



COMMUNITY RESOURCE COURT

CHATHAM and
ORANGE COUNTIES

*A collaboration of the
UNC Center for Excellence in
Community Mental Health and
Judicial District 15B*

UNC Center for
Excellence in
Community
Mental Health

Who is Involved?

The Community Resource Court Team consists of trained professionals who encompass both the criminal justice system and the treatment providing community.

This team includes:

- Judges
- Assistant District Attorneys
- CRC Case Managers
- Assistant Public Defenders
- Designated CRC attorneys
- Treatment Providers
- Probation Officers
- Project Coordinator
- Law Enforcement Officials

This team holds meetings outside the courtroom before each CRC session begins. The appropriate personnel share information about the CRC participant's treatment compliance and decide the most effective court and/or treatment response to be given to the participant during the court session.

Contacts

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UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health

The UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health, the Department of Psychiatry at the UNC School of Medicine provides a continuum of care for individuals with severe mental illness, including an array of community-based services.

Community Resource Court

Community Resource Court (CRC) was created to provide treatment alternatives for non-violent defendants in the criminal court system who may have a mental health issue. The CRC represents a type of “mental health court” that assists defendants with mental illnesses and underlying substance abuse problems by providing alternatives to court disposition and assisting them with the mental health and substance abuse treatment they need.

The types of treatments offered vary depending on each individual defendant’s needs. The management of these treatments is coordinated by the CRC staff. Some of the services available include: individual and group mental health and substance abuse therapies, psychiatric services, medication management, and individual case management.

Who is Eligible?

Participation in the CRC is voluntary. To be considered for admission into the CRC, the defendant must agree to be screened by CRC staff and obtain or provide the court with a mental health assessment. The district attorney must also screen all cases to see if the charges and the defendant are appropriate for CRC. A defendant may be deemed legally inappropriate if there is a history of violent offenses or if current charges reflect concern for public safety.

To be eligible, a defendant:

- Must be charged with a criminal offense
- Must have a mental health diagnosis or mental health treatment history
- May also have a substance abuse diagnosis
- Must agree to engage in recommended mental health treatment

The CRC Team must determine that there are adequate and accessible services available for each defendant.

Remember, CRC is a voluntary court-based jail diversion program and all candidates must be approved by the CRC team before admission.



Program Requirements

If a defendant is found eligible for CRC:

- Defendant must agree to comply with their recommended treatment plan, including taking any prescribed medications, for a period of time set by the court – this is a minimum of six months.
- Defendant will be required to come to court monthly to ensure treatment progress and medication compliance.
- Case manager or treatment provider will keep the court informed of defendant’s compliance with the recommended treatment and medication plan.



Participants in CRC will learn to manage their illness and will acquire the proper skills necessary to maintain a healthy, crime-free lifestyle. If participants are compliant with all treatment recommendations, it is possible participants could earn a dismissal of their criminal charges or other legally beneficial dispositions.