Goals of MICAP

- Reduce stigma of a criminal record for persons with mental illness
- Improve the overall quality of life and increase the productivity of defendants with mental illness
- Reduce the time and costs of incarceration and psychiatric hospitalization
- Reduce police contacts
- Redirecting defendants with mental illness away from the traditional court system to community-based treatment

Key elements of MICAP

- Specialized court docket employing a problem solving, non-adversarial approach
- Community based treatment plans designed by court and mental health professionals
- Compliance with treatment plan is closely monitored. Sanctions are imposed for non-compliance and incentives are given to reward compliance

MICAP Program Staff

Judge Bruce Kelsey
Karen Considine, Probation Supervisor
Cheryl Kayton, Probation Officer
Deena Kuranda, Probation Officer
Jean Solon, Program Manager

Kathy Bachmann, Assistant State’s Attorney
Ruth Walstra, Deputy Chief Public Defender

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Andrew O’Brien, LCPC, CADC, Senior Clinician Consultant
Program Overview

- MICAP is the Mental Illness Court Alternative Program. The program is intended for persons whose mental illness symptoms contributed to the commission of a crime.
- The concept is to provide treatment in lieu of punishment.
- Duration of the program is 12-30 months, and is determined by the nature of the offense, treatment needs and compliance.
- After successful completion of the program, the criminal charges may be reduced or dismissed.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must be age 18 and above, and be a DuPage county resident.
- Sex offenses and DUI charges are ineligible for MICAP.
- Applicant must be diagnosed with an Axis I major mental illness.
- Victim must consent when appropriate.
- Applicant must have a desire and willingness to participate in the program.

The Referral Process

- Defense attorney must file a MICAP application and complete an application packet according to procedures posted in each courtroom.
- Assistant State’s Attorney reviews the criminal history, offense report and application packet to determine initial eligibility.
- If appropriate, a Probation Officer and Mental Health Clinician meet with the candidate to complete a criminal risk assessment, a mental health treatment needs assessment, and to assess the motivation and willingness of the applicant to participate in the program.
- If all criteria are met, and applicant appears motivated for treatment, they will be accepted to the program. A treatment plan will then be developed with the participant and MICAP team.

Treatment Plan

- Participants must comply with a treatment plan. The individualized treatment plan is based upon: clinical symptoms, criminal risk factors, strengths and goals of the participant, and may include:
  - Meeting with psychiatrist and compliance with psychiatric medication
  - Regular visits with mental health clinician and probation officer
  - Regular court appearances
  - Treatment for co-occurring substance abuse/addiction if needed
  - Other interventions may include: anger management counseling, employment coaching, assistance with benefit application, individual therapy, other disorder-specific treatment as needed