

Co-Occurring Disorders Court

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

Eighth Judicial District Court
Specialty Courts Division
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Mission Statement

The 8th Judicial Co-Occurring Disorders Court helps build safer communities by using a team approach to give justice-involved individuals who are diagnosed with a mental illness and substance abuse disorder the tools to stop criminal behavior and increase their overall wellness and stability. Co-Occurring Disorders Court participants are responsible for using their individual treatment plans to work on their wellness and stability. These treatment plans focus on reducing risk factors, improving pro-social thinking, and participating in therapy for mental health and substance abuse. These goals are monitored through regular court hearings and meetings with treatment team members, which include court personnel, Parole and Probation, case managers, and therapeutic providers.

Eligibility Criteria

The defendant/participant must agree to participate in the program, and must have a mental illness AND substance abuse disorder for which mental health and substance abuse treatment in a court supervised program can be expected to foster recovery and reduce recidivism.

The defendant/participant must have been diagnosed by a mental health professional with one or more of the following disorders:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Schizophrenia | Major Depressive Disorders, Recurrent |
| Delusional Disorder | Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder |
| Bipolar I Disorder | Posttraumatic Stress Disorder |
| Bipolar II Disorder | Anxiety Disorders |
| Psychotic Disorder NOS | Borderline Personality Disorder |

Services

- Case Management
- Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Criminogenic Treatment
 - Individual Therapy
 - Group Therapy
 - Outpatient Program (OP)
 - Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)
 - Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP)
 - Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
 - Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)
- Up to 120 days of Housing Services/Sober Living (as needed)
- Drug and Alcohol Monitoring/UAs
- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Employment Support
- Continuing Education Support

Team Members

Judge/Commissioner – Presides over CODC and makes the final decision on admissions, sanction, incentives and terminations.

Attorneys – Both the District Attorney and Defense Counsel are present to promote public safety while protecting the participants' due process rights.

Court Specialist – Oversees the clinical care of participants, performs diagnostic evaluations, prepares the court calendar and makes recommendations on admissions, sanctions, incentives and terminations.

Parole & Probation officers – Supervises participants in the community at their home, work, or treatment locations. The P.O. may also do random drug tests. All requests for changes in housing, travel outside of the county and employment need to start with P&P.

Treatment Providers – The treatment agencies provide input and clinical information about treatment needs and recommendations for level of care.

Defendant/Participant – Engage with all providers respectfully, and share honestly how you are doing in all areas.

Confidentiality

You will be asked to sign a release of information between CODC and your treatment providers. As the CODC program is a treatment court, releases of information are required for participation in the program so that program personnel can make informed decisions to meet clients' needs. Clinical information will be shared amongst the CODC team, though no clinical information will be saved as part of participants' court records.

Length of CODC Program/Fees

The Co-Occurring Disorders Court program takes a minimum of 18 months to complete. Participants are required to be in treatment the entirety of the program. Therefore, anytime away from treatment would not be counted towards the 18months.

The cost of participation in CODC is \$1500. This must be paid in order to graduate and complete the program. This is approximately \$85 monthly over the course of the program. Payment of fees is a requirement in order to graduate. If you are ordered to pay restitution, you will need to pay your restitution (up to \$1,500) first.

Court Appearances

Court happens every other Thursday at 9:00am in courtroom Lower Level, courtroom A at 200 Lewis Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.

Participants will return to court starting on a bi-weekly basis. If a participant attends all of their appointments, takes their medication as directed, and follows all of the rules of the program, the court may allow them to come to court less frequently.

Participants are expected to dress neatly for court appearances. Participants should NOT wear the following to court: halter tops, tank tops, baggy pants, flip flops, clothing with gang or drug references or pajamas.

Honesty and Conduct

The Co-Occurring Disorders Court treatment team is available to all participants and their needs. Each participant has a responsibility to be honest and up front with the team about his or her individual issues and needs.

Participants who are able to share when they are doing well and when they are struggling have shown positive outcomes versus those who do not. It is suggested that you contact your court specialist of any issues that you are facing, including but not limited to relapse. Lying, evading or omitting information could result in sanctions up to and including termination.

