



**Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team
Thursday, January 8, 2026
Supplemental Packet**

Includes:

- Dallas County Mental Health Advisory Committee
 - Mental Health Assessment Unit 16.22 Report

- Legislative Update
 - Texas Health and Human Services Commission: Report on Waiting Lists for Mental Health Services

- FUSE Data
 - FY 2025-2026 Report



DALLAS COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT UNIT CODE OF CRIM. PROC. ARTICLE 16.22

2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Magistrate Orders	2535	2502	2978	3019	3161	2864	3282	3353	3064	3019	2692	2790
Completed Screenings Sent Out by Mag Clerks	2033	1912	2463	2463	2507	2287	2495	2850	2291	2434	2044	2485
Face to Face Interviews	1026	1083	1615	1413	1508	1193	1698	1461	1316	1496	1119	1309
Telehealth/ Telephone Interviews	267	113	210	168	272	276	256	312	309	420	262	360
Desk Reviews (Reports sent that were completed in the past 365 days)	740	718	882	882	1381	817	866	1077	666	982	790	1218
Refused Screening	171	172	198	198	225	288	264	242	222	210	183	145
Unable to Locate	408	356	450	450	330	285	307	346	297	231	153	243
Average days from order received to screening for individuals in custody (for a defendant held in custody, not later than 96 hours after the time an order was issued under Subsection (a))	3.7	2.4	2.7	2.7	1.8	2.3	2.01	1.76	1.8	1.8	1.83	2.3
Average days from order received to screening for individuals out of custody (for a defendant released from custody, not later than the 30th day after the date an order was issued under Subsection (a))	17.56	23.6	23.7	23.7	22.8	19.7	18.49	13.48	9.12	6.6	7.04	8.6

Acknowledgment

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to **Adapt Community Solutions** for their continued partnership and dedication in completing the 16.22 CCP interviews. Their timely and thorough work plays a vital role in supporting the mission of the Mental Health Assessment Unit within the Criminal Justice Department. We are grateful for their commitment to ensuring individuals receive the appropriate assessments and care.



Report to the 89th Texas Legislature
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Report on Waiting Lists
for Mental Health Services
 Published December 19, 2025
 With added comparison to report from FY 2023

Link to HHSC Report:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/mhs-waiting-lists-nov-2025.pdf>

Report from HHSC is required by SB 1, Article II, Rider 47, and includes:

Waiting list and expenditure data for community mental health services, forensic state hospitals, and maximum security forensic state hospitals for each LBHA/LMHA, state facility and contracted entities.

Report requires data on:

- Number of people waiting for all services.
- Number of under-served people waiting for additional services.
- Number of people removed from the waiting list.
- Amount expended to remove people from waiting list per quarter.
- Average number of days on the waiting list.
- Explanation of short-term operational factors and long-term capacity factors for waiting lists.

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Texas Monthly Average Number of Adults Served in Community Mental Health per Quarter

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Texas average monthly number of adults served.	93,891	92,765	95,950	98,779
	FY 2025-Q1	FY 2025-Q2	FY 2025-Q3	FY 2025-Q4
	96,249	95,439	97,099	99,493

Adult Waiting Lists for All Community-Based Mental Health Services in FY 2025

In FY 2023, only 4 of Texas’ 39 LBHA/LMHAs had waiting lists. This report indicates that in FY 2025, only the Gulf Bend Center, which is in a rural area, had a waiting list for community-based mental health services in FY 2025, ranging from 13 people waiting mid-year to 7 waiting by the end of FY 2025. People waited an average of 100 to 120 days in the first three quarters of FY 2025 in that region, though Gulf Bend Center reduced that average to 49 days in the last quarter of FY 2025.

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Adult Waiting List Statewide	360	291	279	252
	FY 2025-Q1	FY 2025-Q2	FY 2025-Q3	FY 2025-Q4
Adult Waiting List Gulf Bend Center	12	13	13	7

Number of Underserved Adults Waiting for Additional Services by an LBHA/LMHA.

In the FY 2023 report, Quarters 1 and 2 were not reported. Twelve LMHAs reported underserved adults. In FY 2025, the 27 LBHA/LMHAs reported underserved adults. NTBHA was not among them either fiscal year.

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Underserved Adults	–	–	1,213	1,421
	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
	1,528	1,291	1,120	1,009

Monthly Average Number of Children Served in Community Mental Health per Quarter

- None of the thirty-nine LBHA/LMHAs reported children on waiting lists in either fiscal year.

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Texas average quarterly number of children served	28,837	29,303	30,687	29,118
	FY 2025-Q1	FY 2025-Q2	FY 2025-Q3	FY 2025-Q4
	25,759	25,546	26,736	25,356

Number of Under-served Children Waiting for Additional Services by LBHA/LMHA

In FY 2023, 19 LBHA/LMHAs reported underserved children waiting for additional services. In FY 2025, although the overall numbers were cut by approximately 50% statewide, 22 LBHA/LMHAs reported underserved children waiting for additional services. However, 16 of those centers reported less than 5 underserved children per quarter. Six centers reported significantly larger numbers in some quarters of FY 2025, which brought the statewide numbers up.

