

DHS Forensic Newsletter

February 2018



Provided by Wisconsin Community Services, Inc., supporting the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

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Focus on Order Forms

Please take extra care to complete order forms for competency and not guilty by reason of mental illness matters accurately and completely. Admission coordinators at the state mental health institutions often must follow up with court clerks to correct errors or gather missing information. The most common issues include: misspelling the defendant's name, misstating the defendant's date of birth, misstating the case number, misstating the charges and penalty enhancers, misstating the number of days of credit, incomplete medication orders, and missing language for the Department of Corrections release of information.

Additional Treatment to Competency Bed Days Due to Challenges

From October 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, the state mental health institutes discharged 86 people who had been committed for inpatient treatment for competency restoration. There were seven cases in which the DHS progress report was challenged and doctor's testimony and/or a second independent opinion were requested. The delay in resolving these seven cases resulted in an additional 298 bed days under the commitment, calculated from the date of the challenge to the date of discharge from the commitment. DHS requests court personnel continue to expedite these cases. These cases continue to have a significant impact on the ability of DHS to manage bed availability at the state mental health institutes.

Jail-Based Competency Restoration Program Update

The number of defendants participating in the [Jail-Based Competency Restoration \(JBCR\) Program](#) continues to grow. Seven counties participate in this program, which is a DHS initiative administered through a contract with Behavioral Consultants, Inc. (BCI), the agency that manages the Outpatient Competency Restoration Program (OCRCP). Feedback from county jail staff has been positive. JBCR offers remediation services to defendants adjudicated not competent but likely to regain competency who are committed to DHS under Wis. Stat. § 971.14(5). Defendants in the program are housed in the county jail as they wait transfer to a state mental health institute to complete remediation treatment. The program provides services during this "down time" to maximize clinical responsiveness to services and reduce the amount of time defendants spend at the state mental health institute. Counties interested in joining the program should contact Beth Dodsworth, director of the DHS Bureau of Community Forensic Services, at 608-267-7705 or beth.dodsworth@dhs.wisconsin.gov



Training Activities and Opportunities

Staff from the Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) Forensic Tracking and Court Liaison Services Program and DHS Bureau of Community Forensic Services presented at the Wisconsin State Public Defender's 2017 Criminal Defense Conference in November. WCS staff have provided training to many county clerk of court offices in recent months. Use the contact information below to schedule a training session in your county.

Forensic Tracking and Court Liaison Services Website

There are many resources available online to assist you in navigating cases that fall under Wis. Stat. ch. 971. [Visit the WCS Forensic Tracking and Court Liaison Services Program website.](#)

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