

Continuity of Care

The number of seriously mentally ill (SMI) individuals in the criminal justice system continues to grow year after year. The Superior Court's Comprehensive Mental Health Court (CMHC) identifies SMI individuals in the criminal justice system who are eligible for treatment. The CMHC oversees compliance with treatment orders.

- Often an SMI individual is in jail instead of receiving medical treatment because necessary information is unavailable early in the process.
- An SMI individual, previously on court ordered treatment, can be convicted instead of being evaluated.
- Manually updated pretrial reports cobbled from different databases can be inefficient and mistake prone.
- SMI individuals can frequently "fall through the cracks."

The Superior Court's Court Technology Services (CTS) developed the "Continuity of Care" application, which helps SMI with seamless treatment. Vital information is condensed, presented, and shared with service providers and the Court.

- The treatment agency has new data screens for entering data for court hearings.
- A "Continuity of Care" calendar provides useful information to system users.
- A modified "Initial Appearance/Pre-trial Services Admin Report" reduces manual data entry for Pretrial.

CMHC hearings are now more effective because judges and attorneys have vital information regarding SMI individuals much sooner. Limited county resources are used more effectively.



Commissioner Michael Hintze conducts a Comprehensive Mental Health Court staffing.



Commissioner Hintze during a Mental Health Court Session