

Harris County Community Supervision & Corrections

Budget Hearings Presentation



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Mission

Harris County CSCD is committed to using evidence-based strategies to help individuals on community supervision eliminate future criminal behavior and become productive citizens, which in turn, creates a safer community with fewer victims.

Vision

We strive to accomplish our mission by:

- Using interventions that are designed to effectively reduce criminal behavior.
- Using an assessment to accurately identify and target risk and needs.
- Recognizing the ability of individuals to change.
- Treating all individuals with respect and dignity.
- Creating an environment that encourages learning and professional growth.

Dual Diagnosis Residential Program

- Residential Treatment
- Telepsychiatry Services

Felony Mental Health Court

- Residential Treatment
- Outpatient Treatment
- Transitional Living

Recovery Supportive Services

- Driver's License Restoration
- Recovery Coaches

STAR Drug Court

- Counseling
- Case Management
- Peer Recovery Coaches

Objectives and Priority Outcomes

- Divert justice-involved clients from incarceration by providing treatment and resources to achieve long-term sustainable change.
 - Deliver recovery and support services to participants of Felony Mental Health Court, STAR Drug Court, and the Dual Diagnosis Residential Program.
 - Utilize the case management system capability to ensure race/ethnicity is accurately coded for all clients and outcomes are routinely monitored and disseminated.
 - Increase access to legal resources for clients needing assistance with expunctions, driver's license suspensions, and other legal barriers to employment.
- Increase the number of participants in Felony Mental Health Court, STAR Drug Court and Dual Diagnosis Residential Program.
 - Increase number of clients receiving treatment services
 - Increase number of clients receiving supportive services.
 - Utilize data to identify potential racial and ethnic disparities.
 - Increase number of clients receiving legal resources.

Accomplishments & Challenges

Accomplishments and major changes

- Received competitive State funds to increase the Dual Diagnosis Residential Program's (DDRP) bed capacity from 100 to 138 beds and to add a pre-treatment dorm, reducing wait-time from an average of 4 to 6 months to 4 to 8 weeks.
- Increased capacity to meet a significant increase in demand for presentence investigation reports (PSIs) ordered in lieu of a trial by the district courts and emergency dockets to assist in moving the back-log of cases.
- Increased capacity to meet a significant increase in demand for assessments for the County and District Courts and emergency dockets to assist in moving the case back-log.
- Partnered with the holistic division of the Public Defender's Office to implement a process to refer RIC clients to free legal assistance for expunctions. 130 RIC clients were referred in 2021.
- Selected as one of 5 sites Nationally to receive funding for the second phase of the Reducing Revocations Challenge a joint enterprise between Arnold Ventures and the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance (ISLG).
- STAR Drug Court Alumni Association completed an "Operation Backpack" project where they donated school supplies to the young children of STAR participants.
- Expanded education and employment opportunities by forging new partnerships with Houston Community College, Apple Computer, Inc, and Goodwill Services.
- Submitted Best Practices Self-Assessment Report for evaluation to the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI).
- Collaborated with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NACDP) to write an article for the Washington Post about STAR Drug Court's resilience during COVID.
- Created quality assurance processes in the case management system to ensure accurate collection of race/ethnicity to identify disparities.

Changes and challenges in the department

- Avoiding disruption in community and CSCD residential intakes due to COVID-19 and existing space limitations.
- Remaining competitive in the recruitment and retention of staff and minimizing turnover.
- Building and maintaining capacity to meet increased demand for assessments and support for Courts working to move the back-log of cases.
- Addressing transportation and service access issues for individuals living in far North and Southeast Harris County where no CSCD offices exist.

Department Performance Goals and Progress

DUAL DIAGNOSIS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

- 360 participants served
- 206 completed the program
- 360 received telepsychiatry services

FELONY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

- 75 participants served
- 22 new participants diverted into the program
- 21 participants completed the program
- 19 participants received outpatient treatment
- 12 participants received residential treatment
- 26 participants received transitional living

RECOVERY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- 494 new participants received Recovery Coach support
- 522 participants received Recovery Coach support
- 37 participants received Driver's License Restoration assistance

STAR DRUG COURT

- 156 participants served
- 80 new participants diverted into the program
- 36 participants completed the program
- 116 participants received recovery supportive services

Budget Requests

The Harris County District Court's Responsive Interventions for Change Docket (RIC) consolidates State Jail and 3rd degree felony drug and prostitution cases filed in the 23 District Courts into one docket to efficiently manage and divert individuals from incarceration in jail and prison to treatment, support, and supervision. The CSCD supports the RIC docket by providing assessment, treatment, peer recovery support, and supervision. Since 2017, Harris County has been using the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge Grant funds to reimburse CSCD for the 11 positions that are needed to support the RIC docket. The grant funds were exhausted during the current fiscal year.

Proposal	Annual Cost	Results and Outcomes
<p>Continue supporting the RIC Docket at full CSCD staffing. (11 existing staff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Court Liaison Officers• 6 Assessors• 1 Field Officer• 1 RIC Caseworker (peer support)• 1 RIC Supervisor	\$766K	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports the County's priority outcome of reducing unnecessary exposure to the criminal justice system• Currently, individuals charged with State Jail and 3rd degree felony drug and prostitution cases are being diverted from incarceration to pretrial diversion, supervision, treatment, and peer recovery support services.

Budget Requests Outcomes

- CSCD services are critical to the operation of the RIC docket. The RIC docket is designed to efficiently divert individuals to services provided by CSCD through pretrial diversion, supervision, treatment and support services in lieu of incarceration in jail or prison. CSCD staff are also part of the courtroom work team. Prior to the creation of the RIC docket, over 80% of individuals charged with RIC eligible offenses (PCS < 1g, PCS 1 to 4g, prostitution 4th) were receiving conviction and incarceration in jail and prison instead of diversion. Currently, 85% of individuals charged with RIC eligible offenses are diverted to treatment, supervision, and support services instead of incarceration in jail and prison. Since the purpose of the court is diversion to supervision and treatment services provided by CSCD, the RIC docket program cannot operate without these positions. This budget request would allow CSCD to continue providing critical diversion services and support for the RIC docket to operate.
- This is not new funding or a new program. Funding is needed to sustain services CSCD has been providing to support the RIC docket since its inception in 2017. Funding from Harris County general revenue is requested to replace funding no longer available through the MacArthur Safety and Justice Grant awarded to Harris County.
- Since its inception, over 24,000 cases initially filed and disposed in the 23 District Courts were centralized and filed in the RIC docket for resolution, expedited assessments, and diversion to treatment, supervision, and support services instead of incarceration. Without the RIC Docket, cases would be returned to the 23 District Court adding to the existing felony case back-log and incarceration rates of RIC eligible cases would increase.
 - Number of cases diverted to the felony RIC docket in calendar year 2021 = 4,803
 - Number of new supervision placements in calendar year 2021 = 1,182
 - Number of assessments completed for RIC docket clients in calendar year 2021 = 1,455
 - Number of successful completions in calendar year 2021 = 673
 - Number of RIC clients served in calendar year 2021 = 2,237
- \$4.2M in State funded supervision and treatment services were provided for the RIC Program in calendar year 2021
 - Number of RIC clients receiving State Funded residential treatment services in calendar year 2021 = 330
 - Number of RIC clients supervised on average by State funded supervision officers (18) and supervisors (2) in calendar year 2021 = 2,200
 - Number of RIC clients receiving State Funded outpatient and aftercare treatment services in calendar year 2021 = 412