionary Funding to enhance the services provided by the court.

The mission of the Second Judicial District Veterans Diversion Program is to honor local veterans and ensure public safety by providing treatment and support services to justice involved veterans, thereby reducing criminal recidivism, reducing taxpayer costs, and promoting successful reentry of veterans into the community.

The purpose of the Veterans Diversion Program is to improve services to criminal justice involved veterans who have a mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorders, by assuring a continuum of care and easy access to treatment services. The program works to increase cooperation between the substance and

mental health treatment system and the criminal justice system to achieve faster case processing time and improved access to substance and mental health treatment services.

Veterans Diversion Program is a voluntary pre-conviction, post-plea program for offenders who have substance and/or mental health issues. The program consists of intensive supervision of clients by a Probation Officer, Mental Health Professional and/or Case Manager, weekly appearances before the Veterans Diversion Program Judge, mandatory mental health and substance abuse treatment, substance abuse testing, therapy, as well as other prosocial interventions that may be beneficial on a case-by-case basis. The program has 5 Phases and maintains separate tracks for misdemeanor and felony offenses. The minimum program length for misdemeanors is 9 months and the minimum length for felonies is 18 months. The phases of the program are based on minimum time frames that have been met and the core competencies needed before the participant will advance to the following phase. Once this progress and compliance has been demonstrated, the participant will graduate from the program. The real-time length of the program will be based on the individual's progress.

The Veterans Diversion Program focuses on veterans who are currently in, or are entering, the Criminal Justice System. The program creates and supervises treatment plans to address the underlying causes of the veteran's behavior and substance abuse issues. Issues commonly addressed by the treatment programs include Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Anger issues, Domestic Violence, Alcohol Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, and Other Mental Health Diagnoses (commonly depression and anxiety disorders).

The Program's Eligibility Criteria include:

- All Veterans Diversion Program participants will be admitted to the program of his/her own volition.
- The defendant must have a substance and/or mental health issue, current charge(s), and/or for whom mental health treatment in a court-supervised program can be expected to foster recovery and reduce recidivism.
- The defendant must have been diagnosed by a mental health professional with a significant mental health disorder within one or more of the following categories of disorders:
 - Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
 - Bipolar and Related Disorders
 - Depressive Disorders

- Anxiety Disorders
- Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders
- Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders
- Other Disorders to be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - Participants will not be excluded from admission solely because of prior treatment failures or a current lack of motivation for treatment.
 - Those with sexual offenses will be excluded.
 - Those with a serious felony involving violence as defined in § 5-4-30 501(c)(2)
 - Participants must reside in the Arkansas Second Judicial District.

A Veterans Diversion Program participant will be required to appear in the specialty court on a regular basis. At each appearance, the Judge will be given a progress report prepared by the treatment team regarding drug tests, attendance and participation in treatment and compliance with the Probation Officer. The Judge may ask the participant questions about his/her progress, and discuss any specific problems the participant may have been experiencing. If doing well, the participant will be encouraged to continue with the Program and work with the treatment team toward graduation. If not doing well, the Judge will discuss these issues with the participant and the treatment team and determine further action. In the event of program violations; i.e. missed or positive urine screens, failure to attend individual or group counseling, failure to attend 12-step meetings, etc., sanctions may be imposed by the courts. Repeated violation of the program expectations, and failure to progress satisfactorily, may result in termination from the program.

Failure to appear in Court on the date and time scheduled may result in a warrant being issued for the participant's arrest. If a participant cannot appear in Court as scheduled, the Probation Officer and Veterans Diversion Program Coordinator must be notified as soon as possible.

The following violations may result in termination from the Veterans Diversion Program: warrants and/or new arrests; missing drug tests; demonstrating a lack of program response by failing to cooperate with treatment, and violence or threats of violence directed at the treatment team or others. The Veterans Diversion Program Judge will make the final decisions regarding termination from the program.

