



HHSC's Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative

The Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative (JIRLC) supports county forensic teams in identifying strategies to actively monitor people in county jails who have been found incompetent to stand trial and are awaiting admission into a State Hospital.

Who?

County forensic teams representing key stakeholders from local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities, county sheriffs' offices, jail administration, jail medical/psychiatric providers, prosecution, defense counsel, and the judiciary.

What?

- JIRLC participants will work directly with the Health and Human Services Commission's Chief of Forensic Medicine, the Office of Forensic Coordination, Forensic and Jail Diversion Services, and Legal Services Division to receive:



Clinical Consultations

- Difficult clinical cases
- Medication management
- Guidance on competency restoration
- Guidance on court-ordered medications



Forensic Services

- Free competency screenings and re-evaluations
- Expedited admission considerations
- Maximum Security Unit waiver re-reviews
- Alternate disposition considerations



Legal Education

- Legal/statutory requirements
- Court-ordered medication process
- Alternate dispositions



Planning Support

- Strengthening and engaging county forensic teams and stakeholders
- Engagement in behavioral health and justice systems planning

- Be part of a peer-to-peer learning collaborative and network with behavioral health and justice system professionals from across Texas.
- Learn about the *Eliminate the Wait* toolkit to identify strategies for reducing the wait for inpatient competency restoration services.
- Build strong local cross-system forensic teams.
- Implement techniques for monitoring individuals on the waitlist with 46B commitments in county jails.

Why?

The competency to stand trial process is designed to protect the rights of persons who do not understand the charges against them and are unable to assist in their own defense. Through the JIRLC, HHSC works collaboratively with partners across the continuum of care to improve outcomes for people waiting in county jails for inpatient competency restoration services after being declared incompetent to stand trial (IST).

How?

- Four two-hour long virtual weekly training sessions.
- Seven 90-minute technical assistance calls featuring expert speakers from across Texas and the country.
- Ongoing one-on-one support to enhance collaboration and coordination with local behavioral health and justice system stakeholders.

Testimonials

As a team, we learned how to advance our communication which has led to more efficiencies and a much more effective system overall in dealing with defendants who are incompetent to stand trial (IST). We were able to establish better lines of communication between our stakeholders, the first point of contact at the jail, the jail medical staff, our mental health caseworkers, and our courts, as well as bridging the communication with our LMHA. As a result, our overall approach has improved in developing and making a more cohesive, streamlined approach when making decisions regarding our mental health population who are IST.

- Judge DePew, Court at Law No.3
Bell County

I found the JIRLC curriculum to be an excellent process to learn and build on. You learn overarching principles and get access to the state experts. You will learn how to figure out who's sick, treat them early, staff them weekly, compel meds if needed, and reassess. One step at a time, one patient at a time.

- Trina Bivens, MD, Psychiatrist, Collin County Detention Center

It's been invigorating to connect with like-minded individuals and reinforce the message that no one is alone in this. Our collective efforts have brought a wealth of resources to the table, ensuring comprehensive support for all participants.

- Shawn Edwards, Sergeant, Burleson County Sheriff's Office

For more information, contact jailinreach@hhs.texas.gov.