

Downtown Austin Community Court and Black Men's Health Clinic partner to remove barriers to services

The City of Austin's Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) and Black Men's Health Clinic (BMHC) are partnering to remove barriers to healthcare and impartial justice services. Beginning in fall of 2024, BMHC co-located services at DACC twice monthly, and this partnership is evolving to bring DACC Mobile Court Services to BMHC's location beginning May 27, 2025.

DACC is a problem-solving court that handles Class C quality of life offenses through person-centered and housing-focused services at the core of their deflection and diversion model. To proactively enhance services to meet identified community needs, there has been an increased effort to co-locate services onsite to ensure clients walking through DACC's doors have access to as many resources as possible to help with their journey to identify housing and address issues related to health, mental health, and substance use.

The Black Men's Health Clinic (BMHC) is the first and only clinic intentionally designed—not just to serve men of color, but to be structurally built around their lived experiences. What makes BMHC different isn't just who they serve—it's how they operate. BMHC integrates medical, behavioral, and social services through joint positions with CommunityCare and Integral Care. It's Care Network and Model eliminates the delays, silos, and stigma often preventing men of color from getting care—making BMHC not just a provider, but a trusted access point that didn't exist before.

“Given our shared missions and prioritizing easy access to critical services, creating a formal partnership between Downtown Austin Community Court and Black Men's Health Clinic was a natural collaboration which helps each of our organizations enhance how we serve the community,” said Robert Kingham, DACC Court Administrator. “We're grateful for this partnership and the intentional work done by Black Men's Health Clinic to proactively address a long-standing health inequities in our community.”

BMHC is on site at DACC twice a month to help individuals engaging in DACC's walk-in case management services to provide follow-up support for clients' medical care, and to answer any questions about accessing medical care. This partnership will expand on May 27, 2025, with DACC bringing Mobile Court Services to Black Men's Health Center on a quarterly basis.

“Our expansion alongside the Downtown Austin Community Court's Mobile Court is a powerful example of what sets the BMHC Model and Care Network apart. This kind of co-location—where justice, health, and humanity intersect right where people are—is rare. It redefines access. It's not just proximity; it's presence with purpose. This is how we reimagine healthcare—not in clinics alone, but embedded in the systems and streets where people need us most.” – Hon. Larry Wallace Jr., Ph.D., Senior Director of Operations at Black Men's Health Clinic.

Services available through DACC's Mobile Court include access to a judge and prosecutor to resolve outstanding cases and warrants, and access to a DACC Clinical Case Manager to help with resource navigation and with enrollment in ongoing case management services. Through meeting people where they're already accessing services, DACC's Mobile Court provides a community-based and cost-effective model to remove barriers to services.

DACC Mobile Court will be available at BMHC, located at 6633 E Hwy 290 suite 100, Austin TX 7823 with services scheduled from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on May 27, September 24, and December 10. Individuals may set an appointment by calling BMHC at 737-210-8446; walk-up services will also be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

As a safe haven court, individuals appearing proactively to resolve outstanding warrants will not be arrested when appearing at DACC, BMHC, or any other DACC Mobile Court location.

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For more about DACC, please visit www.austintexas.gov/communitycourt, and for more information about BMHC, please visit <https://blackmenshealthclinic.org/>.