

**COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES QUARTERLY  
REPORT  
JUNE 2021 – AUGUST 2021**

**Name of Department - OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE, CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS (PSC)**

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**#1 - General information on the population served, including how patients were identified or applied for services, a breakdown of where patients of the program(s) reside in Cook County and the number of patients served over the last 24-month cycle**

The Circuit Court of Cook County continues to operate twenty Problem-Solving Courts (PSC) programs, also known as specialty or therapeutic courts. Problem-Solving Courts in Cook County include adult drug, mental health, and veteran’s treatment courts.

The network of PSC are located in each of the six Municipal Circuit Court Districts. All six Districts have a Drug, Mental Health and Veteran’s Treatment Court, allowing individuals access to these therapeutic justice programs countywide. The PSC program roster is included for reference.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS 2021**

<b>Criminal Courts Building</b>		<b>Staffing/Court Calls</b>	<b>Staffing*</b>
1	RAP/WRAP Program	Males: Mon-Wed, 1 <sup>st</sup> Thur./Females - Fri	9:00 am
2	Men’s Mental Health Court	Every Thursday	1:00 pm
3	Women’s Mental Health Court	Every Tuesday	1:00 pm
4	Veteran’s Court	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon. of the month	12:00 pm
5	ACT Court	Every Friday	9:00 am

<b>Skokie – 2<sup>nd</sup> Municipal District</b>		<b>Staffing/Court Calls</b>	<b>Staffing*</b>	
6	Adult Drug Treatment Court	Every Thursday	12:30 pm	
7	Mental Health Court	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri. of the month	9:00 am	
8	Veteran’s Court	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri. of the month	1:00 pm	
<b>Rolling Meadows- 3<sup>rd</sup> Municipal District</b>		<b>Staffing/Court Calls</b>	<b>Staffing *</b>	
9	Adult Drug Treatment Court	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue. of the month	12:30 pm	
10	Mental Health Court	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues. of the month	9:30 am	
11	Veteran’s Court	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues. of the month	10:30 am	
<b>Maywood – 4<sup>th</sup> Municipal District</b>		<b>Staffing/Court Calls</b>	<b>Staffing</b>	<b>Court Call</b>
12	Adult Drug Treatment Court	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur. of the month	10:15 am	1:30 pm
13	Mental Health Court	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month	9:30 am	1:30 pm
14	Veteran’s Court	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month	11:00 am	1:30 pm
<b>Bridgeview – 5<sup>th</sup> Municipal District</b>		<b>Staffing/Court Call</b>	<b>Staffing</b>	<b>Court Call</b>
15	Adult Drug Treatment Court	Females every Mon./Males every Wed.	Mon. 9:30am*	Wed. 9:00am*
16	Mental Health Court	Every Thurs.	9:00 am*	
17	Veteran’s Court	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month	1:00 pm*	
<b>Markham – 6<sup>th</sup> Municipal District</b>		<b>Staffing/Court Call</b>	<b>Staffing*</b>	
18	Adult Drug Treatment Court	Every Tue.	9:00 am	
19	Veteran’s Court	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues. of the month	9:00 am	
20	Mental Health Court	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month	9:30 am	

Over the last three months, referrals and program admissions remain consistent with post-pandemic numbers. The PSC operate in a hybrid fashion, utilizing both Zoom and in-person hearings, keeping the safety of the participants, teams, courthouse staff and the public, at the forefront of planning.

**#2 - Overall goals of behavioral health program(s) including goals unique to the specific population served**

The Court’s countywide network of Problem-solving Courts (PSC) includes Drug, Veteran’s Treatment and Mental Health Court programs. The PSC continue to operate with the goal of diverting defendants from prison, into treatment and recovery. Each of the three types of PSC, focus on the behavioral health needs of the participants, having targeted treatment providers with specific interventions.

The Circuit Court continues its partnerships with treatment and recovery support service agencies. Regular meetings are convened to monitor and ensure that service providers are delivering quality and effective services to all PSC participants.

