

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT

Public Safety Commission

April 1, 2024

Robert Kingham, Court Administrator

Christopher Anderson, Court Operations Manager



DOWNTOWN AUSTIN COMMUNITY COURT

Established in 1999

- 1st Community Court in Texas
- 7th Community Court in United States

Mission Statement

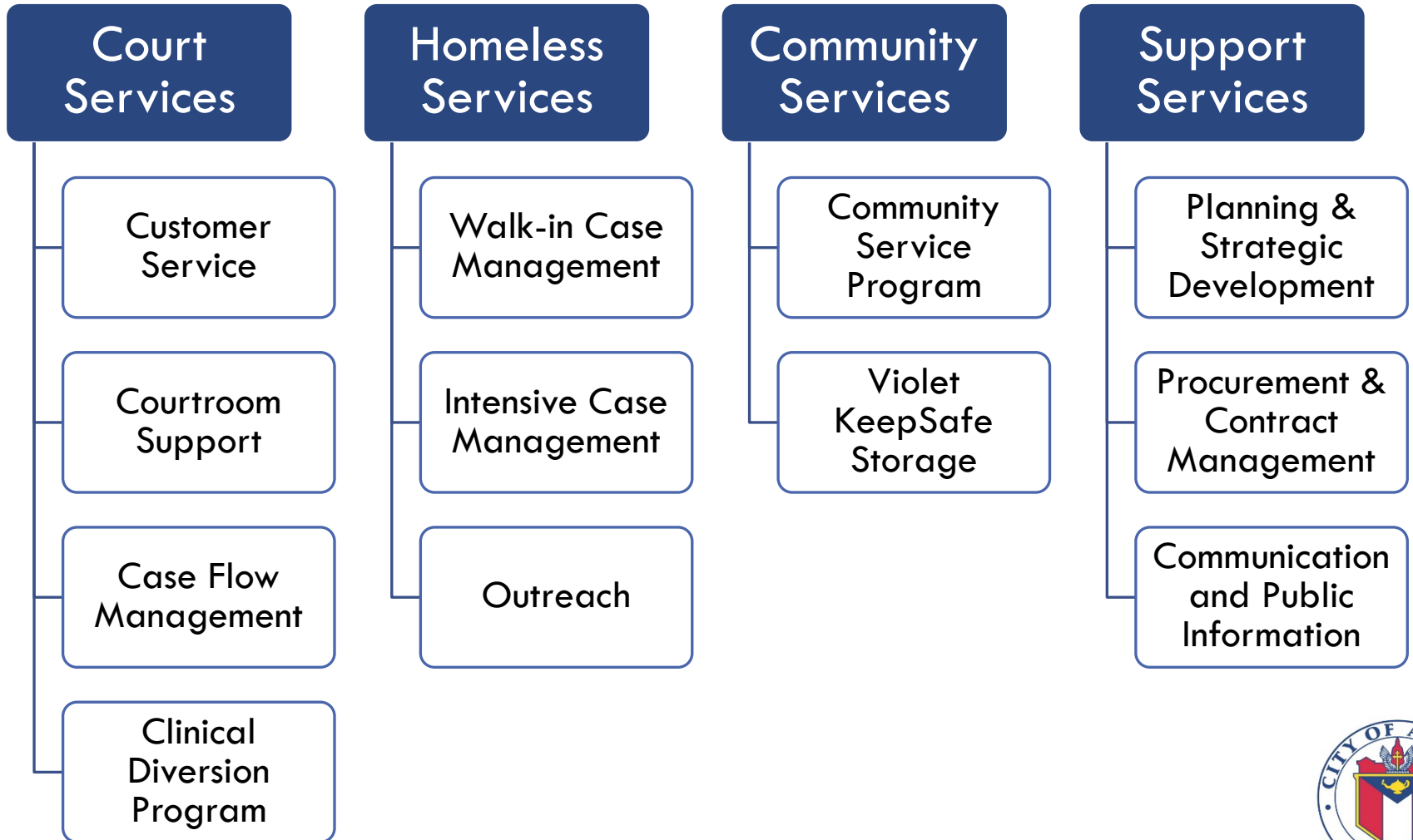
- Empowering people to thrive by providing impartial justice and compassionate community-based services

