

## SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Screening and assessment.
- Weekly hearings before the presiding justice and Court team.
- Specialized dual diagnosis intensive outpatient and outpatient treatment with an additional focus on criminogenic risks and needs.
- Access to consultation for psychotropic medications.
- Frequent and random drug and alcohol testing.
- Wraparound forensic case management.
- Enhanced access to ancillary services such as housing, education, and vocational services.

To make referrals  
contact:

Roxanne Dimarco, Assistant  
Clerk  
Kennebec County Superior  
Courthouse  
95 State Street  
Augusta, ME. 04330  
624-5800

For further information  
contact:

Hartwell Dowling  
Administrative Office of  
the Courts  
171 State House Station  
Augusta, ME. 04333  
Tel. 287-4021  
TTY 287-7553

BUSINESS NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE 00000

## MAINE CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS COURT



**A SPECIALIZED DOCKET OF THE MAINE SUPERIOR  
COURT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KENNEBEC AND  
SOMERSET COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,  
MAINE PRETRIAL SERVICES, AND CRISIS AND  
COUNSELING CENTERS, INC.**

## WHAT IS A CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS COURT?

There is a growing recognition that people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders (co-occurring disorders) fare poorly in jail. They stay longer, cost more, decompensate and require crisis intervention and psychiatric hospitalization, are in a worse condition when they are released, cycle between treatment, the street, and jail; and recidivate at higher rates.

Among the diversion programs that achieve much better outcomes is a specialized court docket for individuals with co-occurring disorders. This Court provides judicial oversight, strict monitoring, rapid access to specialized treatment, and case management services in lieu of jail or a reduced sentence for successful completion. All decisions are made by a multidisciplinary team including the judge, prosecutor, clinician, and case manager, among others.

The *Maine Co-Occurring Disorders Court* preserves public safety by establishing close monitoring of the participant in the community, required compliance with the program to remain in the community, and consequently breaks the cycle of repeat offending rooted in untreated mental illness and substance abuse.

## HISTORY

The *Maine Co-Occurring Disorders Court* (MCODC) was initiated in June of 2005. A federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance supported the expansion of the Court. Due to the successful experience of the Court, additional federal funding was sought and received from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to serve more clients in Kennebec County and to expand into Somerset County in the winter of 2008. Additionally, case management and treatment services have been enhanced to address criminogenic risks and needs in the target population.

MCODC graduates report that the Court has helped them turn their lives around and that they are now sober, law-abiding, and productive citizens of Maine.

The *MCODC Steering Committee* consists of the Hon. Nancy Mills, Justice, Superior Court, Evert Fowle, District Attorney for Kennebec and Somerset Counties, and representatives of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections, Maine Pretrial Services, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Kennebec County Correctional Facility, the Disability Rights Center, consumers and graduates, Crisis and Counseling Services, the Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine, Hornby Zeller Associates, the Somerset County Sheriff's Office, the defense bars of Kennebec and Somerset Counties, as well as other stakeholders.

## REFERRALS AND ADMISSIONS TO THE CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS COURT

Eligibility criteria:

- 18 years of age or older.
- Documented substance abuse disorder and mental illness.
- Guilty plea to misdemeanors or felonies; probation violations may be accepted.
- Moderate to high risk in terms of needs and risk of recidivism.
- Capacity to give consent and participate in court sessions.
- Voluntary.
- Residency in Kennebec or Somerset Counties.

Referrals are accepted from a variety of sources, including defense attorneys, the District Attorney's Office, family members, the Kennebec County Correctional Facility and Somerset County Jail, advocacy organizations, and the courts. All referrals are screened by the MCOCD team. A formal screening process is completed by the Maine Pretrial Services forensic case managers and referrals to Crisis and Counseling Centers and other service providers are made as indicated for a comprehensive psychosocial and substance abuse evaluation. Felony and misdemeanor offenses may be accepted. Accepted clients must either be or will upon acceptance become residents of Kennebec County or Somerset County.

Integrated treatment consistent with best practices for intervening with individuals with co-occurring disorders in the criminal justice system is provided.

