Columbia County Behavioral Health Court/Veteran Treatment Court
Memorandum of Understanding
Between:

Columbia County Circuit Court, Columbia County by and through its Department of Community Justice and District Attorney's Office, Columbia Community Mental Health, Justice Alliance of Columbia County, Vetean Administration Portland Healthcare System, Columbia County Veteran Services Office, and the Columbia County Sheriff's Office

Purpose:
This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) affirms the mutual support that each key stakeholder agency or organization will provide for the Columbia County Behavioral Health Court/Veteran Treatment Court Program.

The mission, goals, and objectives of the Columbia County Behavioral Health Court/Veteran Treamtent Court Program are as follows:

Mission

The mission of the Columbia County Behavioral Health Court is to provide a structured supervision and treatment program for individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system due to untreated or unmanaged mental health symptoms and possible co-occurring substance use issues. The goal is to help individuals obtain stability, so they can become healthier and be removed from the cycle of active symptomology, crime and justice system involvement.

The mission of the Columbia County Veteran Treatment Court Program is to enhance public safety by providing a judicially supervised regime of appropriate treatment services and support to criminal justice involved veterans with the goal of returning law abiding citizens to the community, thereby honoring those who have served.

Program Goals

- To provide early identification, intervention, and education in the cycle of substance use disorders;
- To offer a preventive alternative for medium to high-risk individuals, by replacing traditional court responses of incarceration with a rapid response of treatment and supportive services to halt the adverse effect of substance use and/or other behavioral health disorders;
- To facilitate a process of recovery and substance-free living among program participants by creating positive changes in their behavior, health, attitudes, and relationships with others;
- To reduce recidivism through treatment, recovery, and effective supervision strategies;
- To help increase public safety by holding participants accountable for their behavior, responding immediately to evidence of program non-compliance and compliance;

- Decrease public spending by promoting productive and substance-free lives for participants.
- Adhere, to the maximum extent possible, to the Oregon Specialty Court Standards to promote best practices.

Objectives

- Swiftly identify, assess, and enroll participants in a treatment court program.
- Utilize objective, evidence-based, and locally-informed eligibility criteria to serve all individuals who meet the program's target population
- Identify individual needs and services through use of validated screening and assessment tools
- Provide evidence-based interventions and comprehensive treatment services for all participants.
- Support participants in building recovery capital through employment, cultural connections, supportive relationships, and stable housing.
- Closely monitor participants' progress and compliance with frequent and random drug/alcohol testing.
- Consistently and swiftly apply behavior responses for compliance and/or non-compliance through evidence-based incentives, sanctions, and/or service adjustments.
- Provide the treatment court team with training, tools, and skills to effectively motivate participants to address their identified needs.
- Utilize the skills and resources of probation officers to monitor participants through home visits, office visits, and other supervision techniques.
- Empower participants to develop sustainable community supports.

The stakeholder agencies or organizations support the mission and goals of the treatment court by:

- Adhering, to the maximum extent possible, to the most up-to-date Oregon Specialty Court Standards published by the Criminal Justice Commission.
- Using the Treatment Court Management System (TCMS) consistently within the agency's or organization's role.
- Attending pre-court staffing and hearings with all partner agencies to determine treatment progress and make recommendations concerning compliance and subsequent incentives or responses.
- Working collaboratively and attending multidisciplinary case-management team meetings.
- Attending new team member orientation, training, and meetings as appropriate for level of participation on the team.
- Presenting information and participating in ongoing cross-training to remain knowledgeable about the behavioral health field, drug testing and drug trends, laws, cultural considerations and bias, trauma-informed treatment and service practices, and overall best practices in the treatment court model.
- Communicating and adhering to non-adversarial, trauma-informed, and culturally

humble practices.

- Ensuring that each team member is made aware of the provisions considered in this MOU.

The parties understand that this MOU is not legally binding on them but is designed to reflect an understanding of how they can effectively cooperate as collaborative partners of the treatment court team. Nothing in the MOU restricts a party from exercising independent judgment or discretion given it under applicable statutes, regulations, or other sources.

