

## JTASC at a GLANCE

### WHAT IS JTASC?

The **Juvenile Treatment and Support Court** (JTASC) is a joint effort between the 17th Circuit Court Family Division and Network180, Kent County's Community Mental Health Authority. The special court docket has been designed to support youth, and their families, who because of their severe mental health challenges, have become involved with the juvenile justice system. We want you to be successful at home, school, and in the community!

### GOALS OF JTASC?

- 1.) Connect youth and family with the right services at the right time, along with intensive supervision and monitoring, risk for future contact with the legal system will be reduced or eliminated. We want you to be successful at home, school, and in the community!
- 2.) Offer youth a supportive team and a compassionate court process that is responsive to their needs.

### WHO QUALIFIES?

- Youth residing in Kent County MI.
- Youth who have been charged and intend to plead guilty to alleged charges.
- Youth who meet legal eligibility criteria as determined by the prosecutor's office. Youth with a prior or current CSC charge or are charged with a violent crime that resulted in significant bodily harm or death are statutorily *ineligible*.
- Youth who have a primary mental health diagnosis that is chronic and pervasive and seriously impacts their ability to function in many life domains. Must have a minimum CAFAS of 80.

### WHAT IS IN IT FOR THE YOUTH?

**JTASC is a treatment court that provides compassion with accountability.** JTASC is not an easy way to avoid criminal charges or a residential placement. It will be necessary for you, along with your parent/guardian, to make sacrifices to be fully engaged in treatment and to successfully complete JTASC.

In exchange for complying with JTASC requirements you may be offered a plea from the prosecutor's office. The plea **may** include the following if JTASC is successfully completed.

- A plea may be held in abeyance
- Dismissal of charge
- Reduction of charge
- No change in charge but youth may be able to remain in the community.

#### WHAT IF THE YOUTH DOESN'T SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE JTASC?

- If you are discharged or terminated prior to successful completion from JTASC your case will return to the jurisdiction of the original judge. This Judge will accept your previously entered guilty plea and rule on your case as if you had not participated in JTASC.

#### WHAT DOES JTASC PARTICIPATION LOOK LIKE?



**COURT HEARINGS.** You must initially come to court once a week to report to the judge. This will decrease to once every other week, and then once per month, depending on multiple factors including whether your mental health has been stable and if you've been compliant with court orders.

**HOW LONG?** JTASC can be completed in a year but it may take longer if the youth needs additional time.

#### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF TASC?

**TREATMENT** You must follow the treatment plan developed by the psychiatrist and behavioural health team you are working with. This means that while you are in JTASC you must:

- Take all medications as prescribed.
- Attend and participate in all treatment sessions including counselling and group sessions (if assigned).
- Submit to mental health, neurological, substance use assessments as requested to guide treatment.
- Attend Recovery Meetings if ordered by the Judge.

**CONDITIONS OF PROBATION.** You must follow standard (not unique to JTASC) probation conditions, including follow house rules, curfew, attend school, submit to drug testing to monitor abstinence from drugs and alcohol, no weapons, avoid negative peers, etc. You will meet with the JTASC Probation Officer Weekly.