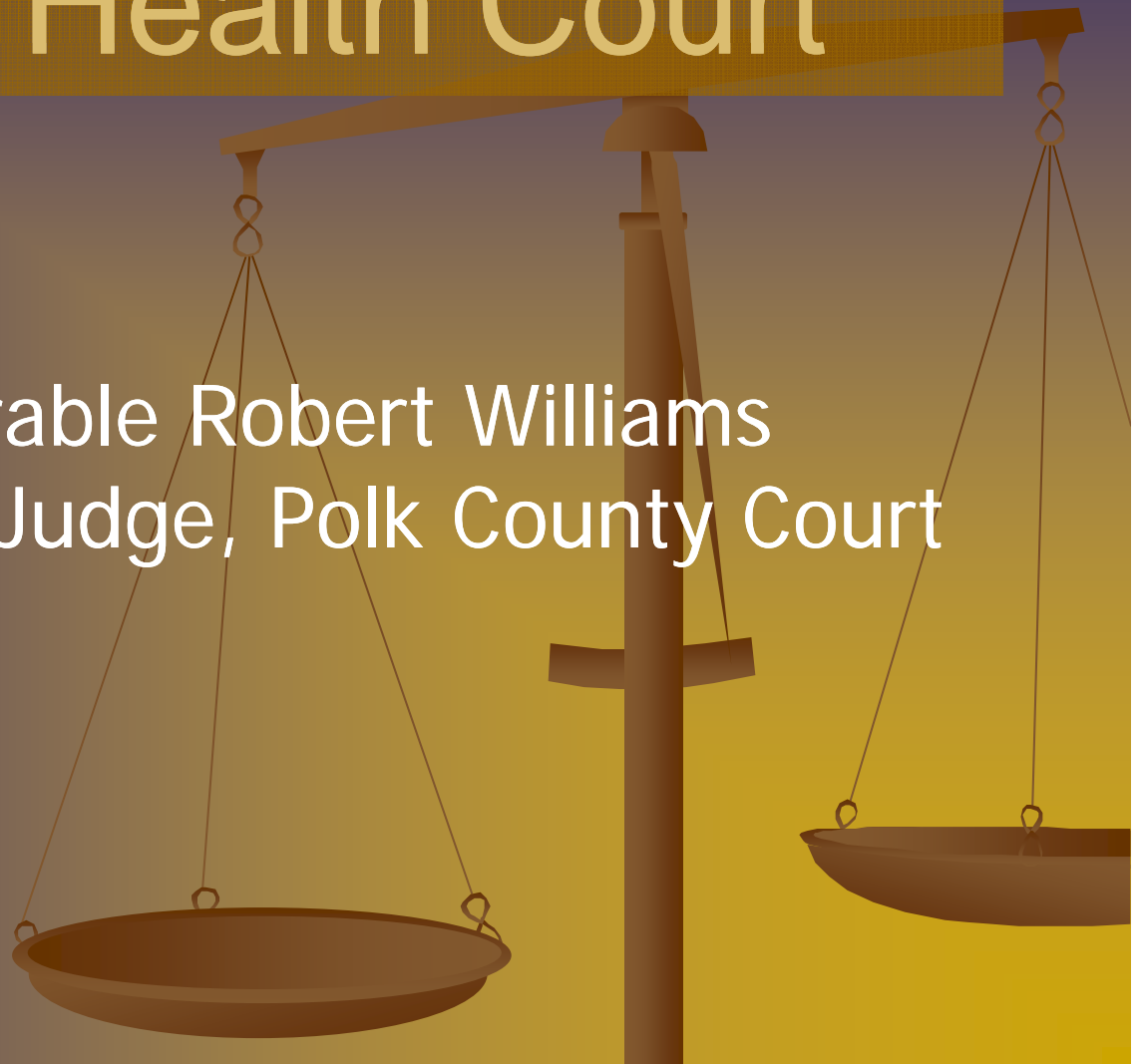


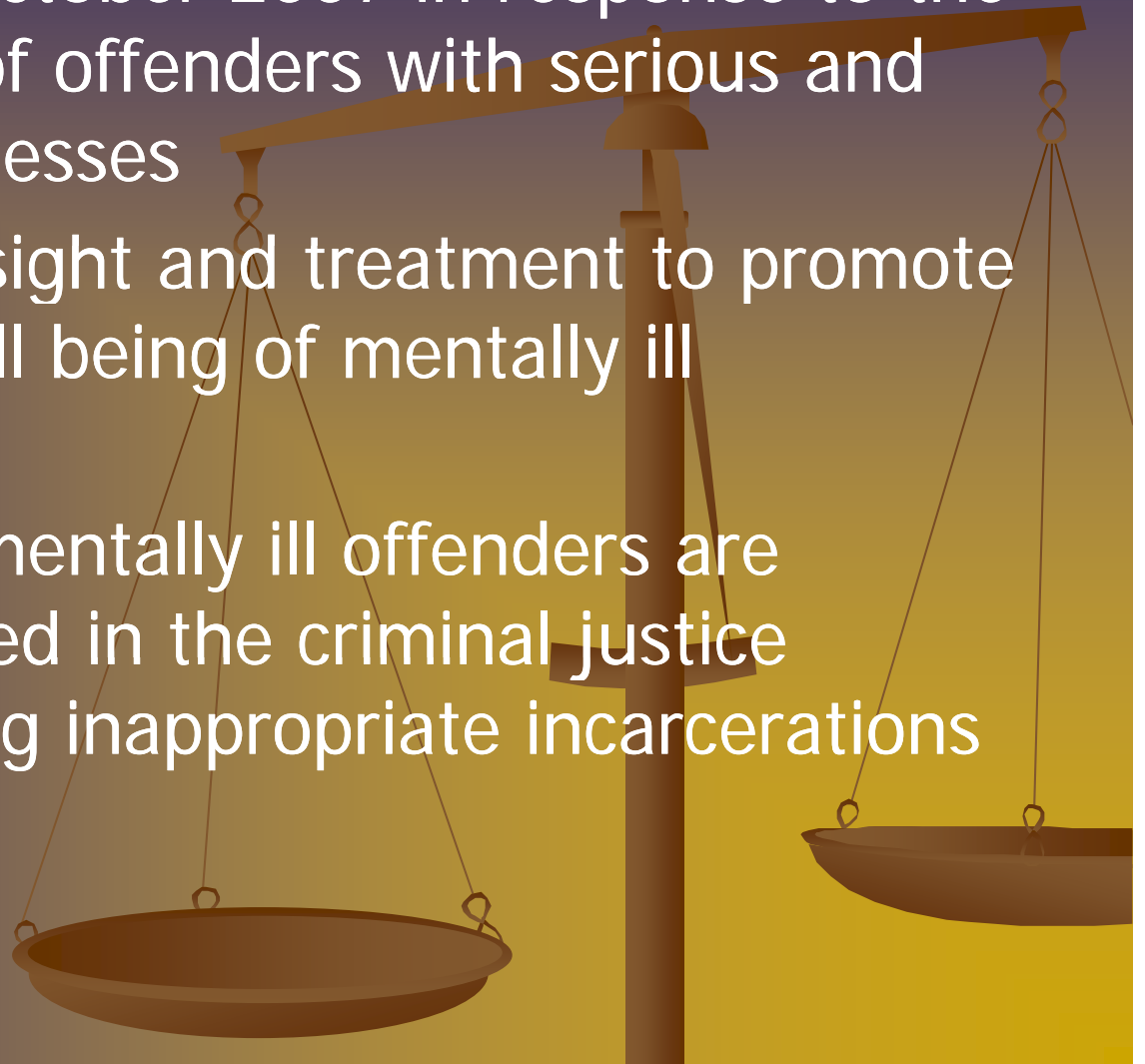
# Tenth Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court

The Honorable Robert Williams  
Administrative Judge, Polk County Court



# Polk County Mental Health Court

- Implemented in October 2007 in response to the growing number of offenders with serious and chronic mental illnesses
- Uses judicial oversight and treatment to promote the safety and well being of mentally ill offenders
- Works to ensure mentally ill offenders are effectively managed in the criminal justice system by reducing inappropriate incarcerations



# Polk County Mental Health Court



## Vision

**Our vision is, on an individual basis, to treat each person's mental health needs, and to re-connect the broken threads of trust and confidence that mentally ill offenders have lost through years of untreated mental illness. We expect responsibility and accountability for actions, but we temper those expectations with the understanding that many issues need to be resolved before treatment can be effective. We are working to create a safety net for individuals, who, through loss of resources, cannot access treatment, jobs, medications and other support. Each of us believes that, if we are able to turn around even one life and make permanent changes for the future for just one person, we have done well for that person and for society as a whole. If not us, who will?**

# Polk County Mental Health Court



Who is eligible?

