
Invitation:

Court is open to the public and anyone may observe PCRCP hearings.

Judge William Estelle
Courtroom 3

Judge Gregory Heath
Courtroom 4

Judge David Zwink
Courtroom 5

Palmer Courthouse
435 S. Denali, Palmer AK 99645
Tuesdays at 2:30 pm

Please call ahead to find out which judge will be presiding: 907-746-8142, Project Coordinator

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:

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khull@akcourts.us

Coordinated Resources Project Partnerships

The Palmer Coordinated Resources Project (PCRCP) is a collaborative effort of:

- Alaska Court System
- Alaska Department of Corrections
- Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP)
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- 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
- Set Free Alaska

For more information about this publication, please call the Alaska Court System Administrative Office at
(907) 264-8240
820 West Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Alaska Therapeutic Courts

Palmer Coordinated Resources Project

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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 2005 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 criminal activity among mentally disabled offenders (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 or a low level felony offense crime
- Diagnosed with a mental illness (a beneficiary of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority)
- Residing within the Mat-Su Borough
- Eligible to receive community treatment services
- Willing to voluntarily participate in an individualized case plan in lieu of traditional bail or sentencing conditions

How does Palmer CRP work?

The court diverts eligible offenders with mental health disorders from jail and into appropriate community treatment, focusing on their individual therapeutic and criminogenic needs (factors that are predictive of recidivism). With the second generation of mental health courts we follow criminal justice research that emphasizes the importance of addressing criminogenic needs when the case plan is developed.

Collaborative team approach: An important highlight of the CRP project is to provide a single point of contact for a criminal defendant with a mental health disorder. The project provides a multidisciplinary team of designated and trained judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and probation officers who consistently participate in court hearings.

Community Treatment: A defendant is eligible to receive assistance from the projects in developing, coordinating and monitoring an individualized case plan. The court orders that plan as a condition of bail or probation. Participants are monitored by Probation Officers who work exclusively with the CRP projects. CRP Probation Officers are employed by the Division of Behavioral Health, Alcohol Safety Action Program. Probation Officers provide treatment and resource matching, linkage to and monitoring of the case plan.

Monitoring by the Court: The court monitors the participant’s adherence to the case plan through regularly held status hearings and receives reports on the participant’s progress. If treatment non-adherence occurs, the court may adjust the plan to motivate adherence or employ non-jail-based sanctions or incarceration.