Category	FY 2023-Q1	FY 2023-Q2	FY 2023-Q3	FY 2023-Q4
Texas average quarterly number of underserved children	–	–	696	591
	FY 2025-Q1	FY 2025-Q2	FY 2025-Q3	FY 2025-Q4
	455	234	328	271

Funding to Reduce Waiting Lists

For FY 2022-23, The 87th Texas Legislature appropriated a total of \$973,584, 512 for community-based mental health services for adults and children. These funds represented an increase in funding from previous years, in part due to federal funds to address the Coronavirus pandemic.

For FY 2024-2025, the 88th Texas Legislature appropriated a total of \$1,123,746,816 for community-based mental health services for adults and children. These funds also represented an increase in funding from previous years, in part due to federal funds to address the Coronavirus pandemic.

Funding to Reduce Waiting Lists--continued

The federal American Rescue Plan Act expired on March 24, 2025, in the midst of the 89th Texas Legislature. The 89th Legislature appropriated \$728,489,068 for Community Mental Health Services for adults and children in SB 1, Article II, Strategy D.2.1 for FY 2026 and FY 2027. HHSC requires LBHA/LMHAs to prioritize the reduction of waiting lists as soon as service capacity is available.

Factors Affecting Community Mental Health Waiting Lists for Adults and Children

Ongoing Workforce Shortages

- Recruitment and retention.
- Competitive job markets.
- Greatest challenges for LBHA/LMHAs in rural areas.

FORENSIC INPATIENT WAITING LIST DATA

Non-Maximum Security State Hospital Waiting Lists

Category				
Number of People on the Waiting List	FY 23-Q1	FY 23-Q2	FY 23-Q3	FY 23-Q4
	-	-	1,345	1,200
	FY 25-Q1	FY 25-Q2	FY 25-Q3	FY 25-Q4
	1,247	1,195	1,205	1,285
Number of People Removed from the Waiting List	FY 23-Q1	FY 23-Q2	FY 23-Q3	FY 23-Q4
	-	-	709	621
	FY 25-Q1	FY 25-Q2	FY 25-Q3	FY 25-Q4
	684	670	714	725
Average Number of Days on the Waiting List	FY 23-Q1	FY 23-Q2	FY 23-Q3	FY 23-Q4
	-	-	288	233
	FY 25-Q1	FY 25-Q2	FY 25-Q3	FY 25-Q4
	198	198	190	178

Maximum Security State Hospital Waiting Lists

Category				
Number of People on the Maximum Security Forensic Waiting List				
	FY 23-Q1	FY 23-Q2	FY 23-Q3	FY 23-Q4
	-	-	1,053	968
	FY 25-Q1	FY 25-Q2	FY 25-Q3	FY 25-Q4
	518	505	482	484
Number of People Removed From the Maximum Security Forensic Waiting List				
	FY 23-Q1	FY 23-Q2	FY 23-Q3	FY 23-Q4
	-	-	184	154
	FY 25-Q1	FY 25-Q2	FY 25-Q3	FY 25-Q4
	256	234	292	230
Average Number of Days on the Maximum Security Forensic Waiting List (Notification to Admission)				
	FY 23-Q1	FY 23-Q2	FY 23-Q3	FY 23-Q4
	-	-	690	659
	FY 25-Q1	FY 25-Q2	FY 25-Q3	FY 25-Q4
	302	247	253	202

FACTORS AFFECTING FORENSIC INPATIENT WAITING LISTS

Deferred Maintenance

- Compliance with Federal Life Safety Code and other regulations requires that non-compliant beds are taken offline during mitigation, remediation or maintenance.
- Cost of current remediation of anti-ligature equipment and other repairs exceeds the \$98,000,000 appropriated by the 89th Legislature for deferred maintenance.
- State Hospitals and State-Supported Living Centers are challenged with maintaining aging infrastructure and buildings.
- HHSC estimates the cost of needed deferred maintenance exceeds \$800,000,000.

County Planning, Coordination and Education

- Demand for Inpatient Competency Restoration services.
 - HHSC suggests increased use of Outpatient Competency Restoration and Jail-Based Competency Restoration Services.
 - HHSC's Office of Forensic Services and Coordination (OFSC)
 - Outreach and education of stakeholders.
 - Jail In-Reach program.

