

# The Competency Restoration Crisis

## TEXAS ACTION PLANNING

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health  
October 15, 2021



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# Welcome



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## ▶ Session Moderators:

- *Kristi Taylor, J.D., Executive Director, Judicial Commission on Mental Health*
- *Jennie M. Simpson, Ph.D., State Forensic Director, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – Behavioral Health Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

# Eliminate the Wait: Key Themes



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## CHALLENGES

People with MH and/or IDD are arrested when diversion is appropriate and possible.

Belief that competency restoration is comprehensive treatment, when it is often just stabilization and memorization of legal procedures.

Inefficiencies and delays in the evaluation and restoration of individuals.

## SOLUTIONS

Develop a state action plan and legislative proposals.

Develop tailored resources and provide targeted TA to communities across Texas.

Enhance accountability and create standard processes across the continuum of stakeholders.

# Eliminate the Wait Toolkit

## ELIMINATE the WAIT

The Texas Toolkit  
for Rightsizing  
Competency Restoration Services

October 2021



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## ▶ Panelists *in alphabetical order:*

- *Alyse Ferguson, Chief Attorney, Collin County Mental Health Managed Counsel Program*
- *Hon. Dave Jahn, Former Presiding Judge, Denton County Criminal Court No. 1*
- *Adrienne Kennedy, Executive Committee, Past President, National Alliance on Mental Illness*
- *Lee Pierson, Assistant District Attorney, Dallas County District Attorney's Office*
- *Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Sheriff, Lubbock County*
- *Shelley Smith, CEO, West Texas Centers*
- *Chief Stan Standridge, Chief of Police, San Marcos Police Department*
- *Dr. Felix Torres, Chief of Forensic Medicine, Texas HHSC*

# Inpatient Competency Restoration Services in Texas



**MORE THAN 1800 PEOPLE ARE  
CURRENTLY ON TEXAS'  
FORENSIC WAITLIST**



**70% STATE HOSPITAL BEDS  
IN TEXAS ARE CURRENTLY  
UTILIZED BY THE  
FORENSIC POPULATION**



**OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS,  
TEXAS HAS SEEN A  
38% INCREASE IN RATES  
OF PEOPLE FOUND  
INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL**



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# The Competency Restoration Crisis: *Texas Action Planning*

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- *Chief Stan Standridge, Chief of Police, San Marcos Police Department*
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- *Alyse Ferguson, Chief Attorney, Collin County Mental Health Managed Counsel Program*

# Launching a State Initiative: *Potential Next Steps*



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- Develop a state action plan
- Provide technical assistance and expert consultation
- Facilitate peer learning and communities of practice
- Develop tools and resources
- Support strategic planning: SIM Mapping
- Measure success



# Thank You!

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