

EXHIBIT “A”



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Proposal to Reduce the Competency Restoration Waitlist in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Overview

This proposal to address the issues of excessive waitlists for defendants found incompetent to stand trial (IST) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is premised on two principles: (1) solutions must be data driven; and (2) each of the key points of the IST evaluation and restoration system needs to have a clear empirical profile. These key points include: (1) current waitlists in Philadelphia Prison, Alleghany County Jail, and a sample of the larger rural and suburban counties; (2) current patients in Norristown State Hospital (NSH) and Torrance State Hospital (TSH) for competency restoration; (3) all competency restored defendants returned to county/city jails in 2016; and (4) occupants of the 120 community beds that the Commonwealth says have been brought on line since the 2016 settlement agreement.

In order to understand how the current process is working, data is needed on each of the key points in the system that can create a clear picture of who is where and why. For example, what are the characteristics of the IST patients in NSH and TSH who stay the longest? Of those on the waitlists, how many share these characteristics? If there were community beds available for competency restoration and criteria were developed, how many of the defendants on the waitlist would be eligible? What did prosecutors do with the original charges of defendants restored to competency in 2016? What were the characteristics of those cases that were dismissed? Knowing whose charges were dismissed might suggest who could have been moved from NSH and TSH earlier or never have gone there. These are just a few of the questions whose answers would be provided by the data we would collect.

Another feature of our proposed work is to develop a bed need methodology to determine the number and level of security of additional beds needed to bring the waitlist down to seven days. A core component of this portion of the project will be based on the patient data being collected that will allow for a determination of what level of security is needed for each detainee currently on the waitlist. In addition, a survey will be needed of the current occupancy level of all state beds, institutional and community, at each level of security and the turnover rate of these beds. The most efficient way to conduct this survey will be negotiated with DHS.

5/22/17

This research would produce one or two interim reports as initial, relevant findings are identified. A final report with key data results recommendations for revamping the IST system for timely, appropriate evaluation and restoration procedures that reduce wait times for transfers from jail to restoration sites to acceptable levels would be completed by December 31, 2017.

Research Methods

1. Profile of Defendants on Waitlists

Sites: Philadelphia Prison/Alleghany County Jail/3 or 4 suburban/rural counties to be determined
Sample: All defendants on waitlists for competency restoration on July 1, 2017
Data: Target arrest date; Most serious target arrest charge; LOS in jail; LOS on waitlist; Date IST Evaluation Submitted

2. Profile of NSH/TSH Restoration Patients

Sites: NSH/TSH
Sample: All defendants on census for competency restoration on July 1, 2017
Data: Target arrest dates; Most serious target arrest charge; LOS in NSH/TSH; Intake diagnosis; Major items in treatment plan (TBD)

3. Profile of Competency Restorations completed in 2016

Sites: NSH/TSH
Sample: All defendants returned to local jails or the community with determinations of restored competency in 2016
Data: Most serious active criminal charge; LOS in NSH/TSH; Subsequent jail LOS; Number and length of subsequent hospitalizations on target offense; Disposition of target arrest charge(s)

4. Documenting New Community Beds

Sites: Statewide
Sample: All 120 beds added since settlement and their occupants through June 30, 2017

Data: Number beds in line; Location; Dates came on line; Referral source for all occupants; Active criminal charges; LOS; Discharge placement

5. Interviews

Sites: Philadelphia Prison; Alleghany County Jail; and suburban/rural jails selected in #1

Sample: Jail clinicians, prosecutors, public defenders, judges from relevant court calendars; clinicians/administrators at NSH/TSH on relevant courts

Data: Analysis of how competency evaluation and restoration system works from their vantage point and what they would do to reduce the waitlists

Timeline

7/1/17 - 7/30/17	Visit sites to confirm data collection and hire and train staff onsite
8/1/17 - 9/30/17	Data collection
10/1/17- 10/31/17	Interview key informants
10/1/17- 11/30/17	Data collection/Data analysis/Preliminary reports
12/1/17-12/31/17	Final report preparation

Key Personnel

Henry J. Steadman, Ph.D.
Lisa Callahan, Ph.D.
Patricia Griffin, Ph.D.
Kirk Heilbrun, Ph.D.

Cost

\$294,000