

# **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVERSIONARY INITIATIVE**

## **2021 END OF YEAR REPORT**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The District Attorney's Behavioral Health Diversionary Initiative has been receiving applications for approximately 7 months. Prior to implementation of the program, the DA's Office reviewed policies and procedures for mental health treatment courts throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We utilized that information to create a diversionary initiative that utilized traditional sentencing options and treatment options available in the community and private sector.

The objective of the Behavioral Health Diversionary Initiative is to identify individuals with serious mental illnesses who are involved with the criminal justice system and redirect them from traditional criminal justice pathways to mental health treatment systems. By connecting these individuals to community-based treatment services, it is the goal of the program to reduce police contact and recidivism. By successfully completing the program, individuals avoid the consequences that lengthy criminal records can have on them when they reenter society and the workplace.

### **II. DISCUSSION**

In less than a year, the program received 24 applications and approved 63% of those applicants. Applications are received and initially reviewed by the District Attorney's Office. Those applications are then reviewed by an Interdisciplinary Team, which includes representatives from the DA's Office, Probation & Parole, Centre County Mental Health, Mount Nittany Medical Center, Dr. Scotilla, Centre County CIT, Strawberry Fields, the Centre County Correctional Facility and the Centre for Community Resources. Applications include a release that allows the Team to discuss an individual's application and each member signs an agreement not to disclose information beyond the meetings of the committee. When reviewing applications, it is common for individuals on the Interdisciplinary Team to have firsthand knowledge of the applicants. Information, feedback and recommendations regarding acceptance into the program are received and a decision is made whether to approve or deny an individual.

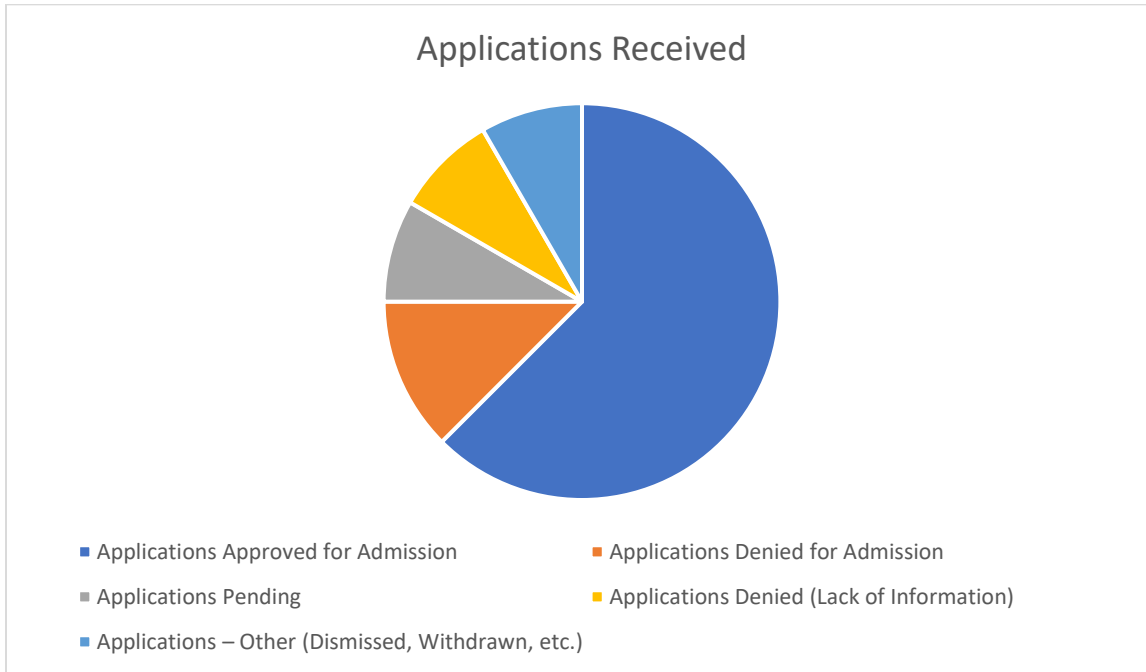
In order to be admitted into the program, the District Attorney's Office requires applicants to voluntarily seek mental health treatment and be in treatment prior to

acceptance. The objective is to simplify the process and have a clear treatment plan that an individual must comply with in order to successfully complete the program. Sentences can include a plea of guilty on reduced charges, ARD with dismissal and expungement of their record and/or continuance of the case for a period of time for the individual to maintain treatment with a dismissal with costs at the end of that period.

