

### *FOCUS OF JMHC*

- ◆ Place minor in the least restrictive mental health treatment environment consistent with public safety, the safety of the minor, and the minor's treatment needs
- ◆ Assist minor in getting into an appropriate school setting
- ◆ Establish linkages with community services and support systems
- ◆ Monitor the treatment while minor is in custody and when released
- ◆ Assist with coordination of care with multiple agency partners

### *ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES*

#### **JMHC TEAM**

This collaborative interagency multidisciplinary team develops an individualized case plan for each eligible minor referred to the court. This plan includes intensively monitored home, family, therapeutic, educational, and adult transition services.

## JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURT

EASTLAKE JUVENILE COURT  
1601 EASTLAKE AVE.  
DEPARTMENT 203  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90033

PH 323/227-4303

### *VISION STATEMENT*

The Juvenile Mental Health Court will redirect juvenile offenders with mental health diagnoses to therapeutic environments for treatment of mental health conditions, with the goal of reducing recidivism and enabling each youth to function as a healthy, productive member of the community.

# JMHC

TREATMENT | SAFETY | RESPONSIBILITY | JUSTICE | EDUCATION

## JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURT



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Many juveniles who suffer from mental disorders and/or developmental disabilities, enter and leave the juvenile justice system without a diagnosis or treatment.

In October 2001, the Juvenile Mental Health Court (JMHC), a comprehensive, judicially monitored program for juvenile offenders with mental health problems, was established to address these issues.

### ***THE JMHC MISSION***

- ◆ Foster collaboration between youth, family, mental health, school, and juvenile justice professionals to provide the delivery of comprehensive therapeutic services
- ◆ Rehabilitate offenders
- ◆ Reduce recidivism
- ◆ Promote community safety

The minor and parents are an integral part of the therapeutic process and participate regularly in court, at school meetings, and in counseling. Minors, as well as the agencies serving the minors, are held accountable.

### **PROBATION OFFICER**

The JMHC Probation Officers are the Probation Department's liaison to the Court. The Deputy Probation Officer supervises minors participating in the project. The probation officer's role is to protect both the interests of the minor and community in the screening, disposition, and supervision process. Once minors have been placed either in the home or in out-of-home placements, the probation officer coordinates the minor's services, ensures that minors follow their conditions of probation, and facilitates continuity of care through appropriate discharge planning.

### **EDUCATION LIAISON**

Healthy Minds Consulting provides education liaison services to assess the educational needs of the minor and assist in the development of an educational plan. This includes facilitating the referral process for special education assessment when indicated; attending Individualized Education Program and other school meetings; maintaining ongoing communication with families, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, administrators, and other service providers to monitor the minor's school progress and create an educational program that will meet the minor's needs.

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

The prosecutor assigned to the JMHC negotiates dispositions of cases, and determines which cases are appropriate for the court, balancing the minors needs with considerations of public safety.

### **DEFENSE ATTORNEY**

The defense attorney, with the assistance of a social worker, advocates on behalf of the minor to secure mental health services from all available community resources. The attorney works with the family, local mental health organizations, school districts, regional centers, probation, and/or the Department of Children and Family Services to obtain for the minor every benefit to which he or she is legally entitled. The attorney is also responsible for holding each service provider accountable for actually providing the assistance they have agreed to give the minor.

### **MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS**

A psychiatrist and psychologist from UCLA provide psychiatric consultation to the JMHC team. These consultative services include thoroughly reviewing the minor's mental health records, conducting psychological interviews with minors and their families, collaborating with community mental health providers to ensure appropriateness and implementation of services, and providing ongoing and as-needed recommendations to the JMHC team. This facilitates the development of individualized treatment plans which take into consideration the minor's diagnosis, culture, family involvement, and available resources.