Competence to Stand Trial Mappings

Building solutions to decrease waitlists and length of stay

What's at Stake

Courts can raise concerns around a person's competence to stand trial during the pretrial process. Individuals who may require a competence evaluation are rarely considered for diversion, though they tend to be ideal candidates for community-based services. Instead, they become detainees for long periods in jails or state psychiatric hospitals while waiting for an evaluation. This can have harmful results. Potential negative outcomes include reentry into the forensic or criminal legal system—a misuse of resources. This misallocation has overburdened the mental health system in many places and has been the subject of class-action lawsuits brought against states.

Our Solution

The **Competence to Stand Trial Mapping** catalyzes needed connections in the competence to stand trial process. It helps communities identify decision-makers, critical partners, and programs within the competence to stand trial/competence restoration system. Systems Mapping and Training Center facilitators work with communities to identify people and resources and incorporate them into a map. The mapping process aims to develop solutions to decrease waitlists and shorten a defendant's length of stay in a hospital or jail setting.

Our Model

The **Competence to Stand Trial Flowchart** focuses on Intercepts 2 (Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings) and 3 (Jails/Courts) of the **Sequential Intercept Model**. Our model highlights key decision points in the competence to stand trial process. Some examples of these decision points are evaluation, restoration, and disposition. Each decision point highlights possible outcomes and places where individuals could be referred. These include hospitals, jails, community-based treatment services, supportive services, and courts.

Participants

The participants involved in the **Competence to Stand Trial Mapping** include the following:

- Advocates
- Behavioral health providers
- Community-based services
- Courtroom and legal professionals, , specifically judges, district attorneys, and defense counsel
- Families of impacted individuals
- Forensic evaluators
- Healthcare providers
- Jail staff
- Law enforcement
- People with lived experience
- Housing authorities

Get Started With the SMTC

The Systems Mapping and Training Center, operated by **Policy Research Associates**, uses a public health model to create data-driven systems change. The Systems Mapping and Training Center provides cross-systems mapping and training services on different topics related to behavioral health, the criminal legal system, Veterans, homelessness, and more.

Contact Us

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