



**Jail Based
Competency
Restoration**

**Fiscal Year 2023
Status Report**

Setting the Standard for Excellence

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2023 | OCTOBER

FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION



A YEAR IN REVIEW

In FY 2023 the Jail Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) Program saw tremendous growth in the areas of program expansion and extending services to justice-involved individuals located in the Harris County Jail. The increase in services, personnel, and programming was made possible by an increase in state and county funding following programmatic successes in the previous fiscal years.

In addition to expanding competency restoration services, the JBCR Program has more than doubled its clinical and administrative staff and incorporated movement therapies into recreational services.

By continuing to develop and implement practices that are patient-centered and clinically driven, the JBCR Program gained state and national attention through various conference presentations. Harris County was nationally recognized for its JBCR Program by the National Association of Counties (NACo), receiving an achievement award for innovation in county programming.

Throughout FY 2023, the JBCR Program continued to push the limits of what is possible in a jail setting by implementing innovative programming, expanding services to include holistic practices, and developing standards for excellence in jail based competency restoration.



MISSION

The mission of JBCR is to transform the lives of mental health justice-involved individuals who are awaiting competency restoration treatment at a state hospital or mental health facility.

VISION

The vision of JBCR is to deliver competency restoration services utilizing a person-centered, trauma-informed, holistic approach to empower justice-involved individuals. We strive to provide our patients with services tailored to their specific needs with the primary objective of restoring competency.

GOALS

The goal is to reduce or ameliorate the stress of incarceration while providing factual and rational court education services.

Additionally our goal is to promote a forensic-based community approach to competency restoration and develop a unique setting where patients can achieve success through programmatic intervention while incarcerated.



2023 NACo ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

Jail-Based Competency Restoration

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

CATEGORY: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

YEAR: 2023

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of individuals declared incompetent to stand trial in the Harris County Jail grew, with people waiting an average of 500 days to receive treatment from the State Hospital System in order to be restored to competency. In response, the Harris County Sheriff's Office and The Harris Center for Mental Health & IDD applied for funding to establish a Jail-Based Competency Restoration (JBCR) Program. Initially funded by the Texas Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC), the program delivered rapid results with a 2022 competency restoration rate over 90% and an average stay of only 55 days. Based on this success, HHSC allocated additional funding and Harris County Commissioner's Court approved ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funding to expand the program from 20 beds to 70 beds, including a 20 bed pre- and post-JBCR programming. JBCR utilizes a compassionate, person-centered approach including medication management, therapy, peer support services, case management and discharge planning. As one of the first counties to implement JBCR, Harris County is a leader in the space, helping people address behavioral health concerns and access speedier trials.

NACo Achievement Awards Luncheon & General Session

Austin Convention Center

Austin, Texas

July 23, 2023

Krystin Holmes, JBCR Program Manager, Harris County
The Harris Center for Mental Health & IDD

Nalyah Johnson, Legislative Affairs Clerk, Harris County
Intergovernmental & Global Affairs





CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

In JBCR, we are passionate about learning and continuing to grow in the field of correctional mental health and competency restoration. We believe in growth through shared experiences, and have been honored to provide presentations about Harris County's JBCR Program at the local, state, and national levels this year.



Dr. Kimberly Warneke

NCHC Spring Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana



Dr. Kimberly Warneke & Dr. Krystin Holmes

NCHC National Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada

October 2022

*NCHC National Conference on Correctional Healthcare
Las Vegas, Nevada*

November 2022

*Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health Annual Conference
Grapevine, Texas*

April 2023

*NCHC Spring Conference on Correctional Healthcare
New Orleans, Louisiana*

June 2023

JBCR Presentation to The Harris Center Board Programs Committee

July 2023

*NCHC Correctional Mental Health Care Conference
Washington, D.C.*

July 2023

Invited Participant in HHSC's Competency Restoration Video Toolkit Series



COLLABORATION & BUILDING COMMUNITY

One of our core values is developing a community of professionals dedicated to the mission of providing exceptional competency restoration services to mental health justice-involved individuals. Through participation in state and national workgroups, conference presentations, and continued collaboration, the Harris County JBCR Program has developed an extensive network with other local mental health authorities, law enforcement agencies, and state organizations.

