



Mississippi Community Mental Health Centers Intensive Community Services

Intensive Community Services

The Department of Mental Health funds intensive community services that are provided by all of the state's Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs). These services are designed to prevent readmissions to state behavioral health programs and provide services to people in their homes, rather than an inpatient facility, allowing them to continue living in their communities. These intensive community services include Programs of Assertive Community Treatment, Intensive Outreach and Recovery Teams, and Intensive Community Support Services. **At least one of the below three services (PACT, ICORT, & ICSS) is available in each of Mississippi's 82 counties.**

Programs of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) Teams help people who have the most severe and persistent mental health problems who have not benefited from traditional outpatient services to live successfully in the community while receiving mental health treatment services.

Intensive Community Outreach and Recovery Teams (ICORTs) are a modification of PACT with fewer staffing requirements and higher client-staff ratios than a traditional PACT Team. An ICORT is an opportunity for CMHCs unable to sustain a PACT Team to provide a similar intensive service to help keep people out of the hospitals.

Intensive Community Support Services (ICSS) are provided by specialists who have a direct involvement with the person receiving services. These services are similar to targeted case management, but they maintain lower client to staff ratios and provide services primarily in the community instead of office settings.



Supported Employment & Housing

Supported Employment, an evidence-based way to help people diagnosed with mental illnesses secure and keep employment, begins with the idea that every person with a serious mental illness is capable of working competitively in the community.

Supported Housing is available in Mississippi through a program known as CHOICE - Creating Housing Options in Communities for Everyone. CHOICE allows people with a serious mental illness to live in the most integrated settings in the communities of their choice by providing an adequate array of community supports/services. While CHOICE provides the assistance that makes the housing affordable, local Community Mental Health Centers provide the appropriate services. Referrals to CHOICE are currently handled by the Open Doors Homeless Coalition. For more information, contact your local CMHC or visit www.opendoorshc.org/choice/.