

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT (BHC)

PROGRAM STARTED JUNE 2016 (PILOT)
AND JANUARY 2017 (ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS ADDED)

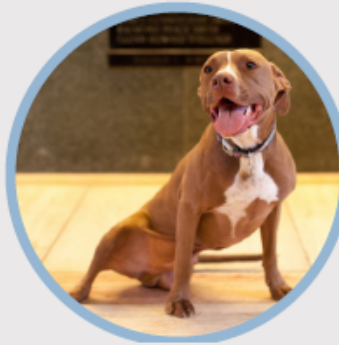
BHC TEAM:

- Judge Sally Pokorny
- DA office Assistant District Attorney Brian Dieter and Specialty Court Coordinator Annie Curtiss
- Adult Services Behavioral Health Court Officer Jolene Cullen
- Bert Nash Clinician Sharon Zehr (peer support/case managers)
- DCCCA Clinician Blair Bracciano and peer support Chasity Shaffer
- Defense Attorneys Kenzie Singleton, Brenda Clary, Karen Ebmeier

BHC THERAPY DOG:

We recently added a Therapy dog Leonidas to the BHC team. He attends court weekly and interacts with the team and participants.

He has been a registered visiting dog since 2009 and he has his own resume.....



PROFILE

At only a few weeks old, Leonidas (named for the Spartan King) was abused and lost his rear left leg and the bottom half of his rear right foot. He was rescued and began life with his family at a young six weeks old.

Although he lost a limb, he has never lost his zest for life and meeting new people. At a very young age, his family saw the impact Leo could have on people, and decided to test him as a Delta Society (now Pet Partners) visiting dog. Leo consistently tested out at the highest level with his handler (his dad).

Leonidas greets every situation and person with exuberance; a spirited tail wag and a big smile.

CONTACT

PHONE:
785-393-3636 Anthony Barnett
(handler)

785-840-4488 Katie Barnett

WEBSITE:
www.symbioticbhc.org

EMAIL:
Katie@barnettlawoffice.com

LEONIDAS

Pet Partners®

Registered Visiting Dog since 2009

EDUCATION

Pet Partners Registered Visiting Dog
2009-Present

Testing every two years, Leo and his handler tested at the highest level consistently, most recently in October of 2021.

Insured for \$2 million by Pet Partners®.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Veterans Administration Hospital – Topeka, KS
2010-Present

Visits patients in various wings and is a teaching assistant in the Canine Encounters class in PTSD (SDTP) where patients learn about the human-canine bond. This weekly class discusses the parallel challenges dogs and people face in modern life and how that is related to life after combat and life after separation. Veterans find connection with Leo's trauma and injuries, as well as the societal challenges he faces due to perceptions of his breed.

Symbiotic Behavioral Treatment Center
2012-Present

Leads work in outpatient therapy dog program, visiting various schools, hospitals, churches, and seminars. Therapy dog work with Mindfulness: Peace with Packs program and Compassion Fatigue sessions.

Shawnee County Juvenile Detention Facility
2016-Present

Visits to provide a calming interaction and facilitate conversation about proper care for dogs, emotional connections with dogs, responsibility, and empathy. Distinguishes from other visiting teams as Leo and his dad focus on the fear foundations of aggression and how strength is calm and confident. Is a great connecting presence for kids in a stressful situation.

PURPOSE OF BHC



- Less time in jail and less interaction with criminal justice system
- Connect Participant's to Mental Health Treatment and Community Support Services
- Improve Participants Quality of Life
- Increase Public Safety
- Improve Justice systems and mental health coordination

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Douglas County Resident
- At least 18 years of age
- Pending Municipal or District Court charges (BHC is a pre-conviction Program)
- Meet criteria for having a severe mental illness (SMI)
- Connection between the incident and mental illness.
- Must be willing to participate for approximately 1 year.
- No homicides, sex offenses, or DUI's

BHC PROGRAM PROCESS

- Referral Form can be completed by defendant's attorney, judges, prosecutors, Bert Nash staff, jail staff, or law enforcement. Referral forms can be found on the District Attorney's website <https://www.dgcoda.org> and emailed to DA's office dabhc@douglascountyks.org.
- DA's office completes initial review:
 - If denied by DA's office, a letter is sent to defense attorney and they remain in regular court. If approved, Bert Nash completes an assessment.
- BHC Team reviews for acceptance.
 - They will be reviewed at the BHC meeting after the assessment is done. If accepted, a letter is sent to defense attorney and the case is set for First Appearance in BHC with an appointed BHC attorney. If denied by team, same as above for DA denial.
- First Appearance: Contract and Rights advisory signed, turned in and reviewed. Judge sets bond conditions, gives instructions, goal, and new court date.
- Meet with adult Services and treatment as directed: (Adult services, Bert Nash, and DCCCA.) Initial treatment plan is developed and progress is monitored
- 4 phases (next slide) -To advance from phase to phase an application must be completed for the team to review and approve or deny.

PHASES

- **Phase I – Stability** (2 month minimum): Must have 14 consecutive days of sobriety, medication compliance and no sanctions.
 - obtain/sustain housing
 - routines to assist in daily activities,
 - Take medication as prescribed.
 - Weekly mental health individual and group therapy; court; and reporting to adult services with Random UA's.
 - Drug and alcohol treatment may be required, if indicated.

- **Phase2 – Maintenance** (2-3 months average time): Must have 30 consecutive days of sobriety, medication compliance, and no sanctions.
 - Continue medication and treatment
 - Maintain housing, and work on employment and/or education
 - Bi-weekly court and adult services with continued random UA's
 - No new arrests.

PHASES continued.....

- **Phase 3 – Wellness** (3-4 month average time): Must have: 60 consecutive days of sobriety, medication compliance and 30 consecutive days with no sanctions.
 - Continue medication and fully engaged in treatment plan
 - Complete court obligations
 - Come up with Ideas for a give-back project
 - Court every 3 weeks and Monthly to adult services with continued random UA's.

- **Phase 4 – Healthy Choices/Lifestyle** -(1-3 months average): Must have 90 consecutive days of sobriety with no hospitalizations or increased services, 30 consecutive days with no sanctions, and be in compliance with program conditions.
 - Wellness plan, Relapse prevention plan, and give-back project completed.
 - Continue medication and fully engaged in treatment plan
 - Court obligations completed
 - Monthly court and adult services with continued random UA's.
 - All pending restitution, fees and community service resolved.

Incentives & Sanctions

- The BHC team works really hard to use incentives to promote treatment rather than using sanctions
- Incentives –Incentives are for good decisions in BHC including: Verbal praise, applause in court, a handshake, weekly All-Star, monthly basket winner, and tickets to use at BHC store. Tickets are received for showing up at court, going to treatment/meetings and meeting a weekly goal. Participant's can apply for early advancement. The biggest incentive is graduating and the dismissal of charges.
- Sanctions: Sanctions are for poor decisions in BHC including: Verbal Disappointment from Judge, writing assignment, apology letter, an essay, journaling, life skill assignments or class, coming to court more often, imposed curfew, increased reporting or drug testing, electronic monitoring, random home visits, phase demotion, community service, or termination from the program.

GRADUATION / EXPUNGEMENT

- Participants will graduate if successful or return to regular court if unsuccessful. If the participant graduates a graduation will be held in court and the criminal case is dismissed.
- If participant successfully graduates they are eligible to ask the Court to have their charges expunged, so the records of their arrest and criminal charges are removed from public records, with a few exceptions.