These professional networks have allowed us to learn valuable lessons from other counties, provide support and guidance to newly developing programs, and extend our reach across the state and nation. Many local, regional, and national counties have expressed an interest in touring our JBCR Program as they move towards program development. The counties and agencies who have visited Harris County's JBCR Program are listed below:

- Access Center LMHA
- Bexar County LMHA
- Blue Bonnet Trails LMHA
- Disability Rights of Texas
- Emergence Health Network LMHA (El Paso, TX)
- Ft. Bend County Sheriff's Office
- Gulf Coast Center LMHA
- Harris County District Attorney's Office
- Harris County Office of Justice Safety
- Miami Dade County Sheriff's Office (Miami, FL)
- Polk County Sheriff's Office (Polk Co., FL)
- San Antonio State Hospital (SASH)
- Spindletop Center LMHA
- Texana Center LMHA
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Travis County
- Tri-County Behavioral Health Care LMHA



PROGRAM EXPANSION

From the early beginnings of the JBCR Program there were talks of expansion due to the overwhelming need for relief for mental health justice-involved individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial (IST). Hurricane Harvey devastated Harris County in 2017 increasing stress on to an already overburdened judicial system. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic brought everything to a standstill, and during this time the wait for competency restoration services continued to grow.

Officials at the state and local levels quickly recognized that providing jail based competency restoration services was a viable option to help deliver much needed services at the local level. Following programmatic success in 2021 and 2022, and with encouragement from community stakeholders including the Harris County District Attorney, District Court Judges, and the Office of Justice and Safety, the Harris County Commissioner's Court and Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provided additional funding to increase the scope of the JBCR Program.

Jail Based Competency Restoration Expansion Press Conference

February 9, 2023

- Mike Lee, Chief Deputy** *Harris County Sheriff's Office*
- Lesley Briones, Commissioner,** *Harris County Precinct 4*
- Lina Hidalgo, County Judge,** *Harris County*
- Wayne Young, CEO,** *The Harris Center for Mental Health & IDD*
- Shaukat Zakaria, Chair of the Board,** *The Harris Center for Mental Health & IDD*





PROGRAM EXPANSION

Increased Staffing

With the JBCR Program Expansion, an additional 10.5 FTEs was added to the existing staffing pattern. This allowed for the treatment team to maintain a ratio of 25:1, which we believe has been key to delivering consistent results. The JBCR Program now operates with a clinical and administrative staff of 20 FTEs, serving 50 JBCR Intensive patients and 20 pre-/post-unit patients.

Program Expansion and Cost Analysis

The JBCR Program Expansion increased from a total census of 20 JBCR Intensive program beds to 50 Intensive program beds. In addition, the expansion funds included adding a 20 bed pre-/post-unit to help patients transition between entering and exiting the JBCR Program and maintaining competency as they proceed to court.

Of note, the cost of expansion only increased the cost per patient/per day by \$82.52. During this fiscal year, the JBCR Program expanded its bed capacity by 150%, more than doubled the clinical and administrative staff, while only increasing costs by 32%.

A cost comparison is provided below:

- Estimated State Hospital Cost:** \$412.00 per patient/per day
- JBCR FY 2022: \$261.18 per patient/per day
 - JBCR FY 2023: \$343.70 per patient/per day*

**Correctional Cost increased by \$73.82 per patient/per day*



DATA & PROGRAM METRICS

Overview

The JBCR Program requirement was to maintain a restoration rate of at least 55% and to serve a target population of 80 individuals.

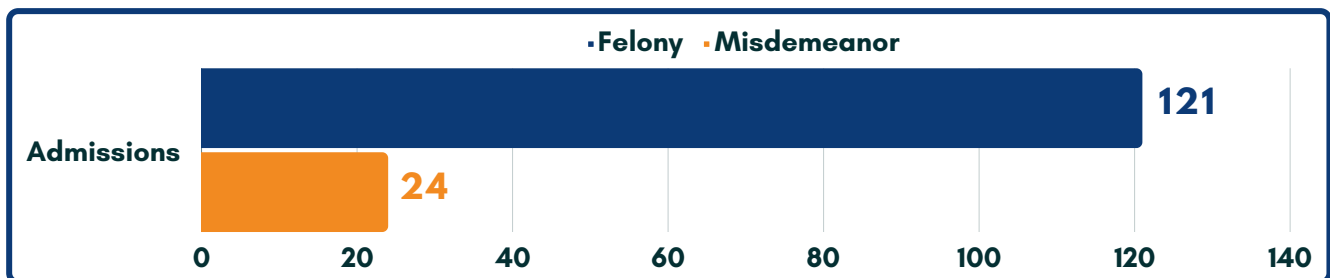
Harris County's JBCR ended the 2023 Fiscal Year with an average restoration rate of **90%** and admitted **145 individuals** exceeding the state minimum requirements.

