

# Mental Health/Substance Abuse Corrections Outreach Intensive Treatment Program (MCOIT)

Mental Health Substance Abuse Corrections Outreach Treatment (MCOIT) program is designed to assist persons who are on parole or completing their maximum sentence from prison. The program helps individuals successfully adjust to community living with a crime-free lifestyle. A multi-disciplinary team of professionals trained in both mental health and substance abuse treatment including an on-site parole agent and a vocational rehabilitation counselor provides services. It is a cross-system (mental health and criminal justice) initiative to reduce the number of mental ill persons who are caught up in the criminal justice system.

The program was established to reduce prison recidivism and substance abuse relapse, stabilize mental illness and improve a parolee's overall functioning in the community.

## Program Description

MCOIT is based on an assertive community treatment model (ACT) designed to provide substance abuse and mental health treatment through multiple contacts with the client both in the community and in the MCOIT office. The services offered include the following:

- Psychiatric consultation;
- Medication Therapy;
- 24 hour staff support;
- Educational groups;
- Individual and family counseling;
- Physical examination;
- Activity groups;
- Introduction to self-help groups like AA/NA;
- Vocational testing and training;
- Transportation to and from the MCOIT office as needed.

Referrals are made by parole agents or directly from the mental health units at correctional facilities. During this process, the parole agent not only screens the client, but he also screens the family to determine the level of support that will be available or be elicited through family training.

The M-COIT program team consists of people cross-trained in mental health and substance abuse: program coordinator/supervisor, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse, two social workers, an outreach worker, a rehabilitation counselor, secretary, a parole agent whose caseload is limited to M-COIT clients.

## Target Population and Eligibility criteria:

M-COIT was designed to serve mentally ill prisoners eligible for parole to Wayne County; mentally ill prisoners from Wayne County who have completed their sentence and are returning to Wayne County; and mentally ill parolees in Wayne County who are at risk for parole violation if they do not have more intensive mental health services that are linked to parole services. These prisoners or parolees must:

- Meet Community Mental Health eligibility for Medical Necessity for CMH services,
- Be willing to commit to a treatment contract, and
- If on parole, accept the condition of continued mental health treatment as long as medically necessary as a condition of parole.

## Evaluation

At every step, the team assesses how each individual is moving toward the goals that were mutually established. Feedback is sought from family members, often through visits to the home.

Success is gauged by how a participant

- Remains drug free;
- Committed no new crime;
- Is accepting of his/her medication;
- Has achieved a quality of life that is conducive to recovery and independence;
- Has the basic necessities of food/clothing/shelter;
- Participates actively in the socialization process.

*For more information, call  
(313) 389-2209.*

