



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 4, 2022

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## **Yolo County Mental Health and Addiction Intervention Courts Report Highlighted by Significant Reductions in Hospitalizations, Arrests and Jail Days**

**(Woodland, CA)** – The Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has recently released the 2021-22 Mental Health Court (MHC) and Addiction Intervention Court (AIC) Outcomes Report. MHC and AIC are partnerships between the Yolo County Superior Court, Probation Department, Public Defender, District Attorney, and HHSA with a shared focus on decriminalizing mental illness and addiction. The 2021-22 report is highlighted by a reduction of state and local hospital bed days and jail bed days (MHC) and a significant reduction in jail bed days and arrests (AIC).

Founded in 2013, MHC is a minimum 18-month collaborative court-based treatment and monitoring system for up to 30 adult offenders, designed to effectively address the increasing number of seriously mentally ill defendants cycling through the courts and jails. The program focuses on 4 goals for program participants: improving treatment engagement; reducing recidivism, reducing jail bed days; and decreasing local and Department of State Hospital (DSH) bed stays. In 2021-22, the MHC Outcome Report revealed a 100% reduction in state hospital bed days, and local hospital bed days were reduced by 70.6% while participating.

AIC is a specialty court program launched in 2018 for up to 30 individuals at a given time who struggle with substance use and are involved in the criminal justice system as a result of substance use. The program was designed utilizing the same collaborative court-based treatment and monitoring as MHC and provides intensive support services and supervision aimed at increasing a participant's overall quality of life while reducing recidivism. In 2021-22, the AIC Outcome Report revealed a 78.4% decrease in participant arrests and a 90.2% reduction in participant jail bed days while in the program.

“If you ask someone in Yolo County to describe the ‘Yolo Way’, you will hear words like collaboration, coordination, partnership, and support,” said Ian Evans, Adult and Aging Branch Director for HHSA. “Mental Health Court and Addiction Intervention Court are incredible examples of the ‘Yolo Way’, bringing together four County departments, as well as the Court, with one common goal to address the needs of some of our most vulnerable residents through support, guidance, structure, and accountability. The trust of the partners involved has helped lead to the formation of our DSH Felony Diversion program and an additional Mental Health Diversion program, and more importantly, it is the success of the participants in these programs that help all partners feel comfortable expanding these partnerships and looking to serve more individuals in need.”

To view the full 2021-22 outcome report, please visit the following link: [https://bit.ly/YoloAIC-MCH\\_2122](https://bit.ly/YoloAIC-MCH_2122)

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