



The Lee County Mental Health Court is a specialty court program with the goal to provide appropriate treatment and rehabilitation options to adults with a history of mental health problems who are involved in the criminal justice system. The program provides referral, linkage, and case coordination between the judicial system and local mental health and social service agencies. Court supervision plans incorporate the least restrictive and clinically appropriate services based on individual choice and needs, including but not limited to: linking with psychiatric care, mental health counseling, family counseling, and trauma and/or grief counseling; substance abuse evaluation and aftercare; assistance finding safe, adequate, and affordable housing; benefits assistance; linking with job training, supportive employment, and adult education; cultivating a positive support network; and legal counseling.

I. Legal Eligibility Criteria:

1. Must be 18 years of age or older.
2. Must be willing to participate voluntarily and to comply with any recommended interventions.
3. Must be considered **legally competent**.
4. Must have an open misdemeanor or felony case in the 20th Judicial Circuit.
5. Must follow guidelines set forth in **Florida Statutes § 948.01, § 948.08, and § 394.47892.**
6. Must not be charged with a “forcible felony” as defined in **§ 776.08**.
7. There must be a **clear nexus** between the mental illness and the criminal offense.
8. There must pose no danger to supervising staff or the community.

II. Clinical Eligibility Criteria:

1. Must have a **primary diagnosis of an eligible Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI)**, such as:
 - a) Psychotic disorders, including Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective disorders
 - b) Bipolar disorders
 - c) Major depressive disorders

AND

2. There must be medical records to substantiate an eligible diagnosis **within the last 6 months**

<u>Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI)</u> is defined by Florida DCF in the <i>DCF Pamphlet 155-2, Chapter 5 (PERF)</i>
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III. Clinical Exclusions (these will not qualify for Lee MHC):

1. The person has a **primary diagnosis of anything other than the eligible SPMI** diagnoses within the established parameters of Lee MHC. *Such diagnoses may be secondary to or co-occurring with the eligible SPMI, however they will not qualify if they are primary or create significant functional disability.*

The target population as described above was defined as a collaborative effort between the Court and the treatment team to be able to provide adequate services with available resources, adhere to the provisions set forth in Florida Statutes § 948.01, § 948.08, § 394.47892, and § 776.08, and to follow the best practices set forth by BJA’s 10 Key Components of Mental Health Courts.