### III. BHDJ FACT SHEET

#### Applications Received: 24

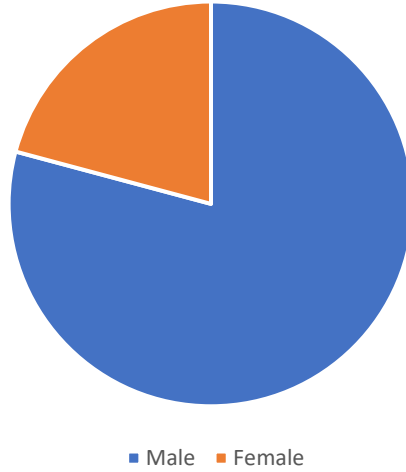
Applications Approved for Admission: 15 (63%)	Applications Denied (Lack of Information): 2 (8%)
Applications Denied for Admission: 3 (13%)	Applications – Other (Dismissed, Withdrawn, etc.): 2 (8%)
Applications Pending: 2 (8%)	



**Applications by Gender: 24**

Male Applied: 19 (79%)	Female Applied: 5 (21%)
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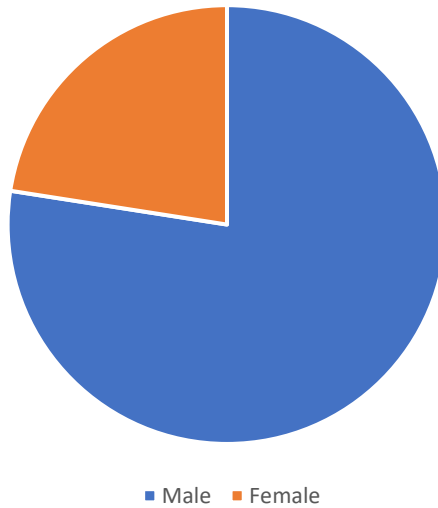
Applications by Gender



**Applications by Gender (Approved): 15**

Male Approved: 11 (73%)	Female Approved: 4 (27%)
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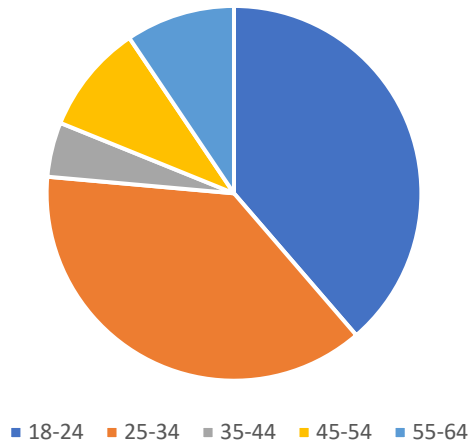
Applications by Gender (Approved)



**Applications by Age: 24**

18-24: 11 (46%)	45-54: 2 (8%)
25-34: 8 (33%)	55-64: 2 (8%)
35-44: 1 (5%)	

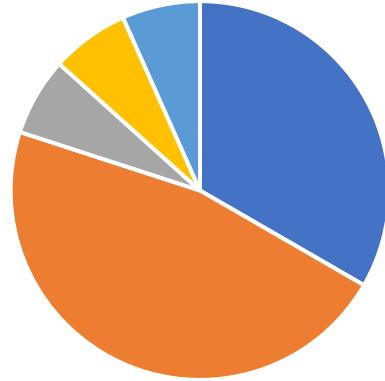
Applications by Age



**Applications by Age (Approved): 15**

18-24: 5 (33%)	45-54: 1 (6.6%)
25-34: 7 (47%)	55-64: 1 (6.6%)
35-44: 1 (6.6%)	