The overall goal of the Arkansas Second Judicial District Veterans Diversion Program is to provide the tools the participants in the program need to be successful by utilizing Substance abuse services, Mental health services, Academic

and/or vocational skills improvement services, Residential/housing assistance, Outpatient and/or transition support, Job placement and job retention services, and the Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts. By focusing on the root problems that contribute to involvement with the criminal justice system and providing specific rehabilitation programs, the Veterans Diversion Program provides an opportunity for the veteran to return to the community in a more advantageous and beneficial manner.

By taking part in the Veterans Diversion Program, participants gain access to a variety of comprehensive services that can help them turn their lives around. Some of the services offered through the Veterans Diversion Program are as follows:

- Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient, Rehab Day, Partial Day and Residential Treatment Programs

- Domestic Violence Counseling and Anger Management

- Individual counseling and case management

- Employment counseling, training and referrals

- Education and literacy assistance

- Health care referrals

- Medication management

- Assistance in finding housing, disability services

- Job placement assistance

- Provide life-skills training

- Veteran Mentor Support

- 12-Step Meetings and Support Groups

Participants are apprised of any fines, fees and/or restitution associated with their charge(s), when they plead into the Veterans Diversion Program. Upon entry into the program, The Court team will work with participants to ascertain the status and amounts of any outstanding fines and fees. The Court Team will also make Participants aware of any fees or costs associated with their participation in the Court Program. When possible, the Team will work with the Participant and the Court to establish payment arrangements and/or to explore options to satisfy such costs. Generally, participants are responsible to pay monthly Probation Fees. Being current on court costs, probation fees, treatment fees and having completed payment of all restitution are required in order to successfully complete and graduate from the program. The Court Team will work with Participants, during each phase of the program, to ensure that they are current and making regular

payments towards their fines, fees and restitution, as not to impede rehabilitation or graduation.

b. Established pursuant to the Drug Court Act, Arkansas Code Annotated Sections 16-98-301—307 and the Mental Health Specialty Court Act, Arkansas Code Annotated Sections 16-100-201—209.

c. I certify that the program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws, including fines, court costs, and probation assessments, to the very best of my knowledge and belief.

d. We have staffing sessions at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in Craighead County Circuit Courtroom. These are held with the team members present, which might consist of the mental health counselors, a prosecutor, a public defender, and a probation officer, and of court the Circuit Judge. We discuss the progress of the participants, whether the court needs to address any infractions of the rules, or to give reminders as to what the rules require of them. We also discuss other referrals. Court begins at 3:30 p.m. immediately following staffing. The program was initially funded by a grant from the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which as now expired. The program was recently awarded funding through the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance for the purposes of program enhancement. The court fully utilizes available resources. A deputy prosecutor and public defender attend all staffings and court sessions.

e. There is no charge for courtroom or services of prosecutors or defense attorneys.

8. Mississippi County Mental Health Court (Project Fresh Start), Judge Tonya Alexander presiding.

a. Developed in 2010, The Craighead and Crittenden County Mental Health Courts, originally known as Project Second Chance is driven by a recognition that the criminal justice system often fails to address the needs of mentally ill offenders. Consequently, mentally ill offenders continue to cycle through the system, often spending unnecessary time in jail and lacking access to appropriate mental health treatment and community support services.

The original Mental Health Courts were implemented through funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Grant

Program. Thereafter, Program Participants elected to rename the Program- Project Second Chance- stating that due to their participation in the court program, many of them had been given a fresh start- “A Second Chance.” Subsequently, in 2017, Mississippi County was awarded similar funding allowing for the development of an additional Project and Mental Health Court (Project Fresh Start) servicing residents of that County.

The Mental Health Court Program was established in an effort to increase public safety and decrease recidivism rates of the mentally ill. The goals of the Program are: (1) to maintain and enhance a collaborative plan to initiate systemic change for the identification and treatment of offenders with mental illness; (2) to intercept participants and provide access to an enhanced system of mental health and community support services; and (3) to improve stability and community connections for mental health court graduates.

