



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 2

TO: MEMBERS OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS,
ALTERNATIVES, AND DIVERSIONS

FROM: Melissa Schmidt, Senior Staff Attorney

RE: Mental Health Court Evaluations

DATE: August 13, 2014

At the July 22, 2014 meeting of the Study Committee on Problem-Solving Courts, Alternatives, and Diversions, more information regarding evaluations of mental health courts was requested. Mental health court evaluations have been compiled by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement to assist planning and evaluation efforts at the state and local levels. One such report entitled, *Mental Health Courts: A Guide to Research-Informed Policy and Practice* (MacArthur Foundation and Justice Center, The Council of State Governments, 2009), reviewed research findings on the extent to which mental health courts across the country have been found to achieve their stated goals. This report is available at:

https://www.bja.gov/Publications/CSG_MHC_Research.pdf.

Additional evaluations of mental health courts, including both process evaluations and outcome evaluations, are also available on the center's website at:

<https://www.bja.gov/evaluation/program-mental-health/mh6.htm>.

MS:ty