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Services

# Overview of the Forensic Support Team Pilot Program

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Office of Forensic Services and Coordination  
Health and Specialty Care System  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)  
May 6, 2025

# Agenda

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- Welcome and Introductions
- Colorado Forensic Support Teams (FST) Overview
- HHSC Forensic Support Team Pilot
  - Vision and Target Population
  - Program Goals and Activities
  - Performance Reporting
  - General Structure and Process
- Pilot Sites and Other Statewide Programs
- Questions/Open Discussion



# Office of Forensic Services and Coordination (OFSC)

## Mission

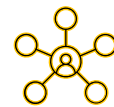
To coordinate and oversee the delivery of forensic services through clinical support, policy, education, and empowerment of Health and Specialty Care System facilities and community partners.



**Forensic Clinical Services and Programming**



**Planning, Research, and Engagement**



**Policy and Coordination**





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# Colorado Forensic Support Team (FST) Overview

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# Colorado FST Overview

**Program Mission:** To ensure an effective competency system, Forensic Support Teams strategically coordinate care and communicate the needs of the clients to all stakeholders.

**Program Operations:** Through interaction, observation, and coordination, Forensic Navigators:

- Assist state mental health hospitals with managing and organizing inpatient restoration admissions.
- Identify and refer individuals who might be better suited for outpatient restoration services.
- Ensure care coordination and communication for individuals returning to the jail from inpatient restoration.
- If a client is found to be unlikely to be restored to competency, and their charges are dismissed, FST provides referrals, resources, and services to help facilitate successful reentry into the community.

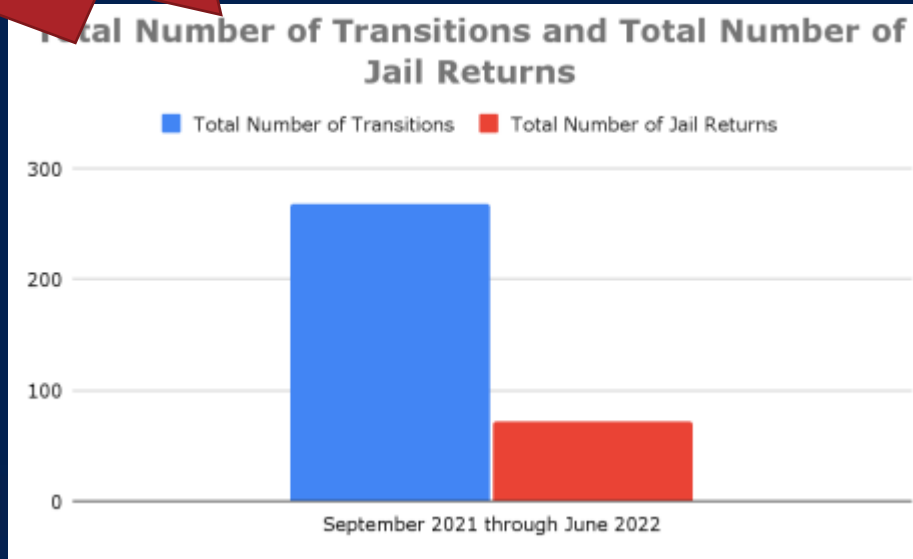


# Colorado FST Outcomes

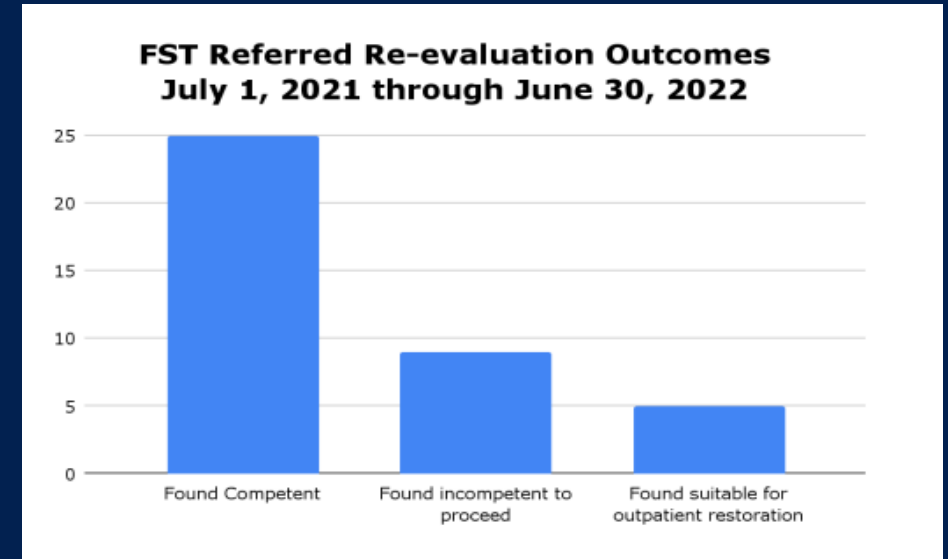
**1,284** Jail  
Days Saved  
(7/2021 – 6/2022)