Applications by Age (Approved)

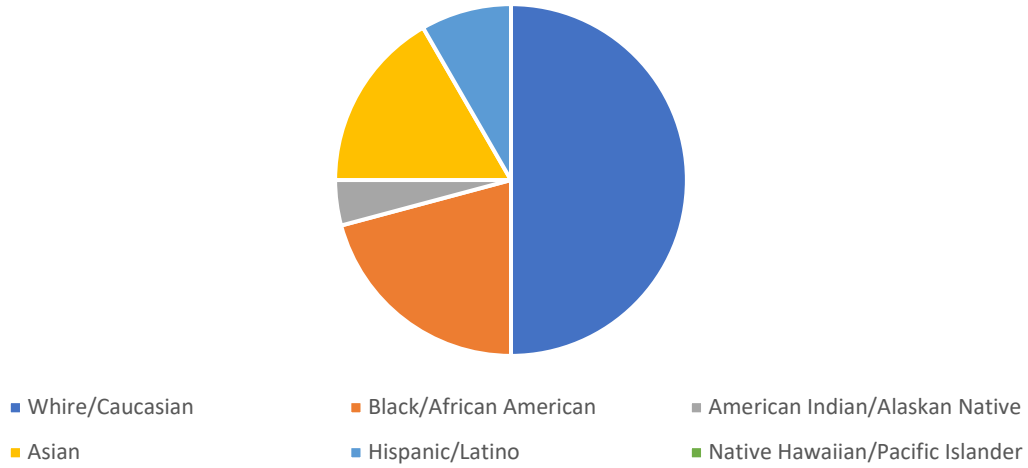


■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-44 ■ 45-54 ■

**Applications by Race: 24**

White/Caucasian: 12 (50%)	Asian: 4 (17%)
Black/African American: 5 (21%)	Hispanic/Latino: 2 (8%)
American Indian/Alaskan Native: (4%)	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0

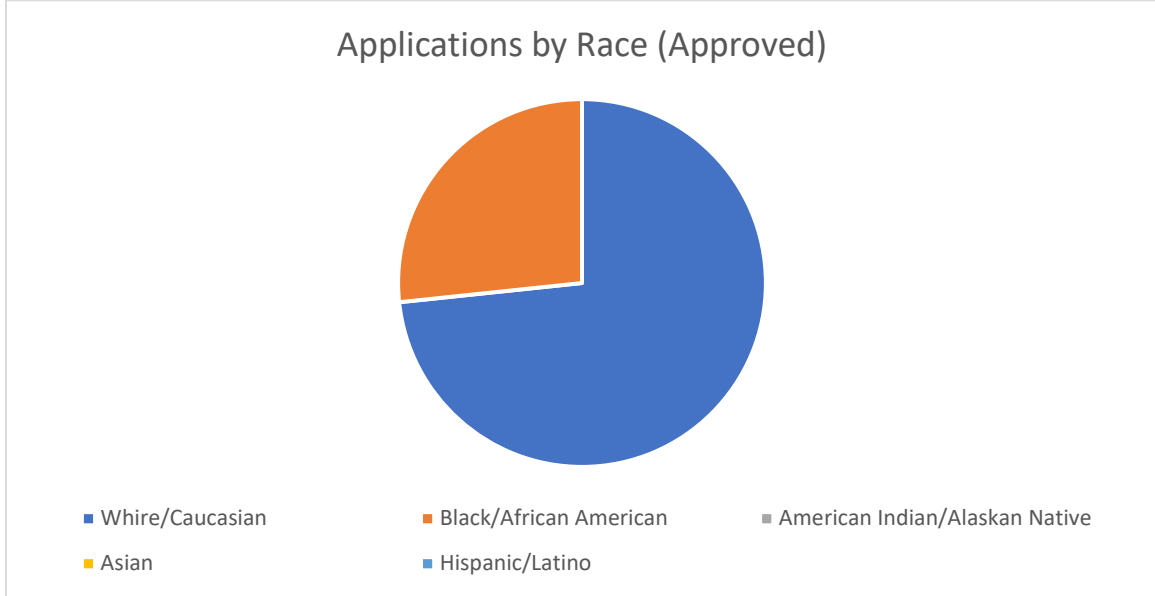
Applications by Race



**Applications by Race (Approved): 15**

White/Caucasian: 11 (73%)	Asian: 0
Black/African American: 4 (27%)	Hispanic/Latino: 0
American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0

