

## **Appendix A**

The program structure for Connecticut's jail diversion program differs from the mental health specialty court model; it is integrated into the regular court docket, and the program is run by DMHAS clinicians who are based in the courts. At arraignment, the court advises the defendant of her rights and the defendant enters a plea to the charge against her. Diversion clinicians conduct brief clinical assessments of these individuals' behavioral health symptoms and whether they are currently receiving treatment. Clinicians pair their assessments with considerations of the seriousness of potential participants' current charges, and formulate a recommendation for diversion (or not) with indicated treatment plans. The judge ultimately decides whether to offer mentally ill offenders the opportunity to be diverted into community treatment and avoid moving forward with criminal proceedings that often would otherwise result in convictions and jail sentences. In cases where diversion is deemed appropriate, most commonly, the judge releases the defendant on a Promise To Appear with the condition that she participate in the proposed treatment plan, and orders another pre-trial hearing for the following few weeks. At subsequent hearings, the case may again be continued, or prosecution may be dropped altogether. If a client is not attending treatment, the case is returned to the regular docket and the court proceeds as if there had not been a diversion effort.