



# MMC MOMENTS



Fulton County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court  
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As we are half way through 2021, the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Program has assisted its team and program participants with adjusting to the world's new normal. While 2020 was a year of firsts, 2021 has been a year of transition. Despite the obstacles of living and working through a pandemic, the program participants, as well as the MMC team members, have also experienced exciting growth and accomplishments including marriages, vaccinations and graduations.



This spring, our team introduced new programming to support the MMC's State Certification. The MMC partnered with Peers Empowering Peers (PEP), a nonprofit, recovery community organization located in Sandy Springs. PEP is led by people in long-term recovery and now hosts groups specifically for our eligible MMC participants twice a month. The groups occur away from the structure of court and case managers and allows for sharing in a safe space with open ended discussions about education, legal problems, employment, and behavioral health concerns.

Additionally, the MMC added Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) Group sessions. The 24 session group meets once a week and requires the participant to attend and complete homework that promotes the growth of a positive and productive identity and facilitates moral reasoning to avoid recidivism. Finally, this summer the team will have two members train for over 40 hours in order to facilitate Thinking For Change (T4C). T4C was developed by the National Institute of Corrections and through 25-30 weekly lessons, participants develop problem-solving skills and concentrate on changing criminogenic thinking.



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In addition to programming, with community donations and support, we were able to provide our Graduates a small gift card in celebration of their success and open our MMC Clothing Closet. To support their successful reintegration into our communities, our participants often need clothing...casual, business, adults, youth and/or infants, or assistance with food and personal items. The MMC is continually looking to increase the offerings for our participants and welcomes all donations.

Last but not least, our MMC team has experienced exciting times in 2021 as well. With the provision of the COVID Vaccine in the spring, our staff has returned to the courtroom and in person trainings and staff meetings are on the horizon. Two members welcomed new additions to their families and another celebrated a marriage! Patience and commitment through change has been the motto and with Summer ahead and a continued opening of our Courthouse, County and Community, the MMC Team remains 100% committed to improving the quality of life for those addressing mental illness in the criminal justice system and community. MMC questions, referrals or donation info can be found at [www.magistratefulton.org/151/Misdemeanor-Mental-Health-Court-MMC](http://www.magistratefulton.org/151/Misdemeanor-Mental-Health-Court-MMC)