Program Descriptives

Assessment & Admission Data

In FY 2023, the number of assessments referred to competency restoration programming increased by more than 100 referrals from the previous year. This year, the JBCR Program Assessment Unit received **398** court orders for mental health justice-involved individuals to be assessed for program placement while awaiting treatment at the state hospital.

The JBCR Program had a target of 80 unduplicated admissions. However, due to program expansion in March of 2023 the program was able to admit additional patients, exceeding the state requirement. The JBCR Program welcomed 145 patients (Felony - 121, Misdemeanor - 24) into the program this fiscal year and increased next year's target to accommodate for program expansion.





DATA & PROGRAM METRICS

Program Descriptives

Description of Participants

With respect to program participants, 68% of JBCR participants were males and 32% of program participants were females. This is consistent with the previous year’s breakdown of participants.

<u>Demographics</u>	African-American	50%	Hispanic/Latino	31%
	Caucasian	17%	Asian	1%

Maximum Security Unit (MSU) Patients

Individuals who are designated as MSU require competency restoration treatment in a maximum security unit or jail-based setting. These individuals usually wait the longest for competency restoration due to the limited availability of MSU bed space. The JBCR Program served 111 MSU patients, comprising 77% of our unduplicated admissions with a restoration rate among MSU patients of 95% in FY 2023

Recidivism Rate

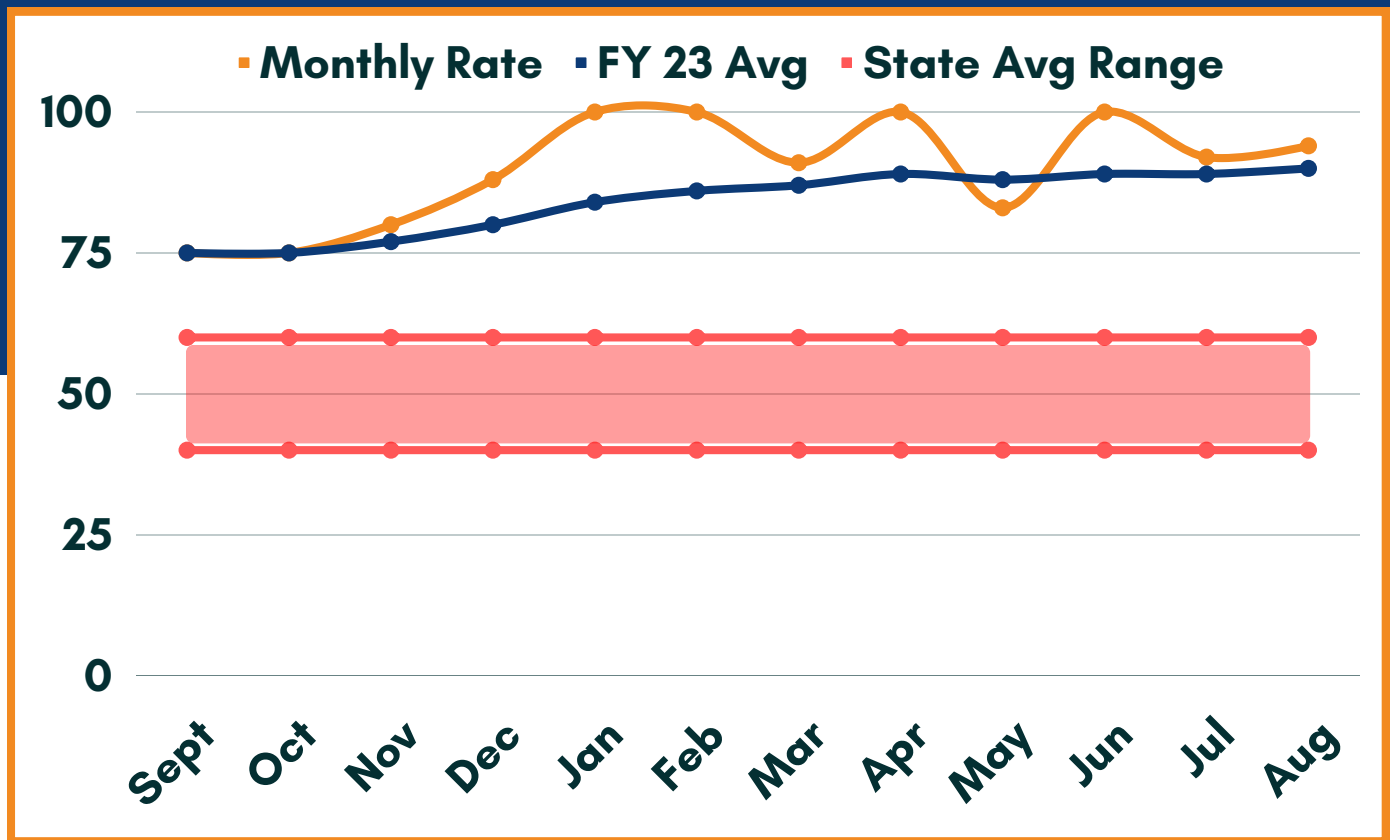
Among individuals opined competent to stand trial at the completion of the program, the JBCR Program participants have a recidivism rate of 6%.

