



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Lessons Learned: Outpatient Competency Restoration and Jail- Based Competency Restoration

Ashleigh Walton, Forensic and Jail Diversion Services Director

Behavioral Health Services

Texas Health and Human Services

July 17, 2024



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Agenda

- Fiscal Year 2024 Outpatient Competency Restoration (OCR) and Jail-Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) Enhancement Timeline
- Key Engagement Strategies
 - ▶ Program Surveys
 - ▶ Program Site Visits
 - ▶ FJDS Technical Assistance
- Program Impact Considerations
 - ▶ Judicial Influence
 - ▶ Jail Considerations
 - ▶ Data Fidelity Improvement
- Next Steps
- Questions

Fiscal Year 2024 OCR and JBCR Enhancement Timeline



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forensic and Jail Diversion Services (FJDS) Unit reorganization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provides OCR and JBCR overview at January JCAFS meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JBCR reporting migrates to Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract executions begin for new and expanded programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract executions begin for new programs* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FJDS Unit is fully staffed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FJDS Unit begins program site visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR reporting migration project starts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting tool (Form I) revisions begin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FJDS Unit develops and distributes OCR and JBCR survey to service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine new or expanded programs receive additional funds** 	

*Funds allocated via the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG).

**Funds appropriated via the 2024-25 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, Regular Session, 2023 (Article II, HHSC, Rider 48) and MHBG.

Key Engagement Strategies

Program Surveys

Program Visits

Technical Assistance

- Stakeholder initiated outreach to FJDS Unit.
- FJDS Unit collaborates with the HHSC Health and Specialty Care System to coordinate the Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative.



Program Surveys (1 of 2)

Purpose:

Explore potential successes, barriers, and gaps related to performance measures and best practices.

Analysis:

FJDS Unit reviewed responses to identify trends, challenges, and areas that would benefit from follow-up.

Quick facts:

- Surveys were sent to all local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities with active OCR and JBCR programs (24).
- Questions were predominantly open-ended.
- The survey included questions that applied to either program type or were specific to OCR or JBCR.
- FJDS Unit received 100% response rate.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



Program Surveys (2 of 2)

Survey questions fell under one of the following categories:

Screening and
Eligibility

Program Utilization

Medications

Restoration

Court and Jails

Re-entry

Support

OCR Survey Highlights (1 of 2)

Program trends identified:

- **Effective collaboration with jail partners:** contractors reported minimal barriers to working with jail partners, facilitating smoother coordination and support.
- **Efficient rescreening processes:** contractors established protocols for rescreening participants initially deemed ineligible, ensuring no one is excluded in error.
- **Implementation of long-acting injectables:** contractors make long-acting injectable medications available, contributing to sustained treatment outcomes and adherence.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

OCR Survey Highlights (2 of 2)

Program variances identified:

- Use of the Texas State Hospital Competency Restoration Curriculum
- Use of an OCR program waitlist
- Consistent information sharing related to the time of release from custody



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

JBCR Survey Highlights (1 of 2)

Program trends identified:

- **Collaborative meetings with external stakeholders:** contractors facilitate consistent and robust discussions, staffings, and treatment team reviews across partners, allowing for more effective service delivery and continuity of care.
- **Identified processes and procedures:** contractors established methods and expectations to connect participants to resources and supports during and after discharge from the JBCR program.
- **Efficient rescreening processes:** contractors established protocols for rescreening participants initially deemed ineligible, ensuring no one is excluded in error.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

JBCR Survey Highlights (2 of 2)

Program variances identified:

- Use of the Texas State Hospital Competency Restoration Curriculum
- Parameters for JBCR designated spaces
- Exclusionary criteria



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Program Site Visits



Purpose:

Engage with stakeholders to gain insight into program operations and outcomes.

Visit components:

Formal and informal questions, information sharing, facility tours, and opportunities for stakeholder feedback.

Quick facts:

- HHSC visited four sites comprised of seven competency restoration programs and four county jails.
- HHSC visited centers with various funding sources, program components, and community resources.

FJDS Technical Assistance



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Purpose:

Provide education, training, and feedback to OCR and JBCR contractors.

Formats:

Microsoft Teams meetings, e-mail, phone calls, conferences, program visits, webpages, and written materials.

Outcome:

In-depth insight into successes, challenges, program needs, and best practices.

Frequency:

Monthly or scheduled as needed or requested.

Key Engagement Strategy Takeaways

- Numerous factors impact program deliverables.
- Program designs, resources, and operationalization vary widely across Texas.
- Collaboration, education, and effective information-sharing are critical for sustainable and successful program outcomes.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Program Impact Considerations

Judicial Influence

Jail Considerations

Data Fidelity Improvement



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Judicial Influence

Factors

- Exclusionary criteria such as:
 - ▶ Housing
 - ▶ Substance use history
 - ▶ Charges
- Changes in presiding judges
- Court capability and resources

Potential Impacts

- Underutilized programs
- Program awareness
- Changes in legal interpretation
- Relationships with program partners
- Number of referrals



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Jail Considerations



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Factors

- Internal jail requirements
- Physical environment
- Jail resources and funding
- Jail census
- Staffing

Potential Impacts

- Prioritization conflicts
- Participant movement and access throughout the jail
- Availability of jail security staff
- Jail lockdowns
- Availability of court-ordered medication procedures
- Medical and mental health staffing patterns

Data Fidelity Improvement



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Identified Issues

- Outdated reporting practices
- Manual reporting increases risk for human error
- Data variance

Identified Solutions

- Standardization of definitions
- Provide more technical assistance opportunities
- Align reporting tool
- Migrate reporting systems

Next Steps (1 of 2)

- Develop and distribute a follow-up survey based on survey responses, program visits, and provider and stakeholder feedback.
- Provide technical assistance opportunities for stakeholders involved with OCR and JBCR outcomes.
- Develop and publish a Frequently Asked Questions document to streamline updated information and allow for more uniform program implementation across Texas.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Next Steps (2 of 2)

- Focus on resource sharing related to identified barriers (e.g., housing, court-ordered medications).
- Align and clarify program requirements through the revised and adopted JBCR rule (adoption anticipated January 2025).
- Continue to monitor data and make appropriate funding recommendations.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Questions?



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Thank you!

HHSCForensicsAndJailDiversionServices@hhs.texas.gov