MARICOPA COUNTY ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT AND REGIONAL
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

I. Background

The Maricopa County Superior Court’s Adult Probation Department (APD) enhances community safety by working in a collaborative partnership with the Maricopa County Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) and its contracted providers to provide research-based prevention and intervention services. Contracted providers deliver a range of behavioral health care services and treatment programs for adults with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders and children with serious emotional disturbance.

A critical component of managing and reducing offender risk in the community is a blended model of criminal justice and treatment affording the offender viable opportunities for change. By participating in services offered by the RBHA and APD, members can direct their own change.

Through this collaboration, APD and the RBHA will provide members with the behavioral health services they need, and in turn decrease recidivism and harm, thus avoiding further re-incarceration of these individuals.

II. Target Population

A person becomes engaged with APD at Pretrial or the Presentence processes and can be granted probation, with or without a term of jail, or sentenced to Department of Corrections (DOC) with a consecutive probation grant. Consequently, APD is engaged in re-entry when DOC and Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) release inmates to the community contingent on the terms of probation.

In FY2013, on a monthly basis, APD supervised 2,274 defendants on Pretrial supervision, 20,186 standard probationers (including specialized caseloads) and 709 intensive supervision probationers. Three critical specialized caseloads are the seriously mentally ill (SMI) caseloads, which averaged 610 probationers, the sex offender caseloads, which averaged 1,976 probationers and the Transferred Youth population, which averaged 220 adolescent and young adult probationers. The entire average monthly population was 51,764.

APD uses a standardized statewide risk/needs assessment tool, known as the Offender Screening Tool (OST) or Field Re-Assessment Offender Screening Tool (FROST) that has been validated to identify risk to re-offend and areas of criminogenic need. The risk categories are high, medium-high, medium- low and low. The areas of criminogenic need are mental health, vocational/financial, education, family and social relationships, residence and neighborhood, alcohol and/or drug abuse, attitude and criminal behavior. First-time and repeat offenders in need
of mental health or substance abuse services will be referred to the RBHA for eligibility screening and to ensure the appropriate services and level of care are assigned to them.

As of February 2014, APD identified, through OST and FROST assessments, 33% of probationers needing to address mental health factors, 27% needing to address alcohol abuse issues and 55% needing to address drug abuse issues.

A very small percentage of critical populations experience homelessness and will need housing services. Those populations are SMI, sex offenders, SMI sex offenders, Transferred Youth and higher risk substance abusers engaged in treatment but in need of a sober living environment.

The RBHA is available to provide integrated health care to individuals eligible under the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) who are in the pretrial process, or sentenced to probation and who are designated as SMI or who meet the criteria to receive general mental health/substance abuse (GMH/SA) services. Upon receipt of referral, the RBHA and their contracted providers will assist eligible probationers in need of services by assessing and engaging them in targeted services.

III. Programmatic Basis of Agreement

The RBHA will work with APD in coordinating the delivery of mental health and substance abuse services to persons served by both organizations (known hereafter as “members”), provide mechanisms for resolving problems, develop a standardized automated information sharing process, address the resources each contributes to the care and support of persons mutually served, arrange for co-location of services, if applicable, and identify and address joint training needs.

Additionally, the Affordable Care Act and the Arizona restoration of Medicaid provides a much needed opportunity to increase access to services by enrolling all eligible members into AHCCCS. Both agencies shall jointly share this responsibility.

Agreement Goals

1. Coordinate the delivery of behavioral health services to persons served by both organizations

APD will engage, assist and enroll in healthcare as many members as feasible, who are processed through the Assessment Center, which generally occurs when an offender is in the Pre-Sentence stage or is new to probation. APD will support and reinforce efforts by the RBHA and its contracted providers to enroll eligible probationers and defendants in AHCCCS. Given the dynamic and transient nature of probationers, APD will continue to inquire about probationers’ healthcare needs and refer the uninsured to AHCCCS.

The RBHA will require its contracted providers to engage, assist and enroll eligible probationers in behavioral health services.
The RBHA, in cooperation with APD pursuant to Administrative Order 2014-092 dated 07-08-2014, will identify, screen and engage all individuals who are eligible for SMI and children's services. In addition, the RBHA and APD will work together to screen and engage GMH/SA eligible individuals.

A. IDENTIFY:

Per Administrative Order 2014-092 dated 07-08-2014, the RBHA will provide APD with the following data:

a. First, Middle and Last Name, and known aliases of the individual
b. Last four digits of SSN
c. Date of birth, gender and the ethnicity of the individual
d. Whether the subject individual is, or has been previously, enrolled as a client of the RBHA in Maricopa County and has been designated as SMI
e. Whether the subject individuals is enrolled or previously enrolled as a client of the RBHA in Maricopa County as a youth involved in children’s services
f. Name of clinic or provider, name of case manager and telephone number

The RBHA-contracted crisis intervention provider will contact APD Specialized SMI Officers/Specialized Sex Offender SMI Officers on all APD identified cases when a crisis mobile team has been dispatched to a shared client, or the crisis team member needs assistance from a Specialized SMI Officer to help a shared client.