Average Length of Stay (ALOS)

While participants may utilize the entirety of the initial restoration period (Felony - 120 days, Misdemeanor - 60 days), most participants complete the program with significant time remaining. The Average Length of Stay (ALOS) for the JBCR Program during FY 2023 is 58 days.

FY 2023 RESTORATION RATE

90%



The JBCR Program achieved an overall restoration rate of 90% for FY 2023, well above the contract minimum requirement of 55%. The chart above provides a breakdown of the restoration rate by month and the FY average throughout the year.

Additionally, a range of restoration rates among Jail Based Competency Restoration Programs across the state of Texas is provided for comparison and ranges from 40% to 60% overall.

Court Ordered Medications

When necessary to help patients restore to competency, and after exhausting all other avenues of treatment in order to gain medication adherence, the JBCR Program Psychiatrist may petition the court for an order to compel the administration of psychoactive medication. The rate of prevalence in the JBCR Program for court ordered medications was 47% in FY 2023.



PROGRAM SATISFACTION

Patient Survey and Results Report

Patient Engagement

Upon completion of the JBCR Program, patients are offered the opportunity to complete a Satisfaction Survey based on their experiences, providing valuable feedback on areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. The Satisfaction Survey is a combination of Likert-scale items and free response sections. Below is a report of data generated from the survey results.

Service Area Satisfaction Ratings

The Service Area Satisfaction Rating asks patients to rate the quality of the following service areas on a one to five Likert-scale:

Quality of Service Provided by Peer Staff:	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.1
Quality of Service Provided by Clinical Staff: <i>(JBCR Counselors & Care Coordinators)</i>	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.4
Quality of Service Provided by Medical Staff: <i>(JBCR Psychiatrists & Nurses)</i>	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.4
Overall Quality of Services Provided by JBCR:	★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.4

Qualitative Response Data: What our patients are saying

What was your favorite part about being in the JBCR Program?

"Having someone to help me better understand things" *"The amount of work put into the program"*

What is something you have learned while in the JBCR Program?

"Court education and respect" *"How to use coping skills"* *"How the court proceeds and the type of felony cases"*

What is something you would tell the next person coming into the JBCR Program?

"To not give up" *"Stay focused on the classes and listen"* *"It's a great program"*
"Pay attention and do the work" *"Work with the counselors, they are only trying to help you"*