It should be noted that there is an ongoing workforce shortage of case managers and treatment providers throughout both Cook County and globally. The Circuit Court continues to advocate for adequate staff to assist with the program participants.

**#3 - Information on the providers, managers, and/or operators of the behavioral health care program, activity or service and any overlap in funding, to the extent it is known.**

PSC teams are composed of multi-discipline stakeholders including judges, state's attorney(s), public defender(s) or private counsel, Adult Probation officer(s), case managers from Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), case managers from Amita Health, Veteran's Justice Outreach Coordinators, representatives of the Office of the Chief Judge, Cook County Sheriff's Department of Corrections, treatment providers and other service providers. Collaboration with stakeholders is the key to the success of the PSC programs.

#### **#4 - Key performance indicators measuring the results of the program**

The Circuit Court of Cook County utilizes both process and outcome data to guide Problem-Solving Court operations. The Research Analyst for problem-solving court activities works collaboratively with all problem-solving court staff providing individual- and program-level data to improve program performance.

The Illinois Supreme Court has developed Problem-Solving Court Data measures that are required to be reported to the AOIC, beginning July 2022.

#### **#5 - Quality measures or expectations for contracts involved in the program, where applicable**

To assure that scarce public resources are used in ways that assure the greatest positive return on the investment, PSC utilize evidence-based practices. All behavioral health treatment providers must be licensed by the Illinois Department of Health and follow state and federal confidentiality laws and practices.

Current Problem-Solving Court operations, as previously described, include contracting with community-based service providers, who engage participants and deliver services to meet their individualized needs. The OCJ is working with the service providers to secure data required by the Illinois Supreme Court, to review outcome measures.

#### **#6 - Information on how the care being provided in this program serves the best interests of the patient/recipient of care as well as the communities where the patient/recipient of care or services resides.**

PSC are required to provide the scope and type of treatment services based upon the needs of the participants. The multi-disciplinary team approach to supervision, treatment interventions, and ancillary services responsive to the needs of this challenging population make drug courts one of the most successful criminal justice interventions.<sup>1</sup>

#### **#7 - Information on how the continuum of care may be addressed through this program**

The full continuum of care for substance use disorders recommended by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) is offered. Treatment includes on-site detoxification, residential treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, medication assisted treatment, and recovery homes. All treatment and recovery support services are provided by agencies that are licensed by the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery.

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<sup>1</sup> [Drug-Court-Fact-Sheet-2020.pdf \(nadcp.org\)](https://www.nadcp.org/Drug-Court-Fact-Sheet-2020.pdf)

## **#8 - Information on the best practices in this type of programming**

General administration and supervisory authority over all courts is vested in the Illinois Supreme Court and is exercised by the Chief Justice in accordance with the Supreme Court's rules (Ill. Const. 1970, art. VI, § 16).

Statutes specific to PSC include the Drug Court Treatment Act (730 ILCS 166/1 *et seq.*), the Mental Health Court Treatment Act (730 ILCS 168/1 *et seq.*) and the Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act (730 ILCS 167/1 *et seq.*).

The Cook County Problem-Solving Courts operate in compliance with the Illinois Statutes and keeping with National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)'s Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards<sup>2</sup>, and the Illinois Supreme Court Problem-Solving Courts Standards<sup>3</sup>. The PSC Standards are based on evidence-based practices, now well established by a substantial body of research, as well as on promising accepted practices that are correlated with positive, cost-effective outcomes and enhanced public safety. PSC are required to obtain Certification to operate by the Illinois Supreme Court through the Administration of Illinois Courts. Certification is valid for three years and is contingent upon following evidence-based best practices and maintaining the professional development of PSC team members. The Circuit Court will offer continuing education and training to all team members in topics related to PSC effectiveness.