B. SCREEN:

The RBHA will require its contracted providers, in collaboration with APD to screen APD members referred for mental health and/or substance abuse treatment services and/or housing according to guidelines outlined in the RBHA Provider Manual

C. ENGAGE:

The RBHA will provide necessary medical services to enrolled children, GMH/SA, and SMI individuals in accordance with their eligibility. Services may include but are not limited to:

a. Medical Care
b. Behavioral Health Care
c. Case Management
d. Supportive Housing
e. Supportive Employment
f. Transportation
g. Crisis Response
h. Additional services as covered by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment Services (AHCCCS)

The RBHA will require its contracted providers, in collaboration with APD, to attend multi-disciplinary team meetings and/or mental health court.

The RBHA will require its contracted providers to make available Peer Support persons to assist SMI recipients. Support personnel will attend mental health court sessions, be available to co-locate at designated probation offices in Maricopa County if needed, provide behavioral health screenings and transition and support services for identified APD members transitioning from incarceration.

2. Provide mechanisms for communication and resolving problems

APD and RBHA management will have quarterly meetings to build and strengthen relationships and address any problems or conflicts. Additionally, the RBHA will identify provider level meetings, appropriate for APD participation.

Meetings shall include opportunities for agency cross-training to increase understanding and knowledge of each other’s mission, goals and how they are achieved.

The RBHA and APD will work together to ensure processes from both agencies are being practiced and remain up to date within the RBHA Provider Manual, including its annual review. APD will be notified of any changes in the Provider Manual that could impact shared members.

The RBHA and APD will identify key staff who have the authority to assist with disputes and find resolutions based on the agreements and best interest of the populations both jointly serve. If necessary this may include the Chief Clinical Officer and the Deputy Chief Probation Officer.

Meetings shall include opportunities to report identified gaps in services (types of services, accessibility and frequency) and discuss solutions.

3. Develop standardized information sharing processes

The Arizona Department of Health Services, the APD and the RBHA maintain a formal agreement (Administrative Order 2014-092) authorizing information sharing between agencies on defendants and probationers processed through the criminal justice system in order to provide continuity of care, supervision, and appropriate sentencing and treatment recommendations to the Court.

The APD and the RBHA shall continue to collaborate and work towards adopting a systemized, electronic and secure method to exchange relevant, accurate and real-time member case information necessary to provide Court recommendations and improve continuity of care.
The APD and the RBHA shall each maintain the confidentiality of information exchanged and shall not disseminate information to any person or entity not under each agency’s supervision or control except as permitted by applicable law, rule, regulation or Administrative Order.

4. **Address the resources each contributes to the care and support of persons mutually served**

The APD will provide current assessment results, case plans and probation status and probation officer contact information to the RBHA.

The RBHA will require its contracted providers in collaboration with the Specialized SMI Unit Officers to determine which probationers are eligible for the Morten Housing Project. The RBHA and its contracted providers will support eligible probationers/recipient in this housing project with wrap-around and supportive services as outlined in the RBHA Provider Manual.

With the member’s consent, the RBHA’s contracted providers will invite APD to staffings, ISP updates and other service planning meetings at clinics or other locations when APD or the contracted provider indicates a need to make joint decisions on a probationer/offender facing challenges in the community or in jail.

The RBHA and its contracted providers will provide court liaisons and peer-support specialists in mental health court and be part of the multi-disciplinary team with the Superior Court Judge. RBHA contracted provider staff may also need to be present to staff cases in mental health court and other courts in addition to the RBHA court liaison.

The RBHA and the APD will continue participating in designing, development, submission, implementation and evaluation of grant projects.

5. **Arrange for co-locations of services, if applicable**

APD and the RBHA will continue to explore and implement co-location of services as appropriate.

6. **Identify and address joint training needs**

The RBHA, its contracted providers and APD will provide cross training opportunities as needs are identified which includes: specialized training for Specialized SMI Officers, overview of the BH system, overview of APD and other topics as mutually identified.

APD will provide T4C Facilitator training to the RBHA and any provider that will be working with APD members. “Thinking For A Change” is a public-domain evidence based program. Probation will partner with the RBHA to provide train-the-trainer and a
IV. Review

This collaborative protocol shall be reviewed annually and updated as mutually agreeable by both parties.

Signatures

Eddy Broadway, Mercy Maricopa Chief Executive Officer  
Date 09-09-14

Barbara Broderick, Chief Probation Officer  
Date 9-12-14