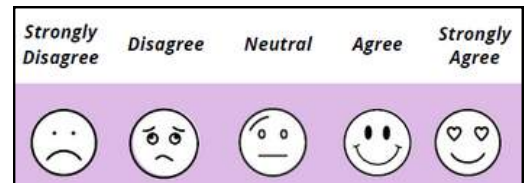


PROGRAM SATISFACTION

Patient Survey and Results Report

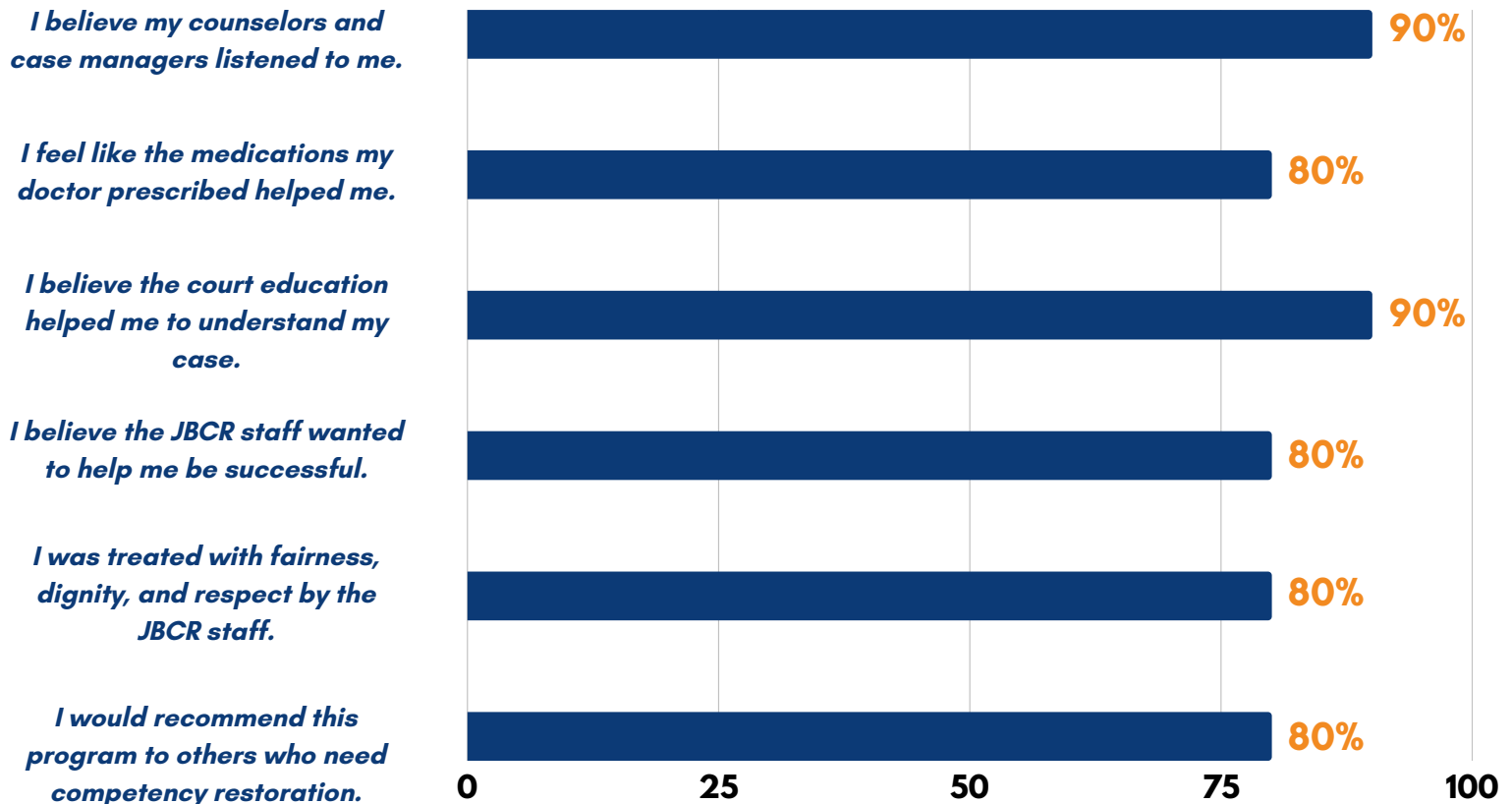
Response Statements

The Satisfaction Survey contains statements pertaining to patient beliefs about the program. Patients were asked to respond to each statement with a response of "Strongly Disagree," "Disagree," "Neutral," "Agree," or "Strongly Agree." Additionally, the response items were paired with a graphic for ease of understanding.



Response Statement Outcomes

■ Agree - Strongly Agree





LOOKING AHEAD

As the program continues to grow and evolve, we look forward to continuing to serve our community in a person-centered, trauma-informed manner that promotes the autonomy of all mental health justice-involved persons entrusted in our care.

In moving towards the continued development of best-practices for competency restoration in the state and nation, we will continue to integrate holistic therapies, recreational modalities, movement therapies, yoga, and creative expression to help facilitate patient learning.

In closing, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all of our community partners. Without the support of our stakeholders, we would not be able to serve in this capacity.

We would like to thank the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Houston Defense Bar, the District Clerk's Office, the Office of Justice and Safety, the administrative and judicial arms of the Criminal Courts at Law and the District Courts for their ongoing endorsement and support of the JBCR Program.

Last, but not least, we wish to thank the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, the Command Staff, and Detention Staff for their collaboration and support of JBCR.

-Dr. Krystin Holmes

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