

# MMC

## Moments

MISDEMEANOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT NEWSLETTER



*Volume 1 Issue 5*  
*Winter 2023*

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FALL GRADUATION

PIANOS FOR PEACE  
DONATION

NEW INCENTIVES FOR  
PARTICIPANTS

NEW PARTNERS

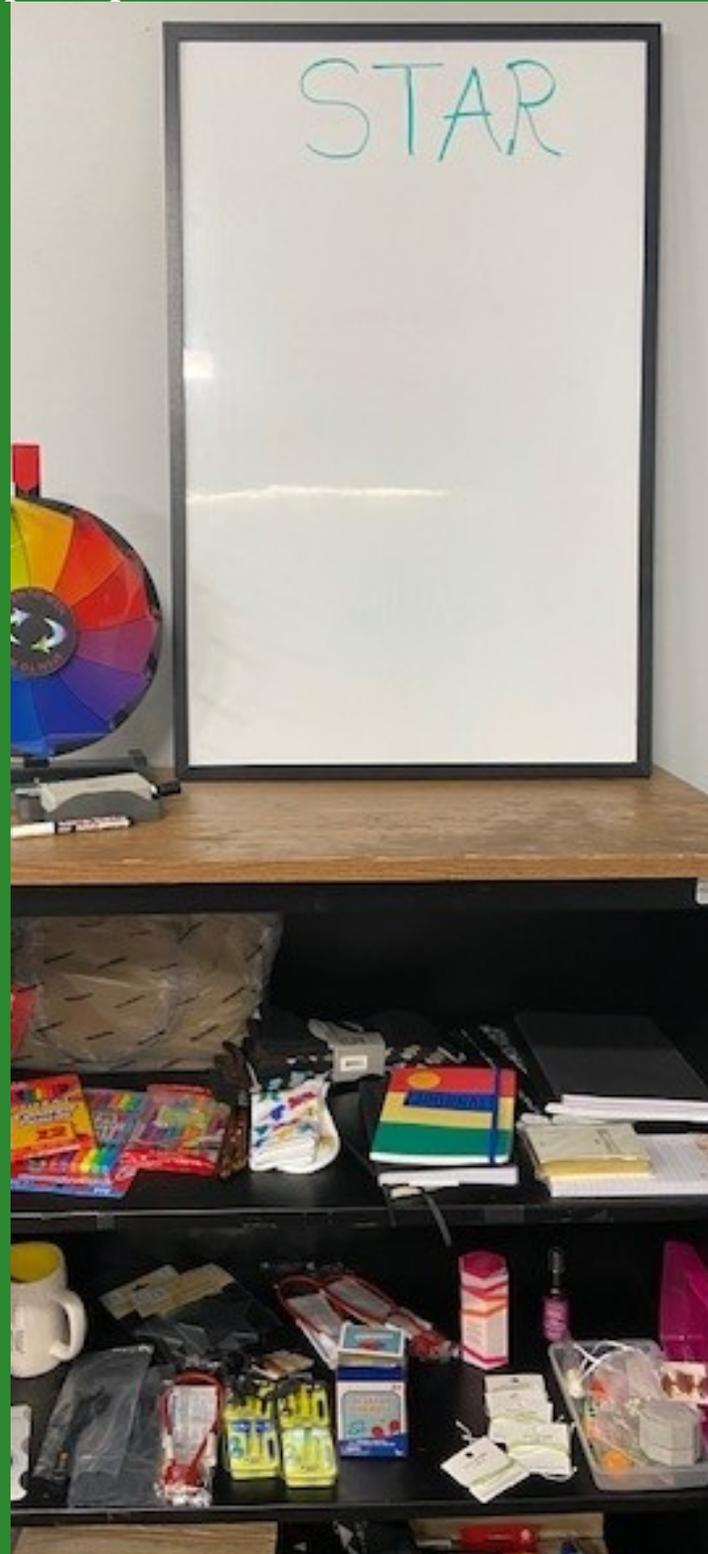
Fulton's Misdemeanor Mental Health Court (MMC) closed 2022 with a festive gathering and increased enthusiasm for the future. The year delivered the MMC team new partners, new team members, training, three additional graduations and a renewed excitement for what lies ahead in the coming months of 2023. We appreciate the support from all of the Justice Partners which help us deliver services to those in need and look forward to innovative ideas in the future. Enjoy a look back as we move forward.

