

Catherina Isidro
11/19/21

Greetings IST Solution Workgroup Members,

FMHAC is committed to the goal of first-rate evaluation and treatment of mentally ill offenders through quality education and training to forensic mental health professionals in a variety of disciplines. Our mission is *to advance the provision of mental health services to persons involved in the criminal justice system and to provide educational opportunities to the professionals involved in the delivery of these services.*

We are submitting the attached letter in the hopes that it may assist you in developing recommendations for submission to CalHHS and the Department of Finance to improve IST evaluations, IST mental health diversion programs, jail-based competency programs, and other endeavors to reduce the DSH IST waitlist. There have been conversations in the past about how evaluators/alienists are trained. We at FMHAC believe that dedicated training for these professionals is essential for encouraging effective responses to highly vulnerable populations throughout the criminal justice continuum.

We thank you and appreciate all that you do to identify key strategies in developing other options to placement in DSH restoration of competency programs. We look forward to the Workgroup's final report.

Warm Regards,

Catherina "Trina" Isidro
Executive Director
Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC)