



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Lessons Learned from HHSC Jail In-Reach Collaborative

Jennie M. Simpson, PhD

Associate Commissioner & State Forensic Director
Behavioral Health Services

Felix Torres, MD, MBA, DFAPA, CCHP-MH

Chief of Forensic Medicine
Health and Specialty Care System, State Hospitals



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Panelists

Erica Baldwin

Community Diversion Coordinator
Criminal Court 4
Denton County

Honorable Rebecca DePew

Judge
Court at Law No. 3
Bell County

Honorable Larry Phillips

Judge
59th District Court
Grayson County

Jeffrey Tunnell, CPA, Ret.

Executive Director
Gulf Bend Center

Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

The Jail-In-Reach Learning Collaborative (JIRLC) helps county forensic teams identify strategies to monitor people in county jails who have been found incompetent to stand trial (46B commitments) and are awaiting admission into a State Hospital.

JIRLC Goals

- **Support planning and coordination** across county forensic teams to reduce the wait for inpatient competency restoration services and improve outcomes for people found IST.
- Provide **Forensic Services Consultations, Clinical Consultations, and Legal Education** to support active waitlist monitoring and management.
- **Promote peer learning and networking** across participating counties.
- **Formalize jail in-reach processes** and help **enhance existing jail in-reach efforts and forensic services** in participating counties.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

JIRLC Services

Participating counties worked directly with Office of the State Forensic Director, State Hospital Forensic Medicine Team and Legal Services Division Office of Chief Counsel to receive:



Clinical Consultations

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



Forensic Services

- Competency screening and re-evaluation
- Education on the MSU waiver process and expedited admission consideration
- Ongoing support for restored individuals once returned to jail



Legal Education

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



Planning Support

- Assistance strengthening county forensic teams
- Engagement in behavioral health and justice systems planning

Counties also engaged in ongoing training and technical assistance through monthly technical assistance calls and one-on-one support from HHSC.



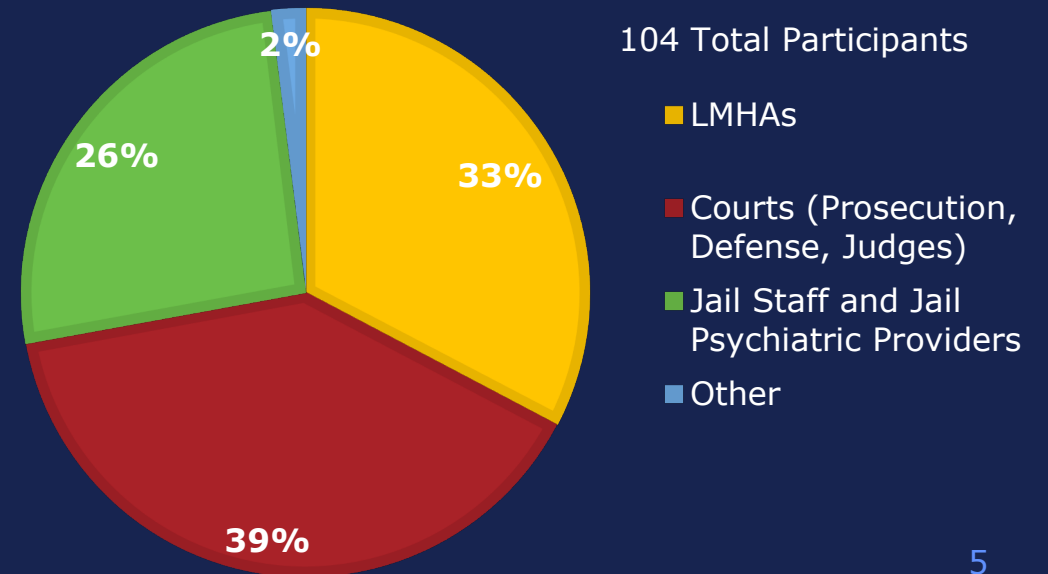
JIRLC Participating Counties

TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



15 County Forensic Teams, representing 11,642,049 Texans (approx. 41 percent of total population) and 594 people on the waitlist (approx. 24 percent of the total waitlist).

COUNTY FORENSIC TEAM REPRESENTATION



104 Total Participants

- LMHAs
- Courts (Prosecution, Defense, Judges)
- Jail Staff and Jail Psychiatric Providers
- Other

JIRLC Technical Assistance (1 of 2)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Technical Assistance

4 2-hour Long
Training Bootcamp Sessions
(Sept.)

