**What is the Boston Outpatient Assisted Treatment Program? (BOAT)**

The Boston Outpatient Assisted Treatment Program (BOAT) is a mental health treatment program created in partnership between the Boston Municipal Court and Boston Medical Center.  The program provides intensive social, mental health, and substance use disorder services designed to help clients maintain stability, achieve recovery within the community and avoid hospitalization and incarceration.

**Who is eligible to participate in the Program?**

All participants must have a major mental illness, and must agree to participate. Further, all participants must have a pending criminal matter within the Boston Municipal Court system, or be a graduate of one of the Mental Health sessions.

The BOAT program is available to clients who fall into one of the following three categories:

1. **Untried matters**: After arraignment, a defense attorney, probation officer, assistant district attorney, or other interested party may refer a client to the BOAT program.  Through continued conferencing with the Commonwealth, a client’s successful engagement in the BOAT program may lead to a favorable disposition of the case for the client.  Clients with untried matters who are BOAT participants will continue to appear in the court’s pre-trial session for their court dates. Information regarding treatment engagement will be provided to the court during these appearances.
2. **Probation cases**: Clients may participate in BOAT as a condition of their probation.  The probation condition initially should be phrased as a referral to the BOAT program, pending intake and acceptance into the program by the BOAT judge. Periodic progress reports will be sent to the assigned probation officer from the BOAT clinical team.
3. **Graduates of Mental Health Court**: Graduates of a Boston Municipal Court Mental Health Court (Roxbury, West Roxbury or BMC – Central) are eligible to participate to receive structured aftercare and additional housing and employment supports and services from the BOAT program.

**What are the procedures to enter the Program?**

*For defense attorneys:*

1. Discuss the BOAT program with the client to ensure they are aware of & interested in the referral.
2. Fill out the BOAT referral form, and have the client sign indicating their awareness of the submission.
3. Return the completed form, along with the CARI, police report, and any probation conditions, to the BOAT@BMC.org. The BOAT coordinator will forward the referral along to the appropriate parties, including the assigned BOAT ADA, Probation Officer and the judge for signature.
4. BOAT coordinator will respond with time and date of intake, as well as the name and contact info of the Case Manager.
5. Talk to the Case Manager before the intake to flag any potential client issues or needs.
6. Remind the client to attend the intake! Defense attorney may attend, but does not need to be present during the intake. Intake will be conducted under Lamb Warning.
7. Appear with the client at the BOAT determination hearing.

*For probation officers:*

1. Probation officer identifies someone who would benefit from BOAT.
2. Probation officer fills out Notice for Amendment of Probation form.
3. Probation to submit complete BOAT referral (to BOAT@bmc.org) and advance case before the court for appointment of attorney. Attorney will discuss BOAT program with the client.
4. BOAT coordinator will respond to e-mail with time and date of intake, as well as the name and contact info of the Case Manager.
5. Probationer attends intake with the Case Manager at identified time.
6. BOAT determination hearing is held, at which time amended conditions of probation to include BOAT program are considered.

\*Outstanding probation violations need to be resolved prior to BOAT referral being submitted\*

**If the client is accepted into BOAT:**

* Client will be scheduled for a comprehensive evaluation, and a treatment plan will be developed to meet their unique needs.
* Client will be connected with a full clinical team, including psychiatrist, therapist, caseworker, peer support, and resource specialist. If substance use is an identified concern, then a recovery coach will be assigned as well.
* Clinical team will provide routine progress reports to the court, as a part of ongoing supervision and monitoring.
* Clients will be continue to appear in court at regular intervals, depending on their progress and presiding Judge’s preference. For aftercare planning, clients will still be invited to come in.