

Priority: Safety Net Services

Lead Agency: County Human

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Program Contact: Nancy Winters

Related Programs: 25048, 25055, 25056

Frameworks:

Executive Summary

When a judge is making the decision whether an individual should be required to go to a psychiatric hospital or accept other mental health treatment, a court examiner will assess allegedly mentally ill persons during a hearing. During the hearing they provide a written report and recommendations to the judge.

Program Description

Mental health professionals examine alleged mentally ill persons during civil commitment hearings and make recommendations to the Court. The statutory requirement to have at least one court examiner present at a commitment hearing is in place to protect the civil rights of persons with mental illness. The allegedly mentally ill person has the right to request two examiners be present at the hearing. During the hearing, County staff make determinations of whether or not a person who has been civilly committed is indeed mentally ill and then make appropriate recommendations. The Court Examiner makes a report to the Court as to whether the individual is mentally ill and outlines the basis for that determination. The report contains information such as an opinion about whether the individual would cooperate and benefit from voluntary treatment, as well as making a recommendation of an appropriate treatment facility.

Program Justification

The Court Examiner program links directly to the Basic Living Needs priority by ensuring that individuals who require treatment to stabilize the symptoms of their mental illness are provided access to that treatment, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. Someone who has become so ill that they refuse to get treatment is often helped by the decision to provide involuntary treatment. This treatment referral to comprehensive community supports and services can prevent someone who has been involuntarily committed from becoming so ill that they experience another crisis and can link them to appropriate information and assistance.

Performance Measures

Total Court Hearings Per Year.

Percent of Total Emergency Holds Requiring Court Commitment Hearing. This percentage measures quality of care. Lower percentages of emergency holds requiring court commitment hearings reflects quality of care and responsiveness of inpatient providers, outpatient providers, and County Involuntary Commitment Investigators.

Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results

Total Court Hearings FY04 was 350.

Percent of Total Emergency Holds Requiring Court Commitment Hearings FY04 was 8.6%. Statewide average percentage in 2002 was 13%. Multnomah County percentage in 2002 was 11%. Performance is good and results are expected to remain consistent this year.

Program Mandate: 1 Mandated Program & Funding Level

ORS Chapter 426 County retains financial responsibility regardless of CMHP designation.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2005	2005	2006	2006
Program Expenses				
Contracts	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$648	\$1,833
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$1,853	\$2,127
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$2,501	\$3,960
Total GF/non-GF:	\$80,000	\$0	\$82,501	\$3,960
Program Total:	\$80,000		\$86,461	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,960
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,960

Explanation of Revenues

Funded entirely by County General Fund.

Significant Program Changes

None Anticipated.