6 1.5-hour Technical Assistance
Calls (Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb.,
March, April, June)

17 One-on-one Technical
Assistance Calls between
HHSC and County Forensic
Teams (Dec. and May)

20 Requests for Forensic
Services, Clinical
Consultations, Legal
Education or Other Types of
Support (Ongoing)

Featured Speakers

- Bluebonnet Trails Community Services Jail Diversion
- Collin County Mental Health Managed Care
- Mental Health Magistrate Tarrant County Criminal Courts
- Harris County District Attorney's Office
- Judicial Commission on Mental Health
- Lubbock County Sheriff's Office and StarCare
- National Association of Counties
- Texas Conference of Urban Counties
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards

JIRLC Technical Assistance (2 of 2)

Featured Topics

- Documenting Jail In-Reach Processes
- Identifying Options for People with Neurocognitive Disorders Found Unlikely to Restore
- Jail Standards and Mental Health
- Leveraging Form Z to Support Waitlist Management and Policy Development
- Modifying an Order Following an Inpatient Civil Commitment
- Operationalizing Court Ordered Medications
- Post Discharge Medications for Special Populations
- Supporting Planning and Relationship Building Across County Forensic Teams
- Utilizing JIRLC TA: Legal Education, Forensic Consultations, Clinical Consultations and General Support



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Evaluating the Impact of the JIRLC



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



Forensic Waitlist Trends

- **Goal:** Track waitlist data trends by county
- **Data Source:** HHSC
- **Data Elements:**
 - ▶ # of people on the MSU and Non-MSU Waitlist
 - ▶ People added to the waitlist
 - ▶ Wait times
 - ▶ People removed
 - ▶ People removed due to JIRLC reevaluations



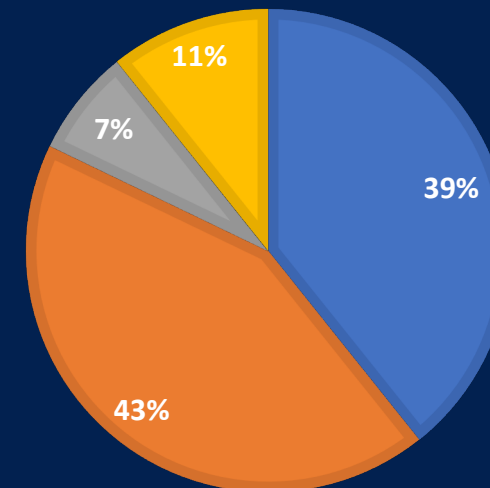
Forensic Team Interviews

- **Goal:** To document jail in-reach efforts for each county:
 - ▶ Jail in-reach programs and services;
 - ▶ Stakeholder roles and responsibilities;
 - ▶ County successes;
 - ▶ County challenges; and
 - ▶ Feedback on JIRLC TA.
- **Data Source:** HHSC offered 1-hr meetings to each county;
- **Respondents:** 10 of the 15 participating counties signed up for a final 1x1 meeting with HHSC.



Final JIRLC Survey

- **Goal:** To gain deeper insight into jail in-reach efforts, including:
 - ▶ An inventory of jail in-reach services by county;
 - ▶ A summary of successes, challenges and next steps; and
 - ▶ Feedback on HHSCs technical assistance.
- **Data Source:** Survey sent to all JIRLC participants
- **Respondents:**
 - ▶ 28 total survey responses;
 - ▶ Responses represent 13 of the participating 15 counties



Survey Responses Broken Down by Stakeholder Group

- LMHA/LBHA
- Courts (Judge, Prosecutor, Defense Attorney)
- Jail
- Other

Forensic Waitlist Data (FY22TD)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Waitlist Additions and Removals (09/01/21-06/15/2022)	Non-MSU	MSU	Total
Added to waitlist	309	132	441
Removed from waitlist	241	75	316
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admitted to a SH or contracted facility 	135	15	150
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competency restored in jail (includes JBCR) 	48	43	91
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JIRLC re-evaluations 	1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical issues 	0	1	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outpatient services (includes OCR) 	13	8	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate disposition 	0	1	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other (case resolved, charges dropped, etc.) 	42	7	49
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timed out 	3	0	3

Key JIRLC Outcomes



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Key JIRLC Activities	# of Counties who Reported Starting Activity as a Result of JIRLC
Established regular multi-disciplinary meetings to actively monitor and manage the forensic waitlist	7 Counties
Started to or increased data collection and information sharing on people found IST between jail, courts, and/or LMHAs/LBHAs	8 Counties
Connected with peers through JIRLC to learn about other county jail in-reach efforts	6 Counties
Documented competency restoration and jail in-reach processes	6 Counties
Established a process for implementing court-ordered medications	6 Counties
Hired a Jail In-Reach coordinator position	2 Counties
Started or continued work to establish a new OCR or JBCR program	6 Counties
Improved utilization of an existing JBCR program	1 County
Applied to or secured additional funding to support jail in-reach efforts	2 Counties
Strengthened relationships between members of the county forensic team	10 Counties
Strengthened relationships between county forensic team and HHSC	9 Counties



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Panel Discussion



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Questions?

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

Felix.Torres@hhs.texas.gov

Jennie.Simpson@hhs.texas.gov