

San Bernardino Jail-Based Competency Treatment

SAN BERNARDINO, CA | 2021 ANNUAL PROGRAM SUMMARY

Our mission is to provide comprehensive competency restoration services in a timely manner to individuals found incompetent to stand trial (IST) pursuant to California Penal Code 1370.



DATES OF SERVICE
2011-PRESENT



CUSTOMER
SAN BERNARDINO
COUNTY SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT



AREA OF EXPERTISE
FORENSIC MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES

Program Introduction

In 2011, the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) contracted with Liberty to implement and operate the first jail-based restoration of competency (ROC™) treatment program for pre-trial felony detainees found incompetent to stand trial (IST) at the West Valley Detention Center in San Bernardino, CA. The objectives of the 20-bed pilot program were to restore competency to the majority of admitted ISTs within 60 days, provide a more time-sensitive and inexpensive treatment alternative, and reduce waiting lists for limited state hospital forensic beds.

Liberty's ROC model was so successful that it was greatly expanded in San Bernardino County (currently 146 beds) and has been replicated in multiple county jails across the state. The San Bernardino JBCT program is now the largest program of its kind in the United States and has served over 3,300 IST clients from 35 California counties in ten years of operation.

Liberty's model provides forensic psychiatric and psychological assessments and jail-based competency treatment (JBCT) using a specialized multidisciplinary team. Our recovery-oriented approach combines the proactive use of psychiatric medications; rehabilitative activities; and multi-modal cognitive, social, and physical activities that address competency in a holistic fashion. Now in its 11th year of operation, the program has served over 3,300 IST defendants.

Program Objectives

1. Provide a more timely and humane alternative for specialized IST restoration treatment to the state.
2. Contribute to the resolution of the wait list dilemma for limited forensic treatment beds for individuals adjudicated as IST.
3. Enable patients to receive more timely restorative treatment consistent with due process.
4. Maintain a regional IST treatment program for DSH that could serve IST commitments from multiple counties across the state. *[Note: As of 2/7/22, the SBCSD has chosen to only serve ISTs from San Bernardino County].*
5. Maximize the use of available JBCT treatment beds by maintaining a full census.



The program has previously received the "Best Practice" award from the California Council on Mentally Ill Offending (COMIO) for humane and effective mental health treatment, and in 2021, Liberty's JBCT outcomes were featured in the journal *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*.

Program Highlights

Despite operational challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, San Bernardino JBCT had another successful year.



Contract Year Results

Based on our Annual Patient Satisfaction Survey, the program received a very high rate of positive evaluations (64%). Sample comments from patients included: "They explain everything you need to know about going to court," and "It is helping me stay away from drugs."

In April 2021, Liberty launched an "off-ramping service" for San Bernardino IST defendants. The goal was to identify individuals, who may already be competent to stand trial (CST) and return them to court as CST, thereby removing them from the statewide waitlist. We created a tool to identify potential off-ramping candidates and a procedure upon which DSH's IST Re-Evaluation Program was based. We submitted 31 certificates of restoration by the time this off-ramping service ended in January 2022, resulting in considerable financial and time savings for DSH.

DSH's Bi-Annual Performance Statistics for the First Half of FY2021-22