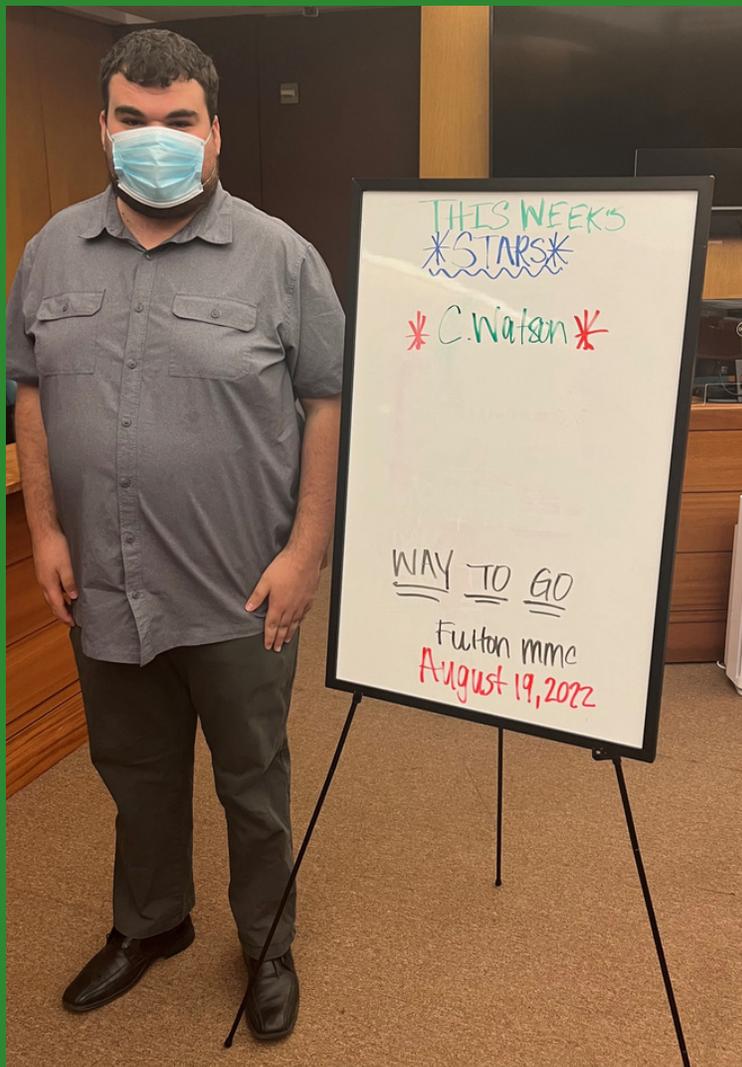


Photos: (Left) MMC graduates Julie Adams and Wendell Burden with Marshal Maria McKee, Judge Ryan Locke, Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk, Dr. Rashad Richey, Judge Patsy Y. Porter and Coordinator Georgee Corley. (Below) STAR Participant Board and MMC Store, a newly implemented incentive for program participants.

The Fall was bountiful for the MMC. On September 22, 2022, Pianos for Peace led a Veterans Appreciation Concert in the Fulton County Atrium. Veteran groups and the general public attended. After the concert, the displayed piano was donated to the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court to provide an outlet for any service members as well as others with addiction and mental health issues. Music has been shown to be a great way to care for mental health. As a follow-up, Cassandra Kirk, Chief Magistrate Judge for the MMC, acquired the services of a piano instructor to be available to our participants! Tunes will soon be ringing through the halls as the MMC provides an opportunity that most participants have never had while tending their mental health needs as well.

MMC celebrated its third graduation of 2022 in September with a special guest speaker, Dr. Rashad Richey, National TV & Radio Host of the Rashad Richey Morning Show, and Indisputable with Dr. Rashad Richey. His keynote inspired not only the graduates but everyone in attendance. All three graduations in 2022 were in person and allowed for important physical interaction amongst the graduates and their supporters.