Address root causes of justice involvement

- Intensive and compassionate wrap around services



OPERATIONAL AREAS



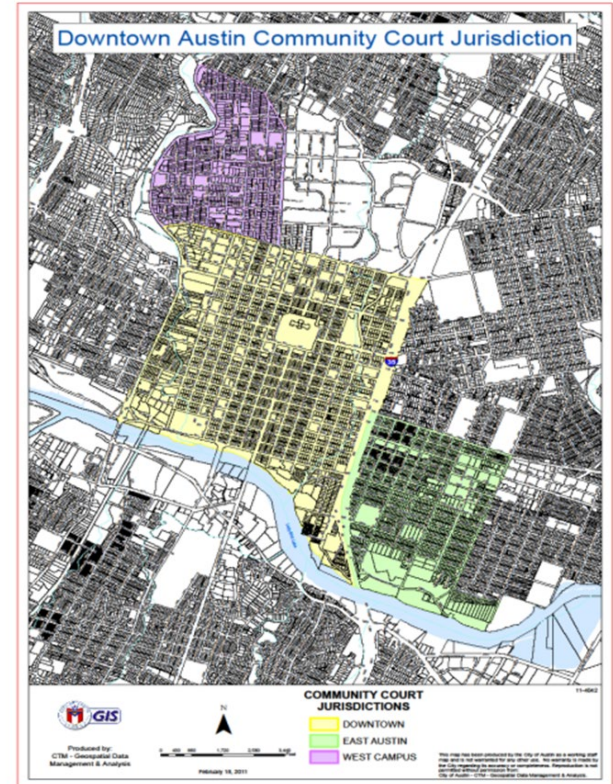
PRIMARY AND EXPANDED JURISDICTION

Primary Jurisdiction

- Class C criminal offenses in Downtown, West Campus and East Austin

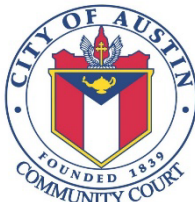
Expanded Jurisdiction (Ord. No. 20231214-006)

- Citywide jurisdiction for Prop. B & State camping band and DACC Top 10 offenses
- Expansion provides more equitable access to resources
- Data reflects violations included in expanded jurisdiction are the most likely for people to need access to the services available at DACC



HOMELESS SERVICES

- DACC has helped connect 550+ clients to housing since 2015 through Intensive Case Management
 - DACC has a waitlist of more than 300 individuals





MOBILE COURT OVERVIEW



DACC MOBILE COURT OVERVIEW

How it began:

- Previous site visits and best practice research by DACC
 - Judge Coffey asked staff to develop a mobile court strategy
- Created by Council Resolution 20230816-016

Overall purpose:

- Community-based program - meeting people where they are already engaging in services
- Connect individuals with solutions for resolving outstanding cases and warrants
- Immediate connection to services through case manager



DACC MOBILE COURT PROGRESS

How it works:

- Court case checks & education about DACC services
- Virtual access to judge and prosecutor
- Case manager onsite

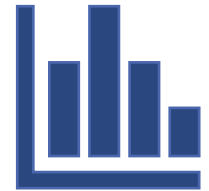
Service day frequency and locations:

- Approximately 5 service days per month during Pilot period
- Austin Public Health Neighborhood Centers, Austin Public Library, North Bridge Shelter, Pop-up Resource Clinics, Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center, The Charlie Center at Mosaic Church



During the 18 events in the Pilot period of October 18, 2023 through February 5, 2024:

- 383 individuals had their court case status checked by DACC
- 125 individuals had one or more open AMC or DACC court cases
- 35 individuals participated in a DACC Mobile Court hearing
 - 69 cases were docketed for these individuals
 - 48 warrants were cleared
- 8 individuals were enrolled into DACC's CDP for ongoing case management



MOBILE COURT PILOT DATA



THIRD PARTY ANALYSIS

Findings

- Agile approach to service innovations
- Program aligned with DACC's community court model
- Meaningful outcomes for program participants
- Services rooted in building trust and addressing barriers



THIRD PARTY ANALYSIS

Recommendations

- Implement a sustainable, fully staffed, DACC Mobile Court Program.
- Continue and expand upon stakeholder engagement to scale Mobile Court implementation.
- Study the impact on existing requests for current DACC services with the addition of Mobile Court to inform further DACC staffing needs and growth.
- Invest in Mobile Court transportation resources and technology.



TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS

Future of Mobile Court

Ongoing stakeholder
engagement opportunities

DACC welcomes opportunities
to participate in broader
community conversations about
systemwide approach to
criminal justice system
diversion



QUESTIONS?