The general target population for the Mental Health Court is adults age 18 and older with a mental illness. A larger number of these individuals have a co-occurring drug/alcohol disorder. The target population includes all income groups, genders, racial, and ethnic groups. In compliance with the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008, participation priority is given to females meeting the target population criteria.

The goals of the Mental Health Court Program address the overall program purpose and identified needs by creating and implementing a post-booking jail diversion program (mental health court) which incorporates evidence-based and promising practices (e.g. Assertive Community Treatment) and multi-agency collaboration (mental health, substance abuse treatment, law enforcement, criminal justice, consumer advocacy) to better meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of mentally ill adult offenders.

The overarching goal of the Mental Health Courts is to improve the quality of life for those individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness coming into the criminal justice system. By achieving this goal, we will also be able to increase public safety and decrease the number of arrests and incarcerations. Our plan is to work with law enforcement and other agencies to intercept individuals at the local level providing a collaborative, multidisciplinary team approach initiating a systemic change. Our outcomes will demonstrate attainment of said goals. The purpose of the Mental Health Court is to improve services to offenders who have a serious and persistent mental illness, including those offenders with co-

occurring substance abuse disorders, by assuring a continuum of care and easy access to mental health services.

The program works to increase cooperation between the mental health treatment system and the criminal justice system to achieve faster case processing time and improved access to public mental health treatment services, with the larger objectives of reducing the criminalization of persons with mental illness, reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and improving the level of functioning of program participants in society.

Mental Health Court is a voluntary pre-conviction, post-plea program for offenders who are mentally ill and have not been successful in their compliance with previous treatment. The program consists of intensive supervision of clients by a Probation Officer, Mental Health Professional and/or Case Manager, weekly appearances before the Mental Health Court Judge, mandatory mental health and substance abuse treatment, substance abuse testing, therapy, as well as other prosocial interventions that may be beneficial on a case-by-case basis. The program has 5 Phases and maintains separate tracks for misdemeanor and felony offenses. The minimum program length for misdemeanors is 9 months and the minimum length for felonies is 18 months. The phases of the program are based on minimum time frames that have been met and the core competencies needed before the participant will advance to the following phase. Once this progress and compliance has been demonstrated, the participant will graduate from the program. The real-time length of the program will be based on the individual's progress.

All Mental Health Court participants will be admitted to the program of his/her own volition.

- The defendant must have a mental illness, current charge(s), and/or for whom mental health treatment in a court-supervised program can be expected to foster recovery and reduce recidivism.
- The defendant must have been diagnosed by a mental health professional with a significant mental health disorder within one or more of the following categories of disorders:
 - Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders
 - Mood Disorders
 - Anxiety Disorders
 - Impulse Control Disorders
 - Other Disorders to be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Participants will not be excluded from admission solely because of prior treatment failures or a current lack of motivation for treatment.

- Those with sexual offenses will be excluded.
- Participants must reside in Craighead or Crittenden County.
- Those with Disorders, such as Borderline Intellectual Functioning or Borderline Personality Disorder will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

By taking part in the Mental Health Court programs, participants gain access to a variety of comprehensive services that can help them turn their lives around. Some of the services offered through the Mental Health Court programs are as follows:

- Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient, Rehab Day, Partial Day and Residential Treatment Programs
- Individual counseling and case management
- Employment counseling, training and referrals
- Education and literacy assistance
- Health care referrals
- Medication management
- Assistance in finding housing, disability services
- Provide life-skills training
- Peer Support
- 12-Step Meetings and Support Groups

All Mental Health Court participants will be required to appear in Mental Health Court on a regular basis. At each appearance, the Judge is given a progress report prepared by the treatment team regarding drug tests, attendance and participation in treatment and compliance with the Probation Officer. The Judge may ask the participant questions about his/her progress, and discuss any specific problems the participant may have been experiencing. If doing well, the participant is encouraged to continue with the Program and work with the treatment team toward graduation. If not doing well, the Judge discusses these issues with the participant and the treatment team and determines further action. In the event of program violations; i.e. missed or dirty urine screens, failure to attend individual or group counseling, failure to attend 12-step meetings, etc., sanctions are imposed by the Court. Repeated violation of the program expectations, and failure to progress satisfactorily, may result in termination from the program.

