

SERVICES

One-on-One Judicial Interaction
Mental Health Evaluation
Mental Health Counseling
Substance Abuse Counseling
Psychiatric Services
Case Management Services
Intensive Supervision
Education and Skills Training
Housing Assistance
Assistance Obtaining Community Services

RESULTS

Receiving appropriate services, participants improve their functional level of mental health, life skills, living conditions and are less likely to re-offend.

Our community and public safety is improved.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Bernalillo County District Attorney
State of New Mexico Public Defender
Forensic Interagency Consortium
University of New Mexico -
Mental Health Center
Albuquerque Behavioral Health Program
The Veteran's Administration
Other Community Agencies

PROMOTING EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND REDUCING CRIME IN OUR COMMUNITY



ALL METROPOLITAN COURT JUDGES REFER TO THE PROGRAM

Court is a Collaborative Effort of:

**The State of New Mexico
Bernalillo County Metropolitan
Court, District Attorney's Office,
Public Defender's Office, Local
Public and Community Agencies**

**Hon. Vidalia Chavez
Presiding Judge**

For Additional Information Contact:

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**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
BERNALILLO COUNTY
METROPOLITAN COURT**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
DWI COURT**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM



**A PROGRAM OF
JUDICIAL
INTERVENTION,
TREATMENT
SERVICES AND
SUPERVISION**

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO - BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DWI COURT

PRESIDING PROGRAM JUDGE:

The Honorable Vidalia Chavez has been the presiding Judge of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Behavioral Health DWI Program since May 2016. Judge Chavez is empathetic and listens to the needs of the participant at each Court session. Services are coordinated in the Behavioral Health DWI Court with a contracted and community providers to evaluate the substance abuse and behavioral health needs of each participant.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

The Bernalillo County DWI Behavioral Health Court accepts individuals charged with misdemeanor offenses filed in the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court. Those referred must have a co-occurring diagnosis, symptoms or be developmentally disabled.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Attend status hearings with the Behavioral Health DWI Court Judge as mandated by the court and comply with all court orders. Follow the assigned treatment plan that may include:

- Physician's medication plan
- Case management services
- Counseling, therapy and support groups
- Alcohol and drug testing
- Comply with all program requirements.

Referrals and admissions to the Bernalillo County Behavioral Health DWI Court

Eligibility criteria:

- 18 years or older
- Documented co-occurring disorder (substance abuse and mental illness).
- Moderate to high risk in terms of needs and risk of recidivism.
- Voluntary
- Consent to participate in court sessions.
- Resident of Bernalillo County
- *****PRE-PLEA*****

PRE-PLEA referrals are accepted from defense attorneys, the District Attorney's Office, family members, advocacy organizations and the courts.

A courtroom screening is completed by the Bernalillo County Behavioral Health DWI probation officer and if eligible, is scheduled for an assessment with the court clinical service coordinator for a comprehensive psychosocial and substance abuse evaluation.

Each case is staffed for acceptance by the Bernalillo County Behavioral Health DWI Team.

- The referral cannot be for a DWI True First.
- The PLEA needs to be set out 3 weeks.
- The defendant is to be placed on Pre-Trial services with the Behavioral Health DWI Probation Officer.
- A clinical assessment will be completed by the Court Clinical Service Coordinator
- The case will be staffed by the Behavioral Health DWI Team.

What is a Behavioral Health DWI court?

There is a growing recognition that people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders (co-occurring disorders) fare poorly in jail. They stay longer, cost more, decompensate and require crisis intervention and psychiatric hospitalization, are in a worse condition when they are released, cycle between treatment, the street, and jail; and recidivate at higher rates.

Among the diversion programs that achieve much better outcomes is a specialized court docket for individuals with co-occurring disorders. This Court provides judicial oversight, strict monitoring, rapid access to specialized treatment, and case management services in lieu of jail or a reduced sentence for successful completion. All decisions are made by a multidisciplinary team including the judge, prosecutor, clinician, and case manager, among others.

The Bernalillo County Behavioral Health DWI Court preserves public safety by establishing close monitoring of the participant in the community, required compliance with the program to remain in the community, and consequently breaks the cycle of repeat offending rooted in untreated mental illness and substance abuse.