



JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF COLORADO
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER _____ **18-101**
SUBJECT: _____ **Mental Health Diversion Pilot Program**

To: All Judicial Officers, Court Executive, Clerk of Court, Court Staff, District Attorney, Public Defender, Boulder County Bar Association, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Staff, Boulder County Sheriff, Community Justice Services, Jail Commander, Boulder County Law Enforcement

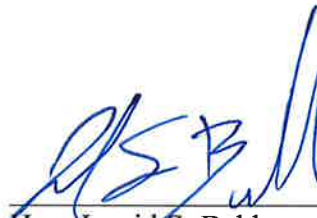
From: Ingrid S. Bakke
Chief Judge

DATE: _____ **December 10, 2018**

The 20th Judicial District Mental Health Diversion pilot will divert a population of individuals with mental health conditions, charged with diversion-eligible low-level criminal offenses, from the criminal justice system into community mental health treatment. In furtherance of program objectives to reduce incarceration and court involvement of defendants with mental health conditions, to promote cost-savings, to promote positive life outcomes and to improve judicial and healthcare efficiencies, the following policies will guide administration of the pilot program, pursuant to C.R.S. §18-1.3-101.5(4):

1. Stakeholder commitment, collaboration and buy-in are critical to the success and potential expansion of the Mental Health Diversion program.
2. The court is committed to working with criminal justice system stakeholders, including law enforcement, public defenders, district attorneys, local mental health providers and others, to implement a robust mental health diversion program.
3. Individuals who meet the specific eligibility criteria established by the court, District Attorney and other stakeholders, who could otherwise be prosecuted for mental health diversion-eligible charges, will be offered the mental health diversion program based on criteria including mental health needs, participant willingness and criminogenic risk.
4. Expedited in-custody mental health screening and assessment, for those with positive mental health screens, and access to immediate treatment post-release, is critical to participant success. Minimizing the time from arrest to treatment is expected to avoid in-custody exacerbation of mental health problems and avoid increase in criminogenic risk.
5. Also critical to success is a warm hand-off to treatment before a participant's release from custody.

6. In designing and implementing this program, the court is committed to supporting streamlined procedures and processes that are sensitive to the workload and existing operations of criminal justice stakeholders, including the jail.
7. Information obtained during the course of the diversion program will not be used to promote the prosecution of charges regarding which diversion was considered or offered.
8. Recognizing the short-term duration of mental health diversion and the need for longer term access to mental health treatment, the court supports efforts to identify treatment resources for those lacking financial resources or private insurance. The court recognizes the likely link between continuity of treatment and post-diversion success.
9. Recognizing that resolving longstanding mental health conditions that may contribute to criminal behavior require long term planning and support, the court encourages efforts to identify resources that not only address mental health conditions of program participants, but provide resources or referrals for other factors affecting stability, such as housing, employment, shelter and sobriety.
10. Recognizing the importance of continuous quality improvement and the importance of demonstrating program success as a pilot, the court is committed to contributing to and supporting data collection and reporting efforts and encourages program stakeholders to do the same.



Hon. Ingrid S. Bakke
Chief Judge
Twentieth Judicial District