The Polk County Mental Health Court is a voluntary diversion of persons charged with misdemeanor criminal offenses, and who suffer from mental or developmental illnesses

# Polk County Mental Health Court

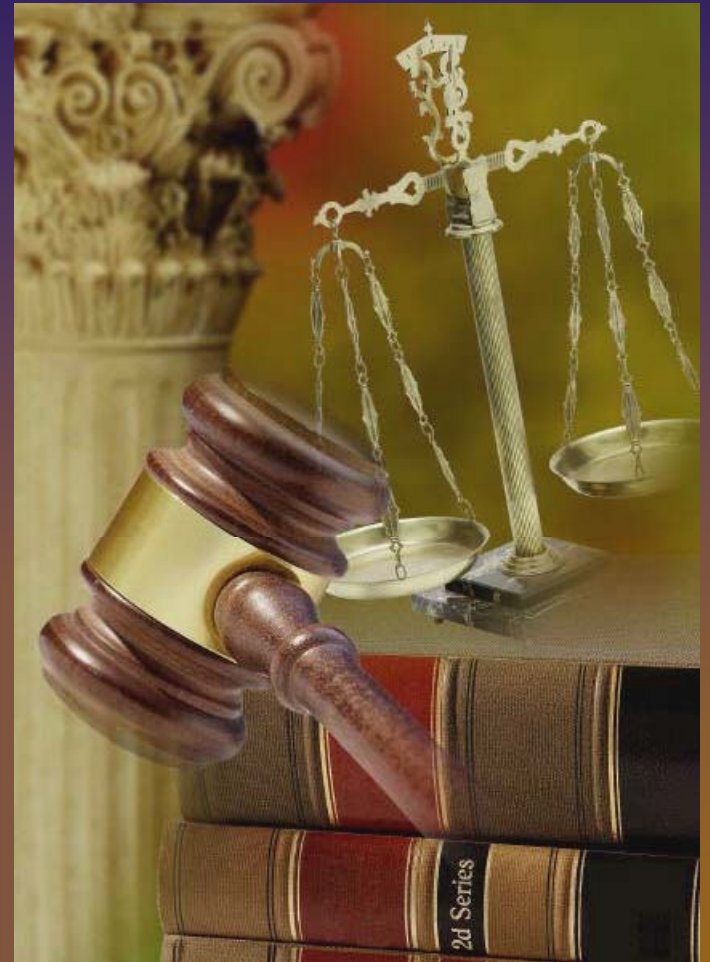
A golden scale of justice and a wooden gavel resting on a stack of law books. The scale is positioned in the upper left, with its pans hanging from a central beam. The gavel is in the lower left, with its head resting on the top of a stack of books. The books have red and black spines. The background is a warm, golden-brown gradient.

Is a collaborative effort of:

- Polk County Court
- Public Defender's Office
- State Attorney's Office
- NAMI, Polk County
- Pre-trial Services
- County Probation
- Peace River Center
- Tri-County Human Services
- Winter Haven Behavioral Health
- DCF/District 14

# Polk County Mental Health Court

- 44 active participants
- Participants move through four phases
- Participants stay in the program for approximately one year
- Program operates on:
  - CJMHTSA Reinvestment Act grant of \$43,569 per year plus match
  - Justice Assistance Grant of \$9,425



# Polk County Mental Health Court

## Goals

Promote the safety and well being of mentally ill offenders through judicial oversight and appropriate treatment

# Polk County Mental Health Court

## Goals

Reduce county jail costs to house the mentally ill, who generally have a longer length of stay, and who generally, because of their mental illnesses, cost more to house