PSC team members attended the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Annual Conference in August of 2021. Additionally, twenty-five PSC Team members will attend the Illinois Association of Problem-Solving Courts Educational Conference in October of 2021. Ongoing training is imperative to maintaining evidence-based best practices in the PSC.

## **#9 - Information detailing meetings and coordination on patient identification, programs and goals with other Cook County agencies, City of Chicago or other partners or entities on this program, where applicable**

Problem-Solving Courts are staffed and supported by Cook County Judges, Cook County State's Attorney(s), Public Defender(s) or private counsel, Adult Probation Officer(s), case managers from Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) and Amita Health, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators, representatives of the Office of the Chief Judge, Cook County Sheriff's Department of Corrections, treatment providers and other service providers throughout Cook County. A Memorandum of Understanding is entered among the PSC team members' offices or organizations that defines and documents the roles and responsibilities of each member. Full and effective communication between PSC team members is crucial to the success of the program. Each discipline involved has its own ethical obligations and professional philosophies. Each team member must respect the boundaries and responsibilities of other team members.

## **#10 - An evaluation of the program and an overview of any overlap in outreach, communities served, and programs with other Cook County and City of Chicago Agencies, and an evaluation of the impact of the program and an overview of its effectiveness,**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ndci.org/resources/publications/standards>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/problem-solving-courts>

**particularly as it pertains to vulnerable populations, racial and ethnic minorities; and populations facing disparities in behavioral health outcomes, behavioral health care, and behavioral healthcare access.**

Research, such as the National Institute of Justice’s Multisite Adult Drug Court Evaluation, found that PSC programs significantly reduce drug use and criminal offending — both during and after program participation. Compared to traditional case processing and supervision, drug courts have higher investment costs, especially in treatment services. However, savings associated with victim and criminal justice system costs are greater due to fewer crimes, rearrests, and incarcerations. Drug courts that target offenders with high criminogenic risk and high substance abuse treatment needs yield the most effective interventions and maximize return on investment.<sup>4</sup>

Problem-solving courts operate without bias or prejudice, including but not limited to, bias or prejudice based upon gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, limited English proficiency, disability, socio-economic status or sexual orientation. Each PSC has policies and procedures to prevent discrimination that would keep any individual from being unfairly excluded from the PSC. If the individual meets the written and clinical criteria for the program, the individual will not be unfairly excluded from admission.

Problem-solving Courts must obtain Certification and Re-Certification by the Illinois Supreme Court to maintain operation. Certification is established through a review process administered by the Administration of the Illinois Courts.

**#11 - Information with the costs associated with the program(s) and funding source(s)**

The PSC programs are funded by a variety of sources including County Funds, Drug Court Revenue Fund, Mental Health Court Revenue Fund, Probation service fees, State and Federal grants, and in-kind contributions from individual agency partner including the Office of the Chief Judge, Adult Probation Department, State’s Attorney’s Office, and the Public Defender’s Office.

**#12 - Any additional information which may facilitate the Committee’s understanding of the program, initiative, or activity.**

Problem-Solving Court information can be found at the link to the Circuit Court’s website below:

[Problem Solving Court \(cookcountycourt.org\)](http://cookcountycourt.org)

**#13 - Any additional information which may foster a more accurate assessment of behavioral health care needs and opportunities for collaboration or growth within the Cook County Government entity’s behavioral health care programs.**

Problem-solving court participants often have a range of service needs extending well beyond substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment. Participants benefit from linkages to

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<sup>4</sup> <http://ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/237108.pdf>

trauma-informed services, criminal thinking interventions, family counseling, vocational or educational counseling, housing assistance and both primary and oral health care.

**#14 - Any additional information if patients receive follow up care at a Cook County hospital including medication management as a part of aftercare.**

PSC clients may be referred to Cook County Hospital or community health clinics for healthcare, substance use disorder treatment or prescription medication for mental illness, as appropriate. Cook County community clinics offer buprenorphine and methadone for opiate users and naltrexone for opiate and alcohol users, via their primary care clinics.