



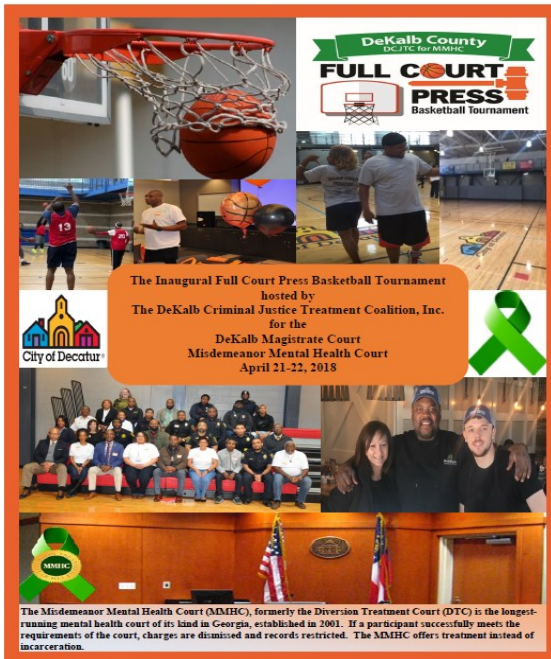
DEKALB MISDEMEANOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT

www.dekalbcountymagistratecourt.com

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2023 Full Court Press Basketball Tournament

The 3rd Annual Full Court Press Basketball Tournament event will take place the weekend of April 22-23, 2023. It's a two-day, 14 team, tournament held Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am to 5 pm **Yes, we are back with 14 teams already committed to play!**



Our Full Court Press Basketball Tournament ("FCP"), like so many other things, was "benched" due to COVID-19 for the past three years. The inaugural FCP tournament took place in 2018 and it was a "Slam Dunk!" FCP is comprised of teams of law enforcement agencies in and around DeKalb County who field their best athletes to compete and raise money to help those living with serious mental illness. The District Attorney's, "Boston Ballers" emerged victorious and took home the trophy.

FCP is sponsored by the DeKalb Criminal Justice Treatment Coalition, Inc. (DCJTC), which is the 501(c)(3) and Advisory Council to the DeKalb Misdemeanor Mental Health Court ("MMHC"). The 2nd Annual FCP event was held in 2019 and was another great success

featuring Atlanta's own "Freddie the Hawk!" DeKalb County Police "Knights" took home the trophy this year, however.

Full Court Press Basketball Tournament's 3rd Annual event promises to be just as thrilling and exciting. Teams are eager to play as many had paid to compete in 2020 anticipating a 2020 "three-peat" prior to COVID-19's arrival.

We hope to see you at the downtown City of Decatur's Recreation Center; 231 Sycamore Street, Decatur, Georgia 30030 (one block from the Decatur MARTA Station) April 22-23, 2023, 9 am to 5 pm Adults \$15 and Children 5 and up \$10 for both days.



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Resource Information

Hotlines & Helplines

SAMHSA's National Helpline

1-800- 662-HELP (4357) or
1-800-487-4889 (TDD)

(<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>): Provides 24-hour, free, and confidential information and treatment referral for mental and substance use disorders in English and Spanish.

Crisis Text Line

TEXT HOME to 741741

(<https://www.crisistextline.org/>):

Provides 24/7 support for individuals experiencing a crisis via text message.

Other help lines: Veteran's, SAMHSA, Teen Suicide, Violence:

Veteran's Crisis Line:

1-800-273-8255 (press 1) text: 8382355

www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/hotline

Help for veterans and their families.

"Names are always safeguarded or redacted in order to protect the identity of the Participants"

Graduate Gab

We are proud to highlight a recent graduate of MMHC!



Congratulations to Mr. P., a 32-year-old Caucasian male who completed the DeKalb County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court in November 2022. Mr. P. entered the MMHC program after being arrested for Family Violence Battery. Mr. P. has a dual diagnosis of schizophrenia and alcohol abuse disorder. During his participation in MMHC, Mr. P. enrolled in a sober living program. The program had a team of trained professionals caring for individuals battling mental illness and addiction. Mr. P. attended weekly treatment programs, including counseling, anger management, 12-step support, peer support, and substance abuse treatment. Before entering MMHC, Mr. P.'s diagnosis disrupted his ability to pursue an advanced degree in business administration. Now Mr. P. is pursuing his MBA with a 4.0 GPA at a prominent university. After graduation, Mr. P. aspires to return to the financial industry. The MMHC team connected Mr. P. to his local NAMI group for crisis intervention and support services. Mr. P. now has ongoing support to maintain his mental health and well-being.