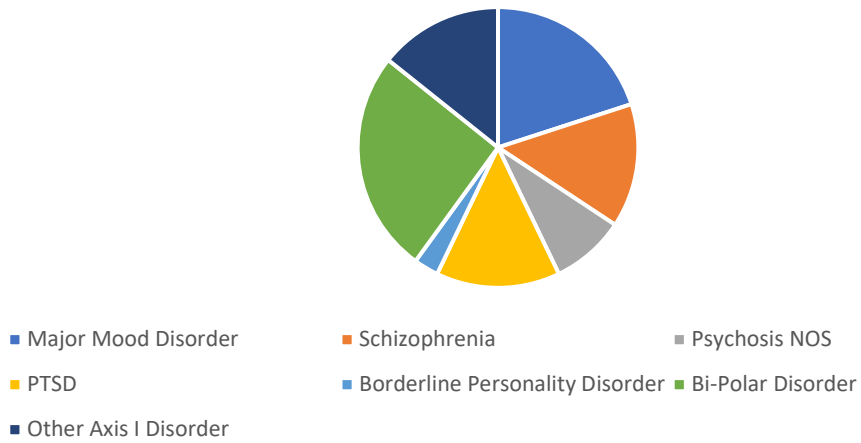
Applications by Race (Approved)



**Applications by Diagnosis: 35**

Major Mood Disorder: 7 (20%)	Borderline Personality Disorder: 1 (4%)
Schizophrenia: 5 (14%)	Bi-Polar Disorder: 9 (26%)
Psychosis NOS: 3 (8%)	Other Axis I Disorder: 5 (14%)
PTSD: 5 (14%)	

Applications by Diagnosis

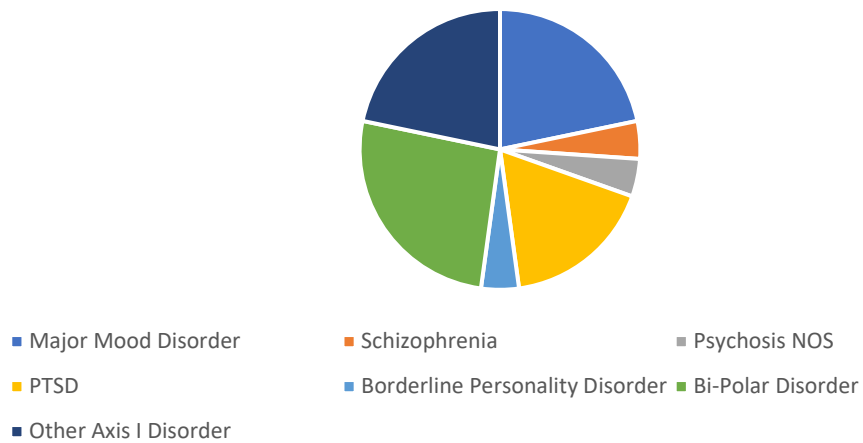




**Applications by Diagnosis (Approved): 20**

Major Mood Disorder: 5 (25%)	Borderline Personality Disorder: 1 (5%)
Schizophrenia: 1 (5%)	Bi-Polar Disorder: 6 (30%)
Psychosis NOS: 1 (5%)	Other Axis I Disorder: 2 (10%)
PTSD: 4 (20%)	

Applications by Diagnosis



**Progress of Participants: 15**

Active: 12	Removed: 1
Completed: 2	

