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Stephen Manley

Two short term solutions and one that may require legislation that I recommend:

1. Provide a separate line item in the Trial Court Budget for ongoing funding to address the increased number of IST evaluations, provide payment at a sufficient level to help Courts attract and keep qualified evaluators across 58 Courts with different challenges, including those that may require evaluators to travel long distances because of the location and size of the county, and provide for a statewide inventory of qualified evaluators that Courts may access.
2. Set time frames for appointment, receipt of reports, etc. that are mandatory (absent a showing of good cause) as a Rule of Court (or statute) to change the practice of long delays before the issue of competency is determined, to reduce the number of weeks and months of incarceration in our jails before the issue is determined.

If approximately 50% of those committed to the State Hospital could and should be treated in the community, then after a finding that the defendant is incompetent, change the statutory language from “may” to shall consider and make specific findings as to whether or not the defendant would be appropriate for diversion.