Probation

Participants on probation are required to abide by any directives given by their Probation Officer. This includes checking in with the Probation Officer as often as they require. If the participant has any law enforcement contact, they must tell their Probation Officer within 24 hours about the contact. The participant must be granted permission from their probation officer BEFORE doing any of the following activities:

1. Traveling outside of Clark County.
2. Getting a job or changing jobs.
3. Moving from approved location
4. Get associates approved before engaging in regular communication with the individual.

Home visits will serve as a way for Probation Officers to become better acquainted with you and assess your living conditions. Home visits can be conducted randomly at any time of day or night. They will be conducted in a professional and discreet manner. Your person/home/vehicle/cell phone/computer may be subject to search without a warrant for drugs and alcohol, drug paraphernalia, and evidence of criminal activity. People living at your residence should be advised that the entire home is subject to inspection. If you are not at home when a home visit is attempted, your Probation Officer will leave a business card. You must call back as soon as you return home, no matter what time you return.

Employment

A goal of Co-Occurring Disorders Court team is that all participants obtain independent income over the course of the program. Requirements for job searches will vary depending on the phase. If participants intend to apply for Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Income, they must make contact with Clark County Social Services (CCSS) to be connected with a case manager.

Drug Testing Protocol

Drug testing is an integral part of treatment and CODC. Drug testing is the only way a participant can provide data regarding substance use. Since it is a critical part of the program, it is imperative that participants understand the drug testing requirements and protocols. Failure to comply with court reports in this area may jeopardize participants' status in the program.

As participants, ensure that you know the rules and regulations at the drug testing facility. It is your responsibility to be knowledgeable on the protocol and testing facility hours. Participant must be aware of any changes in hours for holidays.

The goal of CODC is to help you achieve abstinence from alcohol, marijuana, and illicit drugs. A positive urine test will not automatically terminate you from the program. Dishonesty concerning use could result in a sanction. Participants will be required to submit regular or random UAs based on the following guidelines:

- **Submission of Urine Samples:** Participants will be required to submit random, observed urine samples (UA) following a specific submission protocol for the purpose of drug testing. Not providing a urine sample when requested is considered a positive result. Not submitting enough urine or an Unable to provide is considered a positive result.
- **False Urine Samples:** Participants should not submit a false urine sample and should not spend money on buying products to clean urine of drugs and alcohol. *Attempts to falsify urine samples will result in being set for an OSC/termination hearing.*
- **Diluted Testing:** If a urine, sample cannot be tested due to the creatinine levels are too low is considered a positive result.
- **Compliance:** Refusal to comply with a drug test may result in termination from the program. Participants must always leave a urine sample when asked. Participants may be asked to submit a UA by their treatment provider, by their P.O. or in court.
- **Drug Testing Receipts:** It is recommended that participants keep their UA receipts after each UA submission and bring those with them to court.

Participants are not permitted to use any illegal substances, alcohol, marijuana or mood-altering substances. This includes LSD, Kratom, Spice, bath salts, any natural or designer drugs, and substances containing ma huang, ephedrine, weight lifting/workout supplements, energy drinks, or foods containing poppy seeds.

Follow the general rules below to avoid any complications with your drug testing requirements:

Prescription Medications

All medications must be prescribed by a doctor and shown to the Court Specialist. The Co-Occurring Disorders Court does not allow participants to use any controlled substances, even if it is prescribed by a doctor. This includes any and all opiate pain medication, stimulant medications and benzodiazepine medications.

It is the participant's responsibility to tell their doctor that they are in Co-Occurring Disorders Court and to ask for a different medication if the doctor tries to prescribe any of the medications listed below:

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Propoxyphenes | Promethazine DM | Oxycodone |
| Benzodiazepines | Nucynta | Oxycontin |
| Barbiturates | Sumatriptan | Fioricet |
| Carisoprodal (SOMA) | Naltrexone | Ambien |
| Methadone | Hydroxycut | Hydrocodone |
| Ultram | Dextromethorphan | Midrin |
| Tramadol | Products containing Phenazopyridine Hydrochloride (Pyridium) | |

Participants are responsible for notifying their court specialist of any medications they are prescribed. Participants should not get prescriptions filled until they have received approval from court specialist.

Over-the-Counter Medications

There are certain medications that you can buy over-the-counter (OTC) that will interfere with your drug testing. You must consult with the Court Specialist BEFORE you take any medication. If you purchase an OTC medication and DO NOT consult with the Court Specialist prior to taking it, and then test positive on a drug test as a result, it will be treated as a positive result and sanctions and/or treatment responses could be imposed.

Medication List

This list is not an exhaustive of all allowed medications. All Antibiotics are approved.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Abilify | Flexeril | Propranolol |
| Atarax | Fluoxetine | Provigil |
| Baclofen | Gabapentin | Prozac |
| Bentyl | Geodon | Remeron |
| Benzonatate | Hydroxozine | Requip |
| Buspar | Imitrex | Risperdal |
| Buspirone | Indocin | Robaxin |
| Celexa | Lexapro | Seroquel |
| Citalopram | Lidocaine | Serzone |
| Clonidine | Lisonopril | Skelaxin |
| Cogentin | Losartan | Tegretol |
| Colchieine | Luvox | Tessalon Perles |
| Compro | Meclizine | Topamax |
| Cyclobenzaprine | Mirtazapine | Toradol |
| Cymbalta | Mobic | Trazadone |
| Depakote | Navane | Trilepta |
| Dicyclomine | Neurontin | Vistaril |
| Dilontin | Norflex | Voltaren |
| Doxepin | Parafon-Forte | Wellbutrin |
| Effexor | Paxil | Zanaflex |
| Elavil | Prazosin | Zofran |
| Etocolac | Prolixin | Zypreza |

Attendance

Participants are expected to attend all scheduled appointments, attend all scheduled or random drug tests, attend all court hearings, and attend any other meeting as assigned. It is your responsibility to manage your schedule and attend all appointments.

- Being late to appointments is considered a missed appointment. To avoid this, you should plan to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of your sessions/meetings/etc.
- If you are sick, you must go to the doctor to get a medical excusal within 24 hours of missed appointment.
 - If you will be missing an appointment, you must contact your individual therapist and court specialist at least one hour prior to your scheduled appointment time.
 - Failure to contact your therapist and court specialist prior to the missed appointment could result in your absence being unexcused.

Phases:

- Phase 1: Stabilization (Get safe, stable and connected): Minimum of 60 days
- Phase 2: Engagement (Stay consistent and build Structure): Minimum of 90 days
- Phase 3: Growth (Strengthen recovery and mental health): Minimum of 120 days
- Phase 4: Maintenance (Maintain progress and independence): Minimum of 180 days
- Phase 5: Transition (Live independently with recovery supports): Minimum of 120 days

You and your court specialist will meet regarding your phase up and you will receive a certificate in court when you complete each phase.

Participant Responsibilities

Participant Responsibilities include:

- Participants will attend an Orientation for CODC
- Participants will report as directed. Participants will keep all appointments for:
 - Court
 - Treatment
 - Case Management
 - Drug Testing
 - Probation
 - Classes
 - Support Groups
 - All other appointments ordered by the Court
 - Being late to appointments could result in being locked out and not being permitted to enter the group- it is your responsibility to attend appointments on-time; CODC encourages you to arrive to appointments at least 10 minutes early.
- Participants will take medication(s) and/or injections as prescribed.

- Participants will not leave Clark County without a written travel pass from Probation Officer.
- Participants will allow and cooperate with home visits from Probation Officer, Mental Health Provider and any other designated CODC team member or designated representative.
- Participants will obey all city, state, and federal laws.
- Participant must tell Probation Officer within 24 hours if they have any law enforcement contact, regardless of the outcome.
- Participants will not consume intoxicating beverages nor enter any establishment where alcohol is the primary item for sale.
- Participants will obtain advance permission from Probation and Parole Officer before they associate with any person convicted of a felony, or with anyone currently under the supervision of Probation and Parole.
- Participants will obtain permission from their Probation Officer before making any changes in address, phone number or employment.
- Participants will not own, possess, purchase, receive, sell or transport any firearms, ammunition, or explosive device, or any dangerous weapons.
- Participants will abide by any directives given by their Probation Officer.
- Participants will pay all fees ordered by the Court.
- Participants will follow any rehabilitation, educational, vocational, medical, psychiatric, or substance abuse treatment program assigned by the Court.
- Participants will be expected to begin pursuing means of financial independence from the beginning of the program.
- Participants will sign all authorizations for release of information needed by the CODC, treatment provider(s) and other resource providers.
- It is the sole responsibility of the participant to submit medical documentation for any missed appointment/treatment requirement/drug test to the court specialist within 24 hours of the missed requirement.
- Participants will attend meetings with Court Specialist and case managers as assigned.

Participants understand that immediate action may be taken before their next scheduled court appearance if they:

- Do not keep an appointment ordered by the Court (unexcused absence)
- Do not comply with instructions from treatment provider(s) or CODC team members
- Test positive for alcohol, marijuana or any illegal or non-prescribed drug
- Violate court orders or break the law

Program Responses

Incentives:

- The CODC program recognizes the effort that it takes in attempting to change behaviors, choices, and ultimately lifestyles. Incentives encourage compliance and success in case outcomes. Examples of behaviors/accomplishments that lead to incentives are included below.

Sanctions:

- If you fail to comply with the CODC program, the CODC Judge or Commissioner may order one or more of the following sanctions. Sanctions are graduated and individualized. Sanctions are imposed in an effort to modify your behavior.
- Sanctions are imposed on an individual basis. Other participants in similar circumstances may receive different sanctions to what appear to you to be the same infraction. You are viewed as an individual and thus, your individual progress, attendance, and history is taken into account at each occurrence.

| Possible Incentives | Possible Sanctions |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applause/acknowledgement from peers • Curfew extension • Decreased court appearances • Early dismissal from court • Gift Card • Praise from judge • Reduction of community service hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warnings • Community Service • GPS monitoring/ impose curfew • Change in residence • Remand /Jail • Increase frequency of court appearances |

Treatment Responses:

- If you are honest about any use or fail to follow rules and/or expectations which you may not be fully capable of following you will be responded to with therapeutic adjustments referred to as “treatment responses”. If you are not responding to treatment interventions, but are otherwise compliant with treatment and supervision requirements, punitive sanctions will not be imposed. Treatment responses that increase your level of treatment are not sanctions. Treatment responses allow you to review the behavior and learn a new skill or coping mechanism to react differently in the future.

Termination from Co-Occurring Disorders Court:

In ordering a participant’s termination from the program, the Court will consider factors such as the nature of the violation, duration in the program, previous violations, criminal history, participants’ desire to achieve stability and sobriety as evidenced from their actions, and others. The following actions may result in immediate termination:

- Distribution of drugs / Drug Sales
- Leaving approved housing
- Aggressive/intimidating behavior toward staff or program participants
- Gang related behavior
- Weapons possession
- Taking substances with the intent to avoid detection in UA
- Submission of any forged document

The Court has the discretion to terminate a participant who is arrested and formally charged with a new criminal action and or violates the CODC program rules during the program participation. A program participant who does not successfully complete CODC and is terminated will return to his or her original sentencing court.

My Co Occurring Court Treatment Team Contact Numbers

- Court Specialist: _____
- Probation Officer: _____
- Therapist Office: _____

Next Court Date, Time & Location: _____

CODC Handbook Acknowledgment, Receipt and Disclosure of Responsibility.

I understand that I am responsible for knowing the rules and regulation to participate in the District Court Co-occurring Disorders Drug Court program. I certify that a participant handbook was provided to me, advising me of the policies and procedures that I must adhere to during the program. Failure to adhere to these rules and regulations may result in a sanction from the court.

I understand that by signing this agreement, I am committed to reading and knowing the policies and procedures of the CODC program and that my treatment court team has a copy of this information. I agree to comply with the policies and procedures of the CODC program and that I have read and understand my responsibilities detailed in this handbook.

Signature of participant date

Printed name of participant

Signature of court specialist date

Name of Interpreter if needed