

House Appropriations



Behavioral/Mental Health Dockets

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Rule of Court -1:25 Specialty Dockets

Specialized court dockets operate within the existing structure of Virginia's circuit and district court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment, supervision, and remediation integral to case disposition.

Specialty dockets are those which

- Require more than simply the adjudication of discrete legal issues,
- Present a common dynamic underlying the legally cognizable behavior,
- Require the coordination of services and treatment to address that underlying dynamic, and
- Focus primarily on the remediation of the defendant in these dockets.

Behavioral/Mental Health Dockets

Offer defendants with diagnosed behavioral or mental health disorders judicially supervised, community-based treatment plans, which a team of court staff and mental health professionals design and implement.

Authorization and Oversight

- Specialty dockets must seek authorization with the Supreme Court of Virginia to operate
 - Behavioral Health Docket Advisory Committee established for this purpose
- Must demonstrate sufficient local support for establishment and continuation

Behavioral/Mental Health Docket Advisory Committee

- Shall establish the training and **operation standards** for local behavioral health dockets.
- Any **funds** necessary to operate the behavioral health docket shall be the responsibility of the locality and the local court, but may be provided via state appropriations and federal grants.
- Any behavioral health docket established shall provide information necessary for the **continuing evaluation** of the effectiveness and efficiency of all specialty dockets.

Behavioral Health Docket Standards & Application

- **Application** process for authorization
 - Requires documented training, description of target population, proposed start date and signatures of presiding judge and coordinator
- **Standards** for Behavioral Health Dockets in Virginia
 - 11 standards distill the best of research and practice into standards that foster high-quality programming and accountability for behavioral health dockets

Behavioral Health Dockets in Virginia

Operational 9

- Chesapeake General District
- Norfolk Circuit
- Norfolk General District
- Petersburg General District
- Prince William General District
- Richmond General District
- Richmond JDR
- Roanoke General District
- Staunton General District

Non-operational 4

- Newport News General District
- Loudoun General District
- Richmond Circuit
- Virginia Beach General District

Funding

- DBHDS provided the following information
 - estimated about **\$250,000** per year for a docket start up
 - Funds are used for a docket coordinator position (either with the court or the CSB), as well as clinical services, emergency client funds for meds/housing/clothing/transportation, and it could also cover some costs for staff time from pretrial/probation.
 - DBHDS estimated based on the staffing costs (including fringe) of a CSB or court staff person and also estimated ½ time probation/pretrial staff and approx. \$5000 in client funds per year.



Questions?