Congratulations to Ms. P., a 62-year-old Caucasian female who completed the DeKalb County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court in November 2022. Ms. P. entered the MMHC program after being arrested for Disorderly Conduct. Ms. P. has a diagnosis of schizophrenia and a history of anxiety. While in MMHC, Ms. P. expressed experiencing social anxiety, which made it difficult for her to connect socially with friends and family members. Ms. P.'s diagnosis caused her to isolate herself in her home. MMHC offers two evidence-based groups to assist participants with their community re-entry. The Thinking for a Change (T4C) group addressed the cognitive, social, and emotional needs of Ms. P. The Women's group established a common ground in recovery and a safe space to share their specific experiences. Ms. P. also worked with an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team of professionals that provided wrap-around mental health services to support her recovery. After completing MMHC, the interdisciplinary team could see a shift in Ms. P.'s confidence and willingness to apply her new skills. Ms. P. was able to repair her estranged relationship with her siblings and mother before her passing. The MMHC team connected Ms. P. to her local NAMI group for crisis intervention and support services. Ms. P. now has ongoing support to maintain her mental health and well-being.



2018 Winners—DeKalb District Attorney's Office, Boston's Ballers



2019 Winners—DeKalb Police Knights



988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. While some areas may be currently able to connect to the Lifeline by dialing 988, this dialing code will be available to everyone across the United States starting on July 16, 2022.



Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL)
1-800-715-4225



Consider these options when you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis:

- **Call 911 if the situation is a life-threatening emergency.**
- **Call the DeKalb Regional Crisis Center at 404.294.0499, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**
- **Visit the DeKalb Regional Crisis Center (DRCC) located at 450 Winn Way, Decatur, Georgia 30030.**

For non-crisis situations, DeKalb CSB Central Access serves as the central point of contact for DeKalb Community Service Board. Call 404.892.4646 for information about services.

GEORGIA'S PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCE DIRECTIVE

For many of us, we may not know that Georgia passed House Bill (HB) 752 in May 2022. It is important, as it became a law on July 1, 2022 and will likely impact many of us personally and/or professionally. You may be asking, "What is this and why is it so important?" Well, check out this detailed article below from a law firm educating us about HB 752 (<https://hurleyclaw.com/2022/08/09/new-georgia-psychiatric-advance-directive/>)

Recently a new and important bill was signed into law. Georgia House Bill 752, also known as the Georgia Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD), is a forward-thinking law that empowers individuals to take control of their lives and health care through proactive decision-making to address their unique mental health needs and situations.

Why is this important?

This law is an important development for Georgia residents who have experienced a mental health crisis, have a mental health diagnosis, or have a family member with a mental health diagnosis. HB 752 allows Georgia residents to plan and maintain their independence when it comes to treatment and care. Similar to how an Advance Directive for Healthcare gives individuals the ability to designate a trusted agent to make medical treatment decisions and serves as a place for outlining treatment preferences, the Psychiatric Advance Directive addresses decision-making related to mental health care treatment.

This legal document gives individuals who have already experienced or recovered from a mental health crisis the ability to express their wishes about what types of treatments, services, and other assistance they are comfortable with receiving during a mental health crisis. It also serves as a place where individuals can state which health care professionals they prefer to receive treatment from; and which techniques, procedures, and medications have proven effective for their unique circumstances in the past.

What are some of the benefits?

The PAD also allows individuals to grant decision-making authority to another person which enables that person to act as an advocate and mental health care agent until the crisis is over. By executing a PAD during periods when they can objectively make rational decisions about their care, individuals with mental health concerns are better able to preserve their autonomy and take control of treatment, prior to experiencing a future mental health episode

Additionally, putting a PAD in place decreases the likelihood that an individual is involuntarily committed, receives care that is ineffective and does not align with an individual's preferences, or is subject to the decisions of someone they do not know or trust.

NAMI (National Alliance on mental Illness) encourages everyone who has a mental health diagnosis or experiences mental health episodes, to create a Psychiatric Advance Directive to be prepared for situations that may arise.

In addition, check out the flyer that NAMI has on their website that is a simple read and answers questions that we likely will all ask.

What is a Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD)?

- A PAD is a legal document that allows you to explain, while you are well, how you want to receive or not receive mental health care when things are not going well.
- During a mental health crisis, the PAD allows health care professionals to create a mental health treatment plan according to your wishes.
- It allows you to choose a "mental health care agent" to make mental health care decisions for you if you cannot do so for yourself.

How Can You Make a PAD?

