

Anchorage Coordinated Resources Project

Anchorage Mental Health Court

What is the Anchorage Coordinated Resources Project (ACRP)?

The Anchorage Coordinated Resources Project (ACRP)—also known as the Anchorage Mental Health Court—is a voluntary “therapeutic” or “problem-solving” court. Located within the Anchorage District Court, it hears cases involving individuals with mental health disorders or disabilities who are charged with criminal offenses.

Created in 1998, ACRP is a post-booking, diversionary response to the problem of “criminalization”—an increased likelihood that people with mental health disorders or disabilities will be processed through the criminal justice system instead of the mental health system. The court diverts people with mental health disorders or disabilities charged with criminal offenses from incarceration, and into appropriate community treatment and services to prevent further contacts with the criminal justice system.

The project supports the well-being of individuals with mental illness by identifying criminogenic risk factors (factors known to impact recidivism) and developing a comprehensive case plan that is responsive to the needs of the participant. The plan addresses mental health and substance abuse issues, educational and vocational deficits, family and relationship problems, criminal thinking, and housing. The plan promotes engagement in meaningful activities and increases overall social functioning.

Objectives of the Anchorage Community Resources Project

- Promote public safety
- Reduce inappropriate incarceration of offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities and promote their well-being in the community
- Relieve the burden on the Department of Corrections presented by inmates with mental health disorders or disabilities
- Reduce repeated criminal activity among offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities (legal recidivism)
- Reduce psychiatric hospitalization of offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities (clinical recidivism)

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for participation in ACRP, a defendant must be:

- Charged with a misdemeanor or Class C felony
- Diagnosed with a mental illness (a beneficiary of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority)
- Residing in the Municipality of Anchorage
- Willing to voluntarily participate in an individualized case plan in lieu of traditional bail or sentencing conditions
- Eligible to receive community behavioral health services

How does ACRP (Mental Health Court) Work?

The court diverts eligible offenders with mental health disorders or disabilities from jail and into appropriate community treatment, focusing on their individual therapeutic and criminogenic needs (factors that are predictive of recidivism). With the second generation of mental health courts, we follow criminal justice research that emphasizes the importance of addressing criminogenic needs when the case plan is developed.

Collaborative Team Approach: An important highlight of ACRP is to provide a single point of contact for a criminal defendant with a mental health disorder or disability. The project provides a multidisciplinary team of designated and trained judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers who consistently participate in court hearings.

Community Treatment: A defendant is eligible to receive assistance from the project in developing, coordinating, and monitoring an individualized case plan. The court orders that plan as a condition of bail or probation. Participants are monitored by probation officers who work exclusively with CRP. CRP probation officers are employed by the Division of Behavioral Health, Alcohol Safety Action Program. Probation officers provide treatment and resource matching, and linkage to and monitoring of the case plan.

Monitoring by the Court

The court monitors the participant's adherence to the case plan through regularly held status hearings and receives reports on the participant's progress. If treatment non-adherence occurs, the court may adjust the plan to motivate adherence or employ non-jail-based sanctions or incarceration.

Invitation

Court is open to the public and anyone may observe ACRP Hearings.

NOTE: for telephonic/Zoom access to ACRP hearings, contact the Project Coordinator as noted below.

Judge Michael Logue
Courtroom 28
Mondays at 2:45 pm

Judge Pamela Washington
Courtroom 28
Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:45 pm

Boney Courthouse, 303 K Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

For more information, contact:

Kate Sumey, Project Coordinator
303 K Street, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 264-0886
Fax: (907) 265-0137
ksumey@akcourts.gov

Referral Process

Anyone can make a referral to the Anchorage Coordinated Resources Project. Police, corrections staff, lawyers, friends, family members, community behavioral health providers, judges, and court staff can alert the Project Coordinator that a defendant may be eligible to have their case heard in this therapeutic court.

For more information on court observation days and times, or to make a referral, contact the Project Coordinator at (907) 264-0886 or send an email to ksumey@akcourts.gov.

Coordinated Resources Project Partnerships

The Anchorage Coordinated Resources Project is a collaborative effort of:

- Alaska Court System
- Alaska Department of Corrections
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
- Alaska Department of Law
- Alaska Public Defender Agency
- Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP)
- Anchorage Municipal Prosecutor's Office
- Denali Law Group
- Criminal Defense Attorneys
- Community Behavioral Health Providers
- Consumers and Family Members