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*This table reflects the total number of individuals who were transitioned to outpatient services and, of those, the total number who returned to jail.*



*This table reflects the number of individuals referred by forensic navigators for competency re-evaluation (39 total) and the outcomes of the re-evaluations.*





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# HHSC FST Pilot

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# Vision

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Forensic Support Teams (FST) serve as coordination and navigation entities for people found incompetent to stand trial (IST) when competency restoration services have been ordered by the court.





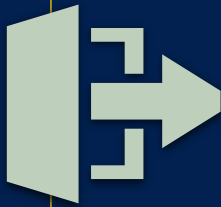
# Target Population

- Individuals **currently on the waitlist** for inpatient competency restoration (ICR) services **or returned** from a competency restoration program, including outpatient competency restoration (OCR) and jail-based competency restoration (JBCR), and awaiting adjudication.
- Individuals a court has determined **not restored to competency** after receipt of inpatient, OCR, or JBCR who are then committed to inpatient or outpatient services by the criminal court under Code of Criminal Procedure Article **46B.102** or against whom criminal charges have been **dismissed**.



# Program Goals

FSTs work with the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) or Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA), courts, jails, state hospitals, state-contracted facilities, and facility administration to coordinate care and communicate client needs.



**Divert** people into outpatient competency restoration, jail-based competency restoration, or other appropriate services and service settings, if available.



**Identify** people who may have restored to trial competency while awaiting restoration services and coordinating trial competency reevaluations.



**Coordinate** prompt access to available and appropriate behavioral health and medical care for people found IST prior to or after receiving services through an inpatient, outpatient or jail-based CR program.



**Collaborate** with all stakeholders on competency restoration services, court processes, and the individual's clinical and non-clinical needs.

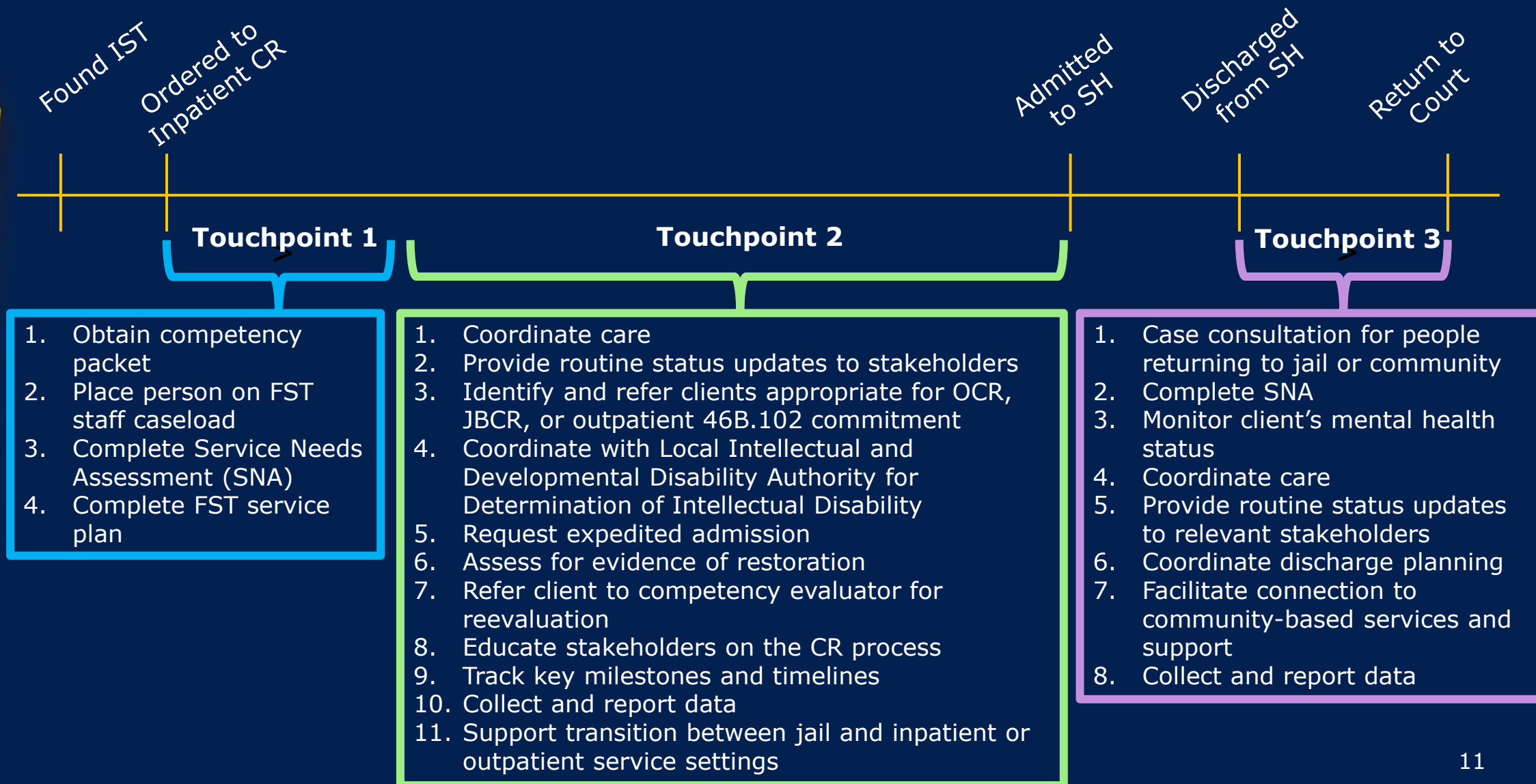


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# Program Activities



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# Performance Reporting

## Client data:

- Treatment history
- Treatment engagement
- Co-occurring disorders such as Traumatic Brain Injury, Neurocognitive Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, Intellectual Disability
- Housing status
- Charge type and degree
- FST assessment outcomes
- Key dates: date of arrest, order, admission to a CR program, etc.

## Program Data:

- People served
- Expedited admissions
- OCR/JBCR/outpatient .102 referrals
- Inpatient diversions/waitlist reductions
- Reevaluations and outcomes
- Narrative: Use of evidence-based practices
- Narrative: Recidivism rates and trends
- Narrative: Successes and challenges



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# Monthly Coordination with HHSC



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## Provider TA Calls

- Integral Care
- Nort Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA)



## County Stakeholder Calls

- LMHA /LBHA
- District Attorney's Office
- Sheriff's Office
- Jail Medical
- Courts
- Defense Counsel



## Case Consultations

- LMHA / LBHA
- Other stakeholders as appropriate



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# **Pilot Sites: Dallas and Travis Counties**

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# Dallas County



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## NTBHA FST

1 Program Manager

3 Forensic Coordinators

1 Forensic Evaluator (Contracted)



## Key Stakeholders

Dallas County Criminal Justice Department

Dallas County Judges

Dallas County Mental Health District Attorney's Office  
Mental Health Division

Dallas County Public Defender's Office

Dallas County Sheriff's Office

Parkland Health

Texas State Hospitals and Contracted Facilities



# Travis County



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## Integral Care FST

1 Program Manager

3 Forensic Coordinators

1 Forensic Evaluator (Contracted)

1 Peer Support Specialist

1 Housing Specialist



## Key Stakeholders

Capital Area Private Defenders Service

Travis County Commissioners Court

Travis County District Attorney's Office

Travis County Judges

Travis County Public Defender's Office (Adult and  
Mental Health Division)

Travis County Sheriff's Office (Administration and Jail  
Medial and Mental Health Staff)

State Hospitals & HHSC Contracted Facilities

# Jail In Reach Program Update

Goal: Help forensic stakeholders identify strategies to monitor people in county jails found incompetent to stand trial (Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 46B commitments) and are awaiting admission into a Texas state hospital.

Learning  
Collaborative



Statewide  
Program

Forensic  
Services  
Requests

Forensic  
Resource  
Library

County Data  
Reports and  
Outreach

Peer to Peer  
Connections



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# Key Contacts

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- HHSC, Office of Forensic Services and Coordination FST: [FSTProgram@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:FSTProgram@hhs.texas.gov)
- HHSC, Office of Forensic Services and Coordination JIR: [jailinreach@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:jailinreach@hhs.texas.gov)
- Dallas County FST Program: [FST@ntbha.org](mailto:FST@ntbha.org)
- Travis County FST Program: [FST@integralcare.org](mailto:FST@integralcare.org)

