

Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT)

What is FACT?

FACT is a multi-disciplinary, team-based intervention that creates an alternative to incarceration of individuals living with serious mental illness. The FACT team offers mental and primary health care, counseling, medications, family education, peer support and permanent supportive housing.

What makes FACT different?

FACT is a partnership between Integral Care, Travis County Sheriff's Office, Downtown Austin Community Court, Austin Police Department and Central Health. The team brings together their individual expertise and unique services to collaboratively meet the needs of clients with high utilization of the criminal justice system.

Who does FACT serve?

FACT serves individuals who have extensive criminal justice involvement as well as experience recurring and lengthy in-patient mental health hospitalizations or crisis episodes, most of whom are living homeless in our community. Extensive criminal justice involvement is defined as those who have been found incompetent to stand trial or been on an active NGRI (not guilty by reason of insanity) commitment within the past year. It also applies to those who frequently utilize the criminal justice system for behaviors directly related to their mental illness, as evidenced by 5+ arrests.

Can FACT provide housing?

Yes. FACT creates a continuum of services to assist individuals transitioning into housing from homelessness or housing instability. The program can also provide mental health care and treatment for drug and alcohol use to support improved health and well-being, with a goal of keeping the individual in housing and out of the criminal justice system.

How might FACT interact with criminal justice partners?

FACT aims at diverting individuals with mental illness from the criminal justice system through engagement prior to arrest, as well as collaboration with law enforcement if an arrest occurs. FACT may offer psychiatric crisis respite beds or safe and healthy alternatives that offer clients the support and resources to support their recovery, remain out of institutions and follow through with their court proceedings to resolve their charges.

Why is FACT important?

Nationally, 2 million people with mental illness are booked into jails each year. In Travis County, 25-30% of individuals in our jail system receive treatment for a mental illness. When people don't have access to mental health treatment, symptoms and conditions can worsen. The FACT team will:

- Creates an alternative to incarceration and re-arrest for individuals living with serious mental illness through a multi-disciplinary, team-based intervention that offers wrap-around services that support recovery.
- Reduce the number of people with high needs in our jail, providing them treatment services in the community, which is the right setting.
- Reduce the overutilization of emergency services, jail visits, and inpatient hospital stays.

How do I contact FACT?

For questions regarding the team's services, you can email ACT@IntegralCare.org or call 512-440-4053.