Jail-Based Restoration of Competency Program
Fact Sheet

Testimony provided March 28, 2013
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Outcomes of San Bernardino County (CA) Restoration of Competency program:

- Operating for 26 months.
- 162 admissions; 148 discharges.
- Treatment program is designed for those who could benefit from short term treatment. Competency restored to 58% of patients in an average of 56 days.
- 42% of patients transferred to state hospital for longer term treatment.
- Approximately 4.5 hours of group treatment a day, five days a week.
- Individual contacts allows individualized targeted competency education. Average of 1.6 individual contacts per day, five days a week.
- 85% full compliance with voluntary medication. No forced medication.
- Malingering (feigned mental illness) rate has dropped to 8% from 15% at beginning of program.

Benefits to the patient, the state, and the county:

Benefits to the patient:
- Foregoes lengthy waits for hospital admission.
- Quicker admission to restoration program.
- Avoidance of lengthy and potentially stressful transportation for hospital admission.
- Remains close to attorney/family members; can maintain ongoing outside support.
- Enhanced treatment program results in a safer and less disruptive jail milieu.
- Transition back to general population is less disruptive, reducing the likelihood of medication changes, stress of hospital transfer, and potential cycling due to psychiatric decompensation. Only 2 patients have returned for more treatment.
- Quicker treatment results in faster adjudication of underlying charges.

Benefits to the state:
- Savings from reduced per diem costs and shorter lengths of stay.
- Reduces incentives for inmates to malinger (feigning mental illness) to get into state hospitals.
- Keeps hospital beds available for those truly requiring hospital level services.
- Reduces/eliminates hospital admission waitlists thereby reducing risk of related court action.
• Eliminates, reduces or postpones new building and/or refurbishing units to add hospital bed capacity.

Benefits to the county:
• Gains new revenue for providing services to those who may already be waitlisted in the jail.
• Reduces the time and cost of transporting inmates to and from state hospitals.
• Reduces disruption of jail operations caused by psychotic and disordered behavior.
• Reduces risk of suicide, violence, injury and litigation.

Program Specifics:
• An intensive, high quality, individualized treatment program.
• Restoration treatment comparable to restoration services at a state hospital.
• Treatment provided by a full array of mental health professionals including a forensic psychiatrist, forensic psychologist, forensic social worker, rehabilitation therapist, nurse and clinical program director.
• One custody deputy assigned to whom all custody decisions are deferred.
• Thorough initial and ongoing assessments to determine individual treatment needs.
• Jail formulary and jail medication channels used to increase cost efficiency and reduce risk of psychiatric destabilization when returned to jail general population.
• Medical services, meals, custody, clothing provided by County jail.
• Offers another in a continuum of options for restoration services. Does not replace the state hospital.

Recognition:
• California Legislative Analyst Office “Treating the Incompetent to Stand Trial”, January 2012. Recommends program expansion within California.
• “Best Practice” awarded to San Bernardino County Sheriff by the California Council on Mentally Ill Offenders, March 2013