The Circuit Court Commitment and Responsibilities:

- Provide a Judicial Officer with knowledge of treatment court policies and procedures.
- Provide a courtroom and docket schedule for weekly status review hearings.
- Provide a program coordinator and additional court staff, as needed, to manage the daily operations of the treatment court effectively.
- Provide leadership in promoting the principles of the treatment court model in the community.

Role of the Treatment Court Judicial Officer: A treatment court judicial officers role includes, without limitation, presiding over hearings and case pre-court progress updates, offering leadership, and direction in policy development, chairs all policy development, and engaging in community networking on behalf of the program. Duties include the following:

- Maintain role as team leader and final, impartial, and independent arbiter while promoting a productive work environment where each team member practices strength-based collaboration.
- As appropriate, court hearings will include interactions with participants related to their progress, challenges, and behavior responses
- Convenes regular meetings focused on the programs structure, policies, and procedures with required attendance of team members.

Role of Program Manager and/or Coordinator: A program coordinator oversees daily operations of the treatment court program, manages cases by facilitating case coordination/communication, staffs all policy developments and treatment court meetings, is responsible for record-keeping for the court, statistical reporting for the court, serves as a member of the team, and is a liaison to the community. Duties include the following:

- Participates in creating and maintaining information that memorializes program eligibility standards and operating procedures and rules.
- Contributes to the team's efforts in community and peer education on the efficacy of treatment courts. Assists in scheduling regular team meetings, focused on program structure, policies, and procedures with required attendance at all team meetings.
- Serves as the contact point between the court and the team to further program effectiveness and success by providing information related to participants progress and compliance and make recommendations based on best practices.

- Primarily responsible for maintaining participant data, with collaboration from team members in Oregon's Treatment Court Case Management System (TCMS) to monitor participant compliance, track trends, identify disparities, and collect the information necessary to evaluate the program.
- Maintains the court's signed consent for release of information.
- Helps create community partnerships to address participant needs, including healthcare, housing, employment and vocational skills training, planning, and placement.

Role of the Treatment Court Prosecutor: A prosecutor assigned to a treatment court is there to advocate on behalf of public safety, victim interests, hold participants accountable in a nonadversarial way, and share a common goal of successful completion while maintaining public safety. The Prosecutor will:

- Be assigned to the treatment court and participate as an active member of the team.
- Assist in identifying individuals arrested for specific offenses that meet program eligibility requirements.
- The Prosecutor may help resolve other pending legal cases that affect participants' legal status or eligibility.
- The Prosecutor will participate as a team member during pre-court staffings and advocate for effective incentives and sanctions for program compliance or lack thereof.
- The Prosecutor will participate as a team member during court, operating in a non-adversarial manner, to promote a sense of a unified team presence.
- The Prosecutor will contribute to the education of peers, colleagues, and the judiciary in the efficacy of treatment courts.
- The Prosecutor makes decisions regarding the participant's continued enrollment in the program based on performance in treatment rather than on legal aspects of the case, barring additional criminal behavior.
- Attend available annual treatment court trainings.

Role of the Treatment Court Defense Attorney: To provide skilled legal advice to the client they are appointed to represent and to advocate for that client's position in court and meetings. The Defense Attorney will:

- Be assigned to the treatment court and participate as an active member of the team.
- Advise the defendant on the nature and purpose of the treatment court, the rules governing participation, the consequences of abiding or failing to abide by the rules, and how participating or not participating in the program will affect their interests.
- Complete any necessary treatment court referral documents when the defendant agrees to be screened.
- Participate as a team member, operating in a non-adversarial manner during court, to promote a sense of a unified team presence.

- Review the participant's progress in the program and advocate appropriately for effective incentives and sanctions for program compliance or lack thereof.
- Ensure the constitutional rights of the participant are protected.
- Advocate for the participant's stated interests.
- Contribute to the education of peers, colleagues, and the judiciary in the efficacy of treatment courts.
- Provide data for program monitoring, reporting, and grant applications, as needed. Data may include number of clients served and time spent on treatment court docket.
- Attend annual training on the treatment court model.

