

# Palmer Coordinated Resources Project

## What is the Palmer Coordinated Resources Project (PCRP)?

The Palmer Coordinated Resources Project is a “problem solving or therapeutic court” that hears cases involving individuals with mental health disorders who have been charged with low-risk misdemeanor offenses.

The program focuses on ensuring community treatment and services in lieu of incarceration with the ultimate goal of preventing further contacts with the criminal justice system.

The PCRP was established by the Alaska Court System (ACS) in 1998 to address the unique needs of misdemeanor offenders with mental health disorders. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and ACS provide funding for the project.

### Objective of the PCRP:

- Promote public safety
- Reduce inappropriate incarceration of offenders with mental health disorders and promote their well being in the community
- Reduce repeated contacts with the criminal justice system by offenders with mental disorders (legal recidivism)
- Reduce psychiatric hospitalization of offenders with mental disorders (clinical recidivism)
- Relieve the burden on the Department of Corrections presented by inmates with mental health disorders

## Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for participation in the PCRP, a defendant must be:

- Charged with a misdemeanor offense with no felony involvement in other cases, or on probation
- A beneficiary of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (Alaska who experience mental illness; mental retardation or similar disabilities; chronic alcoholism with psychosis; or Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia)
- Resides within the Mat-Su Borough and be eligible to receive community treatment services
- Willing to voluntarily participate in an individualized treatment plan in lieu of traditional bail or sentencing conditions

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## How does the program work?

The court diverts low-risk misdemeanor offenders with mental health disorders from jail and into appropriate community treatment, focusing on the individual therapeutic needs of the Defendant.

**Collaboration:** The Project involves a team of designated and specially trained judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and case coordinators who consistently participate in court hearings.

### Community Based Treatment:

The Defendants is eligible to receive assistance from the project in developing, coordinating, and monitoring an individualized community treatment plan. The court orders the plan as a condition of bail or probation. Coordination and monitoring of community treatment plans is provided by the Department of Corrections' CRP Case Coordinator.

**Monitoring by the Court:** The court monitors the Defendant's treatment plan through regularly held status hearings. During status hearings, the court hears reports on the Defendant's progress in treatment.

## Referral Information

Anyone can refer a person to the Palmer Coordinated Resources Project.

Police, corrections staff, lawyers, friends, family members, community behavioral health providers, judges, and court staff can alert the Project Coordinator that a defendant may be eligible to have their case heard in the project.

For more information or to make a referral, contact the Project

Coordinator:

Kristin Hull

435 S. Denali

Palmer, AK 99645

907-746-8142

907-746-8151 (fax).

## Coordinated Resources Project Partnerships

The Palmer Coordinated Resources Project (PCRP) is supported by the Alaska Court System and funded by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. It relies on collaborative partnerships developed between community services and other agencies that provide designated staff for the project or have created specialized direct services for PCRP participants. The chief project partners working together to better assist individuals with mental disorders and coordinate service delivery are:

- Alaska Court System
- Alaska Department of Corrections
- Alaska Department of Law
- Alaska District Attorney's Office
- Alaska Family Services
- Alaska Public Defender Agency
- Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
- Mat-Su Behavioral Health Services
- Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults
- Daybreak Mental Health Services

For more information about this publication, please call the  
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