*MMC Participant Cullum Watson  
next to STAR Participant board*

## UPCOMING

Next Graduation  
March 17, 2023

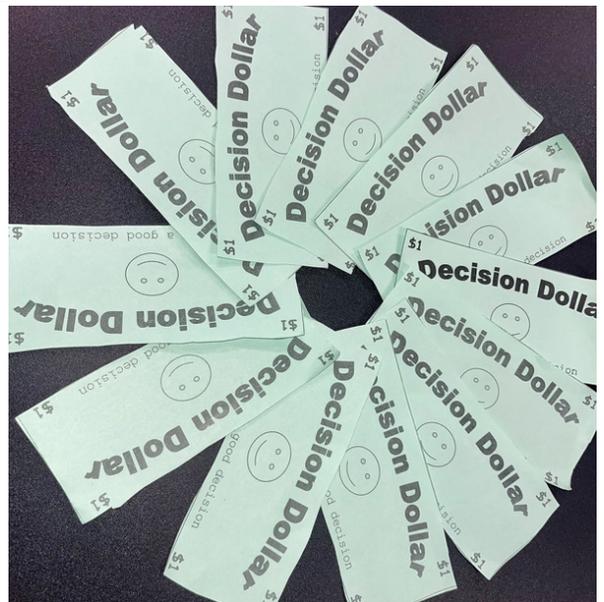
May Mental Health Awareness Event

Do you know someone or would you like to be part of the Board or founding a non-profit for the MMC?

Contact Georgee Corley, MMC Coordinator  
[georgee.corley@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:georgee.corley@fultoncountyga.gov)

The Fulton MMC was excited to again receive from the Fulton County Marshals' Department, full Thanksgiving meal donations to our participants. Since the summer, MMC justice partners worked diligently to create and fill our Incentive Closet with gift items for selection by the participants as they work through the MMC Phase requirements.

The team dedicated the second half of the year to a more intentional focus on implementing the CACJ best practice of "incentivizing participants" by creating Decision Dollars. Akin to "monopoly money", the decision dollars are available to earn for any and all good decisions and accumulation allows for purchasing power in the Closet. Combined with the wheel, Home-Run Phase Board and the Star Board, morale and commitment amongst the participants increased. The MMC team surprised the participants in December with a holiday celebration which allowed for camaraderie and a greater sense of community for everyone. A lot of excitement is building for 2023 as each team member looks for better ways to Incentivize our participants and lead them to making changes that will help them for a lifetime.



# MMC TEAM MEMBER

## SPOTLIGHT

In-person training by the Council of Accountability Courts returned in 2022 and the MMC team was able to send members to Athens, GA for the State Conference and to a 2-Day Mental Health refresher in Peachtree City, Georgia. With assistance from our Justice Partner, Fulton County Sheriff Patrick Labat partnered with Talitrix Monitoring to assist in earlier release for our jailed participants. Talitrix is an independent, GPS wristband providing real-time tracking, home zones and exclusion zones allowing for our team to set parameters for release and supervision of participants. The additional monitoring gives our participants a second chance without additional concerns from the Court as well as an opportunity to assist the participant's success by adjusting the MMC team monitoring. The wristband design allows for more dignity as the participants are able to focus on all of their personal needs.

New for 2023, the MMC is excited to partner with Fulton Superior Accountability Courts in a grant that will bring the training and implementation of Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy or HEAT. The HEAT curriculum is used in over 16 States and recognized by NADCP as a culturally responsive intervention for African American males. Combined with the reintroduction of Thinking for Change as well as our ongoing Living in Balance group, opportunities for the participants' well-being will continue to grow.

A lot occurred in a year but there is always more to accomplish. The primary focus for 2023 will be on increased partnerships and establishing a non-profit to assist in funding the materials needed for our participants. We welcome the challenge and feel confident with the continued support of the Justice Partners and community.



*Congrats to team member Frederica McClary-Myers on her promotion to Fulton County Operations Director for River Edge Behavioral Health*



*Congrats to team member Charles Glover on his promotion to Judicial Behavioral Health Services Program Manager for River Edge Behavioral Health*

The MMC Team would also like to  
Welcome:

Team Lead - Phillip Famber  
Case Manager - Shenetra Shellman