

# OFFICE OF DIVERSION AND REENTRY



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



# Who We Are – Office of Diversion and Reentry Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial

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# Los Angeles County Office of Diversion and Reentry

*The Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) was created in September 2015 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Its mission is to develop and implement county-wide criminal justice diversion for persons with mental and/or substance use disorders, to provide reentry support services based on an individual's needs, and to reduce youth involvement with the justice system.*

## Who does the ODR clinical team serve?

- Persons with serious mental disorders (except maternal health)
- Persons with significant physical illnesses
- Persons who are without housing
- Majority also with substance use disorders





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**ODR Housing**

- Began August 2016
- Permanent supportive housing, intensive case management, formal probation

Persons currently active: 2,167  
Persons in permanent supportive housing: 811

Total Released:  
**3,591**



**MIST-CBR**

- Began October 2015
- Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial Community-Based Restoration

Persons being restored in community on active court order: 103

Total Released:  
**1,906**



**FIST-CBR & Off-Ramp**

- Began July 2018
- Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial Community-Based Restoration
- Off-Ramp, competency findings & services under PC 1370 (a)(1)(g)

Persons being restored in community on active court order: 399  
Persons found competent while in jail, avoiding State Hospital: 374

Total Released:  
**704**



**Maternal Health**

- Began March 2018
- Diversion of pregnant women from custody

Persons currently active: 110

Total Released:  
**189**



**DSH Diversion**

- Began March 2019
- Specialized use of PC 1001.36

Total people diverted: 274

Total Released:  
**274**

Grand Total Released from Jail into Community Services:  
**6,664**

July, 2021

# Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial in L.A.

- In Los Angeles County there are approximately 400 persons found felony IST at any given time in custody in the LA County jail, and 1,100 persons found felony IST in LA County per year.
- The FIST-CBR program diverts individuals facing felony charges who are found incompetent to stand trial into community-based settings to be restored to competency.
- LA has current funding for 415 beds and is waiting for CEO and Board approval to accept dollars for an expansion to 515 beds.
- We also use PC 1370(a)(1)(G) to "Off-Ramp" persons who have become competent while waiting for State hospital placement.



# We Take a Person-Centered Approach

## We are person-centered.

- This principle is central to the ethos of ODR and critical to our FIST-CBR work.

## Person-centered, big-picture.

- Clients' circumstances and contact with the criminal system primarily reflect a lack of housing and mental health care, and less so traditional criminogenic factors.
- Clients' lives reflect social determinants of health, not blameworthy personal traits.
- The path to recovery is not linear, relapse and setbacks are normal, and multiple opportunities to succeed are necessary.
- An orientation that relies only on coercion, compliance, and control is not effective.

## Person-centered at the program level.

- We build relationships through time spent and a collaborative approach.
- When people struggle, we increase support and resources, not punishment.
- When a program challenge seems intractable, we go back to first principles, and we keep at it until we find the solution tailored to the client.



# Our Pre-Release Preparation

- Clinicians review cases of all individuals with felony charges who are declared IST
- Individuals whose symptoms of mental illness may interfere with community-based treatment are referred to psychiatrists for further evaluation



# Our Pre-Release Preparation

- Psychiatrists see referrals to address potential barriers to successful community-based treatment (e.g., symptomatic despite current treatment)
- Encourage medication adherence/transition to long-acting injectable medications, if appropriate
- Emphasis on building rapport





# Our Pre-Release Preparation

- Psychiatrists and clinicians continue to work closely after an individual is referred
- Case consultation during weekly team meetings
- Collaboration between treatment team while incarcerated and post-release care providers



# Rethinking Restoration: Community Based

- We *can* safely house defendants with SMI charged with violent felonies
- Primary goal is mental health treatment and decarceration
- Providing support to community providers through ODR clinical oversight



# Community Based Restoration

Open residential setting --> 95% of patients

- Housing
- Case Management
- Competency restoration
- Medication management
- Individual and group therapy
- Recreational activities



# Select Program Data

- 402 persons currently in FIST-CBR
- 704 persons released since program inception (July 2018)

## Rates of Re-arrest for New Offense(s)

April 2021 "Pretrial Reform Data Collection" - County of Los Angeles Chief Information Office | Analytics Center of Excellence (ACE)

FIST-CBR: 17%

Other County Supervised Release Program: 39%

LA County felony pre-trial releases: 44%

LA County persons with serious mental disorders: 49%



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CRIMINAL  
COURTS

*Thank you*



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