Role of the Treatment Court Probation Officer: A probation officer assigned to a treatment court is there to assess and ensure individuals meet the programs target population, monitor participant compliance on supervision, conduct home or field visits to ensure community safety, and support participants successful completion of the program. The Probation Office will:

- Assign a probation officer to provide comprehensive case management and field supervision of treatment court participants and to participate as an active member of the team.
- Use a validated criminogenic risk/needs assessment tool to ensure the treatment court serves the appropriate target population during the screening and evaluation process.
- Provide coordinated and comprehensive supervision and case management, including telephone contact, office/home/employment visits, and random field visits to participants' homes.
- Develop effective measures for alcohol and drug testing and supervision compliance reporting that provide the treatment court team with sufficient and timely information to implement sanctions, incentives, and service adjustments.
- Monitor/assist the participant's compliance and progress in adhering to the judgement, order, and program requirements.
- Participate in pre-court staffing, provide updates on all active participants, and advocate for effective incentives, sanctions, and service adjustments during staffing.
- Coordinate utilizing community-based services such as health and mental health services, victims' services, housing, transportation, education, vocational training, and job skills training and placement to provide a strong foundation for participants.
- Utilize and deliver cognitive-behavioral interventions to address criminal thinking and increase readiness for change.
- Contribute to the education of peers, colleagues, and the judiciary in the efficacy of treatment courts.
- Regularly conduct an updated, validated criminogenic risk/needs assessment as determined by evidence-based practices.
- Enter all required data in TCMS, including but not limited to drug screens and results, office visits, home visits, and updated demographic information before pre-court staffing sessions.
- Attend annual training on the treatment court model.
- The Probation Director will provide oversight of probation officers and case managers that support the treatment court.

- The Probation Director will provide data as needed to assist with program monitoring, reporting, and grant applications.

Role of the Substance Use and/or Mental Health Treatment Provider: A treatment provider assigned to a treatment court is there to assess and determine clinical need of individuals referred to a treatment court. A treatment provider will build a treatment plan, provide a continuum of care for participants, and refer for additional care, as needed. The Treatment Provider will:

- Participate fully as an active team member and work as a partner to ensure the success of treatment court participants.
- Operate in conjunction with the team to assess and place participants in the appropriate level of care to meet their treatment needs.
- Utilize a validated clinical screening and assessment tool to ensure the appropriate placement of participants.
- Enter all required TCMS data, including but not limited to drug screens and results, assessment results, individual and group attendance, and any other information pertinent to court requirements before pre-court staffing sessions.
- Provide additional progress updates to the team in staffing, to ensure sufficient and timely information sharing.
- Advocate for effective incentives and service adjustments during staffing.
- Provide information to the team on assessment, the basis of alcohol/substance use, the impact of treatment on the participant, and the potential for relapse.
- Provide consultation/education to the team to develop the most effective case plans and responses on treatment-specific issues.
- Contribute to the education of peers, colleagues, and the judiciary in the efficacy of treatment courts.
- Manage the delivery of treatment services and administers behavioral or cognitive-behavioral treatments that are documented in manuals and have been demonstrated to improve outcomes.
- Provide clinical case management, relapse prevention, and continuing care and develops a continuing care plan with participants.
- Attend annual training on the treatment court model.
- Provide data to assist with program monitoring, reporting, and grant applications.

Role of the Veteran Administration: A Veteran Justice Outreah Officer assigned to the treatment court team is there to support monitoring of participants, be a referral source at the earliest intercept, and be a liaison between the Veteran Administration and the Veteran Treatment Court Program. The Veteran Administration will:

- Assist the treatment court team in monitoring participants and assign a representative to participate as an active member of the team.
- Identify appropriate representatives to participate in the weekly treatment court staffing meetings to provide pertinent information and insight from the law enforcement community's perspective regarding treatment court participants.
- Help identify potential and eligible treatment court participants.

- Enter all required TCMS data, including but not limited to drug screens and results, assessment results, individual and group attendance, and any other information pertinent to court requirements before pre-court staffing sessions.
- Advocate for effective incentives and sanctions during staffing.
- Contribute to the education of peers, colleagues, and the judiciary in the efficacy of treatment courts.
- Attend annual training on the treatment court model.

