

MIND (Males in Need of Direction) Court Info Sheet

289th District Court, Bexar County

Target population: boys, ages 10-16, non-aggravated offenses, moderate risk level, involved family.
Exclusions: diagnoses of psychosis, only conduct disorder or ODD, IDD, and severe substances abuse.

Bexar County previously created a juvenile girls mental health court, and no similar opportunity existed for juvenile boys. MIND Court's mission is to end involvement in the juvenile justice system for boys with mental health needs through a comprehensive family and community response.

Initial funding: grant from Bureau of Justice Assistance, www.bja.gov

Planning:

1. Getting started and identifying goals
2. Developing collaborative strategies
3. Defining or refining your target population
4. Identifying evidence-based services and supports
5. Data collection, performance measurement, and program evaluation
6. Sustainability

Model:

- Specialty Court Model coupled with Intervention
- Court meets 2x/month
- Staffing occurs right before court
 - Staffing for admission and status review
- Treatment staffing occurs on a weekly basis
- Intensive treatment: home-based, individual, group, and family therapy; life skills training; substance use prevention/intervention; parent training

Resources:

- National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, www.ncmhjj.com
- Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, www.samhsa.gov
- 1 in 5 Minds, www.1in5minds.org
- National Alliance of Mental Illness San Antonio, www.nami-sat.org
- Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, www.texasfederationoffamilies.org