

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN GALVESTON COUNTY AND THE GALVESTON COUNTY COMMUNITY
SUPERVISION AND CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT
REGARDING “HOPE” DRUG COURT AND MENTAL HEALTH COURT EMPLOYEES

Whereas, Galveston County (the “County”) currently and in the future may create various specialty court programs, including the Drug Court and the Mental Health Court.

Whereas, currently, the Galveston County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (the “CSCD”) provides operational support for these programs for the County, but certain positions within these programs, including the Specialty Court Administrator, Drug Court Community Supervision Officer (“CSO”), Mental Health CSO, Mental Health Misdemeanor Docket CSO, Mental Health Clinician, and Mental Health Case Worker work on a daily basis with input from a variety of stakeholders, creating potential administrative confusion and potential negative consequences for the county and department.

Whereas, the County and the CSCD wish to provide the CSCD with appropriate authority over employees serving the “HOPE” Drug Court and Mental Health Court programs it supports, and to facilitate this goal and to provide the CSCD with administrative accountability to directly oversee these specialty court employees, including, but not limited to, those six (6) positions listed above. This will allow the CSCD to support the specialty courts more effectively and efficiently.

The purpose of this MOU is to define the personnel authority over Specialty Courts employees. To achieve these objectives, the County and the CSCD hereby enter this MOU.

1. As a general rule, employees working in specialty courts are employees of CSCD. Exceptions are employees serving Veterans Treatment Court, who are employees of the County, supervised by the judge of the court they serve.

2. Employees working in specialty courts will receive benefits, including health insurance, as CSCD employees, except for the Mental Health Clinician and Caseworker and employees serving the Veterans Treatment Court, who will receive County employee health insurance and other benefits.

3. The County will maintain funding for specialty courts through existing and prospective grants and County resources, if available. The CSCD, pursuant to the direction of the judge of the specialty court, will utilize this funding to ensure the continued operation of the programs as previously implemented. Future salary adjustments for Specialty Courts Community Supervision Officers will align with those for CSCD employees. Similarly, salary adjustments for Mental Health Clinician, Mental Health Case Worker, and employees serving the Veterans Treatment Court will be determined by Commissioners Court in the same manner as other County employees.

4. If, in the future, the County creates new specialty courts, this MOU should be amended to include such courts.

5. The CSCD will continue to provide operational support for specialty court programs with consistent and ongoing supervision of participants, and will continue to treat participants equally, and provide equal access to services consistent with the program, including fair and accurate assessment services and procedures, substance abuse testing, and other supervision compliant with applicable standards. The judge of each specialty court is responsible for operation of each court.

6. The County recognizes and acknowledges that the Director of the CSCD has authority over all CSCD employees in the specialty court programs, regardless of funding sources, including, the present employees as listed above. CSCD specialty court employees will be expected to abide by all CSCD personnel policies and procedures and will report through a CSCD chain of command leading to the CSCD Director.

7. Employees of the Gulf Coast Center with roles related to specialty courts are governed by a separate MOU.

Signed and entered into this 31st day of March, 2025.


Mark Henry County Judge
County Judge, Galveston County


Willie Lacy, Director
Galveston County Community Supervision
and Corrections Department