

Connecticut Criminal Court Diversion Programs

Rev. 3/27/23

DMHAS Diversion Programs

Jail Diversion/Court Liaison Program (JD; statewide)

Clinicians in all 17 arraignment courts screen adult defendants with mental illness, most with SMI, many with COD, and can offer community treatment option in lieu of jail while case proceeds through court process. JD refers for services, monitors compliance, reports compliance to court.

Women's Jail Diversion (JDW; New Britain, New Haven)

Offers full services to women with trauma sequelae, most with substance abuse, at risk of incarceration – mostly pretrial, some on parole/probation at risk of violation. Services include clinical, medication management, community support, limited temp housing, client supports.

Jail Diversion Veterans (JD Vets; Norwich, New London, Middletown)

Targets veterans who have current criminal charges. Can offer community treatment option in lieu of jail while case proceeds through court process. Refer clients for clinical services and specialized veteran's services, monitor compliance, report compliance to court.

Jail Diversion Substance Abuse (JDSA; Hartford)

Targets adults with substance dependence who need immediate admission to residential detox and/or intensive residential treatment on day of arraignment or rapid admission to IOP. Includes intensive case management, sober house rent, other transitional housing options, client supports, monitor compliance, and report compliance to court.

Alternative Drug Intervention (ADI; New Haven)

Offers full services to pretrial defendants with substance use disorders in New Haven court (mostly men; women go into the JD Women's program). Services include clinical, medication management, case management, client supports.

Pretrial Intervention Program (PTIP; statewide)

Per state statute, 1) evaluations for placement recommendation for "first-offender" DUI defendants and drug/paraphernalia possession defendants and 2) Alcohol Education groups, Drug Education groups, or referral to substance abuse treatment program.

Judicial Branch Diversion Programs

The **Treatment Pathway Program (TPP)** is an innovative court-based pretrial diversionary initiative that provides court-based assessment and referral services. Court-based clinicians work with the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD) Bail Services Unit to identify and serve defendants with substance use disorders who are in custody. Individuals are assessed in lockup prior to their arraignment to be safely released are immediately connected with clinical and recovery support services in the community. The defendant's care is managed through the entire

pretrial process under the collaborative community supervision of both Bail Services and the clinical provider.

The **Jail Reinterview Program (JRI)** is a pretrial program designed to interview defendants post arraignment who are held on bond. The initial interview (bond screen) assists defendants with the bond process, including making collateral contact with family or friends. If the defendant is unable to post bond, or during the bond interview, JRI staff identify additional issues, including substance use, mental health, supervision, housing, or other related needs, the JRI staff will develop a community release plan to address those risks/needs. With the approval of the defendant's attorney, JRI staff will forward the report to court for consideration. These plans include supervision and community-based services.

Pretrial Supervised Diversionary Program

The Judicial Branch manages the pretrial supervised diversionary program, which provides treatment and supervision services by specially trained probation officers, to persons with a mental health disorder, giving special consideration to veterans.

Early Screening and Intervention Program (ESI)

ESI is a diversionary program administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, and available in six geographical area courts: Waterbury, New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, New London, and Norwich. The program is staffed by a local prosecutor, who identifies those persons charged with low level criminal offenses, and a resource coordinator, who is employed by a local social service organization. Working together, the prosecutor and resource coordinator screen the defendant to identify the underlying factors that have contributed to his/her criminal behavior; and, if the defendant accepts the offer of ESI services, they refer the defendant for counseling and treatment of substance abuse and mental health disorders, or to agencies that address those experiencing homelessness. The resource coordinator keeps track of the defendant's participation in the programs to which (s)he has been referred, and notifies the prosecutor of violations or new arrests. Upon successful completion of the program to which the defendant was referred, the charges are nolle.

In 2022, 745 criminal defendants (not cases) had their cases nolle upon successful completion of the Early Screening and Intervention Program. That number is broken down as follows:

Hartford: 218 defendants
Bridgeport: 196 defendants
New London: 106 defendants
New Haven: 87 defendants
Norwich: 74 defendants
Waterbury: 64 defendants