PROJECT NAME: Jackson County Mental Health Court (MHC) Diversion Program

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TIMELINE: January 2001-2011

CONTENT AREA: Criminal Justice, Mental Health, Substance Abuse

FUNDER: Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund

CLIENT: Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund

AUDIENCE: Community Corrections, Mental Health Funders

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods.

OVERVIEW: Mental Health Court (MHC) is a community-based, voluntary problem-solving group of courts that unite the legal system with social service agencies in order to divert individuals with severe persistent mental illness who commit non-violent offenses away from the criminal justice system. MHC incorporates both legal and therapeutic goals in response to violations of the law, integrating treatment into the requirements of the legal system. By using a diversion model, individuals with severe persistent mental illness diverted to MHC can have their cases dismissed without any criminal record after successfully completing program requirements dictated by the court(s).

RDI coordinates the data collection from the stakeholders and the municipal court. RDI codes data, does data entry, and conducts data analysis. RDI produces monthly fact sheets quarterly and annual reports for the funder. RDI collects process observation information through observing MHC proceedings, interviewing stakeholders, attending quarterly Mental Health Court Commission Meetings and participating in policy and procedures meetings.

Link:

Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund Resource Development Institute (2010, September). Prevalence of Mental Illness in the Kansas City Regional Correctional Center. Kansas City, MO: Author.