Failure to appear in Court on the date and time scheduled may result in a warrant being issued for the participant's arrest. If a participant cannot appear in Court as scheduled, the Probation Officer and Mental Health Court Coordinator must be notified as soon as possible.

The following violations may result in termination from the Mental Health Court Program: warrants and/or new arrests; missing drug tests; demonstrating a lack of program response by failing to cooperate with treatment, and violence or threats of violence directed at the treatment team or others. The Mental Health Court Judge will make the final decisions regarding termination from the program.

Participants are apprised of any fines, fees and/or restitution associated with their charge(s), when they plead into the Veterans Diversion Program. Upon entry into the program, The Court team will work with participants to ascertain the status and amounts of any outstanding fines and fees. The Court Team will also make Participants aware of any fees or costs associated with their participation in the Court Program. When possible, the Team will work with the Participant and the Court to establish payment arrangements and/or to explore options to satisfy such costs. Generally, participants are responsible to pay monthly Probation Fees. Being current on court costs, probation fees, treatment fees and having completed payment of all restitution are required in order to successfully complete and graduate from the program. The Court Team will work with Participants, during each phase of the program, to ensure that they are current and making regular payments towards their fines, fees and restitution, as not to impede rehabilitation or graduation.

b. Established pursuant to the Mental Health Specialty Court Act, Arkansas Code Annotated Sections 16-100-201—209.

c. I certify that the program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws, including fines, court costs, and probation assessments, to the very best of my knowledge and belief.

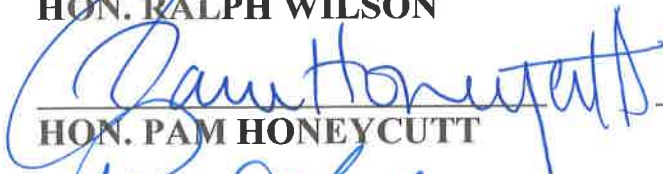
d. We have staffing sessions at 4:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the Courtroom located within the Mississippi County Detention Center in Luxora. These are held with the team members present, which might consist of the mental health counselors, a prosecutor, a public defender, and a probation officer, and of course the Circuit Judge. We discuss the progress of the participants, whether the court needs to address any infractions of the rules, or to give reminders as to what the rules require of them. We also discuss other referrals. Court begins at 4:30 p.m. immediately following staffing. The program was initially funded by a grant from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and is currently in the last year of this funding. The court fully utilizes available resources. A deputy prosecutor and public defender attend all staffings and court sessions.

e. There is no charge for the courtroom or services of the prosecutors or defense attorneys.

Dated this 31st day of December, 2019.



HON. RALPH WILSON



HON. PAM HONEYCUTT



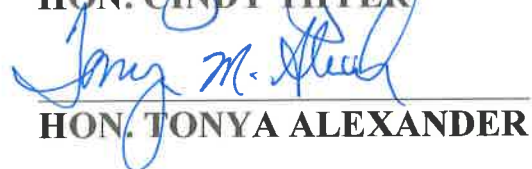
HON. RICHARD LUSBY



HON. BRENT DAVIS




HON. CINDY THYER



HON. TONYA ALEXANDER



HON. BARBARA HALSEY



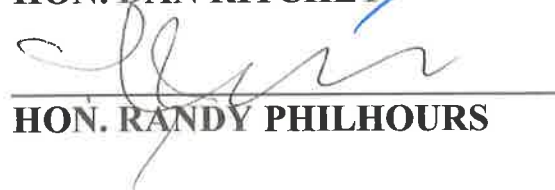
HON. JOHN FOGLEMAN



HON. MELISSA RICHARDSON



HON. DAN RITCHEY



HON. RANDY PHILHOURS