- Complete the Georgia Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD) Form with information about mental health care preferences.
- You may choose to include information about prior mental health care – what has worked in the past – or designate a mental health care agent.
- You must sign the form when completed, and your signature must be witnessed by two other people.
- Witnesses cannot be your mental health care provider, employees of a mental health agency, or your mental health care agent.
- Keep the signed and witnessed PAD in a safe place and provide copies to your mental health care agent (if any), family, and friends.
- You may change or revoke your PAD at any time as long as you are able to understand the effect of the change.

When Is a PAD Used?

- A PAD becomes effective immediately after it is correctly completed.
- It is used when you experience a mental health crisis and only if you are not able to provide consent to mental health care.
- You are unable to provide consent if an examining physician or court finds you cannot understand treatment options or rationally communicate your decisions about mental health care.
- A PAD takes precedence over any terms in an existing document that relates to mental health, such as a general health care directive.

Georgia Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD)

What Can I Explain in the PAD?

- You can explain whether you want to receive a treatment, service, or procedure to alleviate a mental health crisis, developmental disability, or addictive disease.
- You can provide instructions for types of treatment you do and do not want.
- You can provide information such as known causes for past mental health emergencies, past helpful responses, and current or past medications.
- You can explain how you would like other aspects of your life cared for, such as who to take care of your pets or collect your mail.

Do Health Care Providers Have to Follow the PAD?

- Yes. Once a health care provider receives a PAD, the PAD becomes part of your medical record, and the provider must follow its instructions to the fullest extent possible.
- A provider may refuse to follow the PAD if the specified treatment is unavailable, ineffective, or against the medical best interests of the person.
- Even if a provider has a PAD, the provider must still receive consent from the person for all mental health treatment as long as the person is capable of consenting.

What Can My Mental Health Care Agent Do?

- When you are unable to make mental health care decisions, a mental health care agent can make any mental health care decisions on your behalf.
- This includes authorizing or refusing medication, admission to or discharge from a facility, or decisions related to financing mental health care.

(Continued on back)

Mental Matters



"Your present circumstances don't determine where you go; they merely determine where you start."

-Dr. Lauren Fagel Mersy

JOIN US FOR AN OBSERVATION OF A MISDEMEANOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT SESSION

You are welcome to observe a MMHC court session. MMHC convenes every Thursday at 9:00a.m with the exception of the 5th Thursdays of each month. Please contact for COVID -19 updates.

DeKalb County Courthouse,
Magistrate Court of
DeKalb County
First floor, Courtroom 1200D

For further information, or if you would like to receive the MMHC newsletter or submit an article for consideration, contact:

Connie Morris, Coordinator
cmorris@dekalbcountyga.gov
phone 404-371-3254
fax 404-371-3206

Myth vs. Fact

(mentalhealth.gov)

Can you tell the difference between a mental health myth and fact? Learn the truth about the most common mental health myths.

Myth: People with mental health problems are violent and unpredictable.

Fact: The vast majority of people with mental health problems are no more likely to be violent than anyone else. Most people with mental illness are not violent and only 3%–5% of violent acts can be attributed to individuals living with a serious mental illness. In fact, people with severe mental illnesses are over 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than the general population. You probably know someone with a mental health problem and don't even realize it, because many people with mental health problems are highly active and productive members of our communities.

Spotlight On:

Connie Morris



Connie Morris, the newest member of MMHC, recently joined as it's full time Clinical Evaluator. Connie came from DeKalb County's Accountability Courts after nearly 9 years of service to the felony-level offenders/participants. Because of the great work that is being done in treatment courts here in DeKalb County, she wanted to ensure she could continue serving those in need within the criminal justice system. Connie has been a licensed therapist for nearly 20 years, is a Certified Professional Clinical Supervisor, and has worked in community-based positions for many of those years. She is passionate about de-stigmatizing behavioral health illnesses (substance use and/or mental illness), and believes that awareness and education are essential to achieve that goal. She states, "We have spent too many years and decades sweeping these diseases under the rug thus reinforcing the stigma. Enough already. Let's educate, accept, and support in order to work towards real healing and recovery."

Olivia Broussard



Olivia Shellman Broussard grew up in DeKalb County. In 2013, she graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia, earning her BA in Women's Studies with a minor in African American Studies. While attending Georgia State Law's part-time evening program, she interned at the Federal Defender, Brooklyn Legal Aid, and the DeKalb County Public Defender. She also participated in the Capital Defender Clinic and served as a Center Fellow for GSU's Center For Access to Justice. After graduating cum laude in 2019, Olivia started her career at the DeKalb County Public Defender. When she's not working, Olivia enjoys cooking, listening to audiobooks, and relaxing with her husband and two dogs. She is thrilled to be a part of the MMHC team, and to continue her career protecting and advocating for marginalized members of her community.