

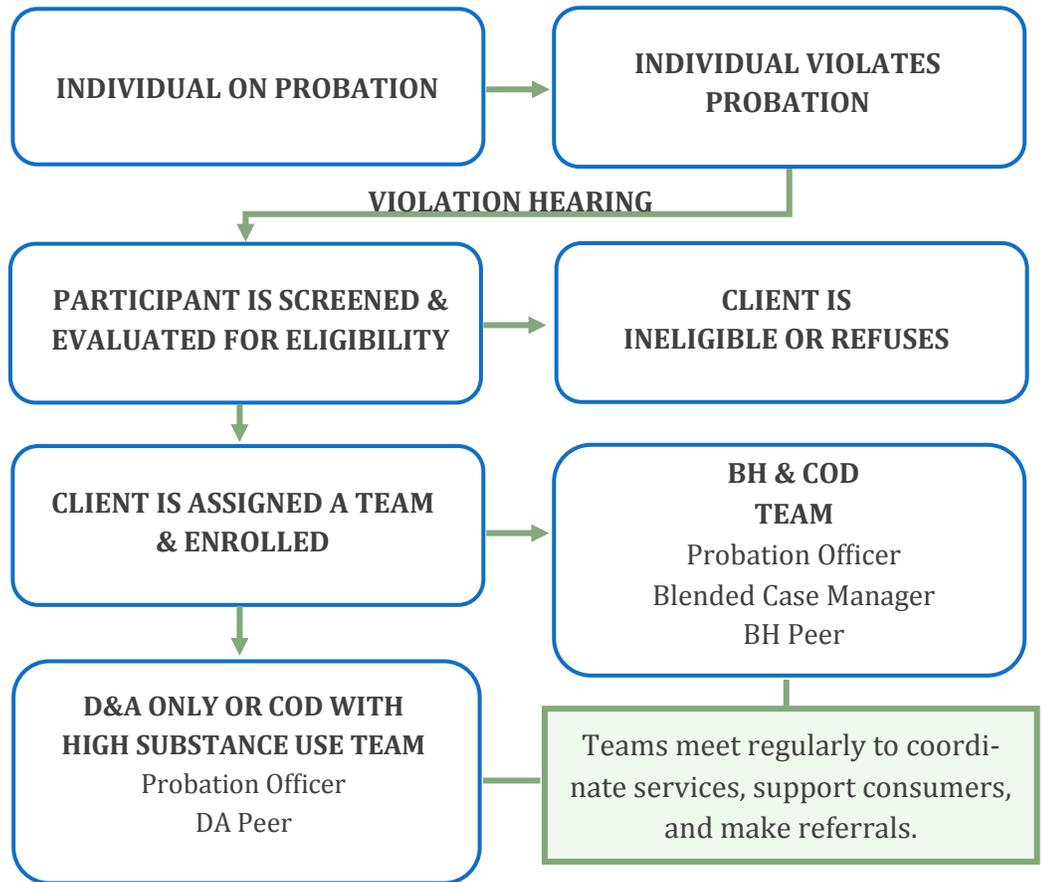


# BC-COURTS

## fact sheet

BC-COURTS assists eligible individuals who have violated the terms of their probation. The program's goal is to serve and potentially divert individuals involved in both the criminal justice and behavioral health systems by identifying, engaging, and supporting them with a multi-system specialized probation team. This team works with participants in the community, and connects participants to needed services and treatment based on their identified needs.

The flow chart below shows the path that an individual takes when involved in the BC-COURTS program.



*The Beaver County Courts (BC-COURTS) program<sup>1</sup> aims to provide local courts more flexibility to collaborate with the justice and human service systems.*

*The hope is to facilitate jail diversion and early release by connecting qualifying participant's with behavioral health and substance abuse services early in their involvement with the justice system.*

*The program began enrolling participants in April 2015. This factsheet introduces the BC-COURTS program model, presents preliminary results and provides perspectives from team members.*

Services provided by the BC-COURTS specialized probation teams include, but are not limited to, linkage and support in the following areas:

- ⇒ Housing assistance
- ⇒ Vocational assistance
- ⇒ Mental health outpatient services
- ⇒ Drug/alcohol treatment and supports
- ⇒ Drug/alcohol sponsors
- ⇒ Probation assistance (i.e. collaboration and assistance with communicating with probation officer, and assistance with completing probation recommendations/requirements)

<sup>1</sup>The program is funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration.

## Snapshot of People Served as of September 30, 2015.

Table 1

	N	White	Black	Male	Female
Screened for COURTS	54	46	7	35	19
Qualified for COURTS	34	30	4	23	11

Figure 1. Age Range of Individuals (N=54)

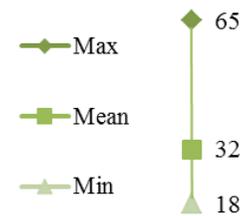


Figure 2. Diagnoses of Qualifying Individuals (N=34)

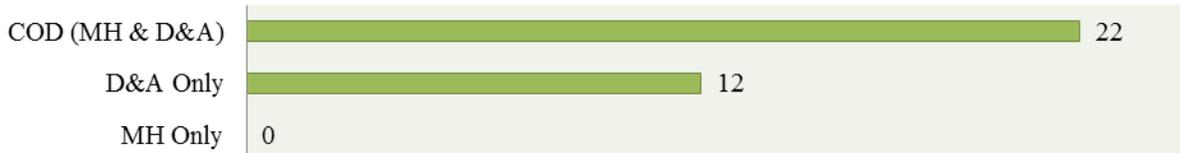


Table 2

	N	Mental Health Team	Drug & Alcohol Team
Qualified	34	19	15
Enrolled	10	6	4

There are a variety of situations that account for the fact that the remaining 24 participants were not enrolled:

- ⇒ 13 are still incarcerated with tentative or unknown release dates (treatment provider will monitor these individuals and re-engage upon release if possible)
- ⇒ 6 refused to participate
- ⇒ 4 did not respond
- ⇒ 1 was released and then re-incarcerated

## Reflections from Provider Team Members

Five specialized team members were surveyed in order to get a preliminary picture of how the model is working.

When asked about the strengths of the model, here are two team member's responses:

"The concept of the program is great and reaches a population of people who are desperately in need by providing an outlet to distribute resources and helpful information available throughout the county to better address the individual needs."

"We are like a big brother or big sister to the client. Actually taking them where they need to go, give them the confidence and assurance that whatever there [sic] goals are, it will get done. Having build [sic] up a strong support system we at BC Courts will always be there for them."

The collaborative approach was mentioned as a crucial component of the probation teams. Meeting regularly is an important part of this collaboration. All respondents reported that they meet with at least 1 other member of the probation team **more than once a week**.

The team members agree or strongly agree with the following statements:

- ⇒ The collaboration meetings overall have been very helpful.
- ⇒ The meetings help them get on the same page with the others members.
- ⇒ The meetings make a big difference in their ability to support the client.

### Success Story

One client has been a part of a probation team since May. When she enrolled she was homeless, banned from all housing authority properties, jobless, and struggling with her addiction. The team prepared a letter to the housing authority on her behalf, she was granted a hearing, and a team member attended the hearing with her. Due to this intervention, she will soon be able to move into a housing authority apartment.