Role of the Countyl Veteran Services Office: A Veteran Services Officer assigned to the treatment court team is there to support monitoring of participants, be a referral source at the earliest intercept, and identify appropriate resources and services for participants. The Veteran Servcies Office will:

- Assist the treatment court team in monitoring participants and assign a representative to participate as an active member of the team.
- Identify appropriate representatives to participate in the weekly treatment court staffing meetings to provide pertinent information and insight from the law enforcement community's perspective regarding treatment court participants.
- Help identify potential and eligible treatment court participants.
- Provide the treatment court team with benefit information that is available to potential and active partipants.
- Provide referrals to appropriate resources and services.
- Advocate for effective incentives and sanctions during staffing.
- Contribute to the education of peers, colleagues, and the judiciary in the efficacy of treatment courts.
- Attend annual training on the treatment court model.

Role of the County Sheriff's Office: A sheriff's office deputy assigned to the treatment court team is there to support monitoring of participants, be a referral source at the earliest intercept, and support additional community safety monitoring. The Sheriff's Office will:

- Assist the treatment court team in monitoring participants and assign a representative to participate as an active member of the team.
- Identify appropriate representatives to participate in the weekly treatment court staffing meetings to provide pertinent information and insight from the law enforcement community's perspective regarding treatment court participants.
- Help identify potential and eligible treatment court participants.
- Advocate for effective incentives and sanctions during staffing.
- Serve as liaison between the treatment court team and the community. Provide information to the team on community issues related to alcohol and substance use and trends.
- Provide information and support to participants in the community, encouraging them to succeed in the treatment court.
- Contribute to the education of peers, colleagues, and the judiciary in the efficacy of treatment courts.
- Assist with home visits, when appropriate.

- Attend annual training on the treatment court model.

All participating agencies agree to review this MOU annually and update it if needed such as when notified of updates to best practices or to add a new entity to the team and to this MOU. All signatories will work together to modify the MOU as needed. Any party may terminate its participation in this MOU at any time.

The parties understand that this MOU is not legally binding on them but is designed to reflect an understanding of how they can effectively cooperate as collaborative partners of the treatment court team. Nothing in the MOU restricts a party from exercising independent judgment or discretion given it under applicable statutes, regulations, or other sources.

The Oregon Judicial Department on Behalf of its Circuit Court

By: _____
Trial Court Administrator

DATE: 10/12/2026

The Oregon Judicial Department on Behalf of its Circuit Court

By: _____
Treatment Court Judge

DATE: 10/12/2026

The Oregon Judicial Department on Behalf of its Circuit Court

By: _____
Treatment Court Program Manager/Coordinator

DATE: 10/12/26

Columbia County by and through its District Attorney's Office

By: _____
District Attorney

DATE: _____

Local Consortium

By: _____
Director, Justice Alliance of Columbia County

DATE: 4/16/2026

Columbia County by and through its Department of Community Justice

By: _____
Director, Department of Community Justice

DATE: _____

Local Substance Use and/or Mental Health Treatment Provider

By: _____
Executive Director, Columbia Community Mental Health

DATE: _____

Veteran Administration

By: _____
Director, Portland VA Health Care System

DATE: _____

County Veteran Services Office

By: _____
Director, Columbia County Veteran Services Office

DATE: 11/18/2025

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Local Consortium

By: _____
Director, Justice Alliance of Columbia County

DATE: _____

Columbia County by and through its Department of Community Justice

By: _____
Director, Department of Community Justice

DATE: _____

Local ~~Substance~~ Use and/or Mental Health Treatment Provider

By: Todd Jacobson
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Executive Director, Columbia Community Mental Health

DATE: 4/17/2026

Veteran Administration

By: _____
Director, Portland VA Health Care System

DATE: _____

County Veteran Services Office

By: Daniel Brown
Director, Columbia County Veteran Services Office

DATE: 11/18/2025

County Sheriff's Office

By: Brian Pipkey
Sheriff, Columbia County Sheriff's Office

DATE: 04/20/2026