



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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Re: Stakeholder Workgroup for Jail Based Competency Restoration Pilot

Summary

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division is seeking members to serve on a work group to participate in developing and establishing rules for a Jail Based Competency Restoration pilot, as mandated by Act 2013, 83rd Legislature, Senate Bill 1475 (SB 1475).

Background

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) announces a plan to develop and operate a Jail Based Competency Restoration pilot, which includes mental health or co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse (COPSD) treatment services, as well as legal education for individuals found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST), consistent with competency restoration services provided in state mental health facilities.

Goals of Pilot

- Provide prompt access to clinically appropriate Jail Based Competency Restoration services for individuals determined to be IST who do not qualify for the Outpatient Competency Restoration Program. Services shall include both treatment of the underlying mental illness, and the provision of education and skills training. The purpose of the education and skills training is to enable the patient to obtain a factual and rational understanding of the legal proceedings and to restore the patient's ability to consult with legal counsel, and must follow the principles of effective psychiatric rehabilitation.
- Reduce the number of State Mental Health Program bed days used by forensic patients from the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA).
- Minimize or ameliorate the stress of institutionalization, to the extent possible, for individuals in the Jail Based Competency Restoration Pilot.
- Use a multidisciplinary treatment team to provide clinical treatment that is directed toward the specific objective of restoring the individual's competency to stand trial and is similar to the clinical treatment provided as part of a competency restoration program at an inpatient mental health facility.

Stakeholder Workgroup Composition

SB 1475 directs the commissioner of DSHS to establish a stakeholder workgroup that must be composed of:

- a sheriff
- a representative of a local mental health authority
- a county commissioner, county judge or elected county officer
- a district attorney or county attorney with criminal jurisdiction
- a defense attorney judge of a district criminal court or county criminal court
- two mental health advocates
- any other member DSHS considers appropriate

Workgroup Expectations

DSHS plans to identify and appoint all required members to this stakeholder workgroup by July 15, 2013. They will be appointed as a subcommittee of the Local Area Network Development Committee. The Department plans to release an RFP related to this pilot in the fall of FY14. The stakeholder workgroup will provide input to the department regarding pilot site expectations which is an essential activity prior to release of the RFP.

Prior to the first meeting, a draft document outlining pilot site expectations will be distributed to all members to review. There will subsequently be an estimated three meetings lasting approximately 1.5 hours each to discuss and refine pilot site expectations and operational issues. This will be used to develop final contract expectations and a procurement document (RFP). Additional meetings will be scheduled if necessary. Members may come to the meeting location (to be announced) or call in to the meeting using teleconference equipment.

Interested Stakeholders

If you meet the criteria listed under “Stakeholder Workgroup Composition,” above, and are interested in serving on this workgroup, please notify Jennifer Swinton at Jennifer.swinton@dshs.state.tx.us or (512) 206-5267 by close of business Monday, July 8th. Confirmation letters will be sent via e-mail by COB on Monday, July 15th.

Thank you for your consideration of serving on this important workgroup.

For questions, please e-mail or call Jennifer Swinton at contact information above.