Factors Affecting Forensic Inpatient Waiting Lists--continued

County Planning, Coordination and Education--continued

- Jail Diversion Services
- Sequential Intercept Model Mapping
- Judicial Commission on Mental Health-Eliminate the Wait Campaign
- Texas Behavioral Health and Justice Technical Assistance Center

Current Construction for Increased Psychiatric Bed Capacity

Facilities Under Construction	Number of Beds	Classification of Beds	Expected Completion
Dallas State Hospital	200 Adult Beds 92 Children's Beds	75 Forensic (non-Max Security)	Early 2026
Lubbock Psychiatric Center	50 Adult Beds	Maximum Security	Fall 2027
Panhandle State Hospital	75 Beds	50 Forensic (non-Max Security)	Summer 2027
Rio Grande State Center	50 Adult Beds	Maximum Security	Summer 2027
San Antonio State Hospital	40 Adult Beds	Maximum Security	Fall 2026
To serve Southern Texas, specifically Rio Grande Valley, Victoria County, Montgomery County and City of Beaumont	Up to 332 Beds	50% Forensic	Contracts Executed
Sunrise Canyon Facility in Lubbock	30 beds	15 Forensic	Spring 2026
Tarrant County	Unspecified in Report	Crisis Stabilization and Competency Restoration	Contracts in Progress
Terrell State Hospital	275 Beds	50 Max Security 25 Civil 50 Adolescent 150 Forensic (non-Max Security)	Summer 2027
Wichita Falls State Hospital	225 Beds	25 Max Security 16 Civil 25 Adolescent 159 Forensic (non-Max Security)	Fall 2027

Unscheduled Admissions

State Hospitals are covered by the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), requiring that persons presenting for care must be admitted or denied for a valid reason. Unscheduled admissions or “walk-ins” are often transported to the hospital by law enforcement officers, family members, or voluntarily by the individual in crisis. The 2023 report did not include data on unscheduled admissions.

Category				
Number of People on the Maximum Security Forensic Waiting List				
	FY 25-Q1	FY 25-Q2	FY 25-Q3	FY 25-Q4
Total Walk-ins	572	576	632	587
Total Walk-ins Admitted	394	361	404	410

Funds Expended to Reduce Forensic Inpatient Bed Waiting Lists

- Ongoing state hospital operational expenses.
- Contracted beds.
- Repairs and mitigation of deferred maintenance to keep the maximum number of beds available.
- Competency Restoration Services (Inpatient-, Outpatient-, and Jail-Based).
 - Texas spent a total of \$19,036,301 for Competency Restoration Services in FY 2025.
- Community Mental Health Crisis Services.

FUSE DATA FY 2025-2026

12 MONTH



Category Item	May 25	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2026	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Total Clients Screened for FUSE	106	116	200	131	121	144							
Referral Source													
Jail FUSE Navigator Screening	2	1	30	4	1	0							
Pretrial Referral	12	27	30	18	22	40							
Defense Attorney Referral	4	3	5	4	4	12							
Shelter/Parkland Hospital Street FUSE Navigator Referral	2	0	0	0	0	2							
NTBHA Living Room Referral	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Dallas Deflection Center	6	0	0	0	0	0							
Probation/CSCD	0	0	0	0	0	1							
Other Referral Source (Adapt, Community Partners, etc.)	80	85	135	105	94	89							
Interview Outcomes													
Client Refused to be interviewed or Participate	0	3	9	1	0	2							
Client reported not being Unsheltered	0	0	0	0	1	0							
Unavailable to Interview	0	1	1	0	0	0							
Pending Interview	38	0	0	6	12	1							
Other Outcome Categories (*See Below)	56	85	173	105	101	116							
Total Released from Jail to FUSE	12	27	17	19	7	25							
Shelter Connection Rate													
Austin Street Center	6	9	6	5	2	6							
The Bridge	5	14	10	13	5	15							
Salvation Army	1	1	1	1	0	4							
Other Local Shelter, Boarding Homes, & Shelter Ref's	0	2	1	3	0	0							
No Response	0	1	0	0	0	0							
Left Before Entering Program/Did Not Connect	10	12	12	7	3	10							
Housed	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Housing Priority List, Info sent to Housing Forward, or Reunited w/Family	0	0	0	0	0	0							

*** Other Categories:** Released to Another Program or Agency, Boarding Home Placement, Referral Banned from Shelter, Client didn't qualify for FUSE, Immigration Hold, Released (i.e. Posted Bond), Referred by Shelters/Street Outreach, FUSE bond denied, Waiting on info, Sex Offender, Not in AIS, Waiting on Bond to Post, and Pending attorney response & etc.



Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team
Thursday, January 8, 2026
9:30am -11:00am
In-Person & Virtual Meetings via Microsoft Teams

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
 - Review/Approval of November 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- II. Introductions
- III. **Presentations:**
 - **Parkland WISH & Behavioral Health**
 - Carmen Bowling, DNP, RN; Senior Vice President, Women & Infant Specialty Hospital
 - Dr. Rebecca Corona, Director of Integrated Behavioral Health
 - Dr. Meitra Doty, Fellowship Director for Women's Mental Health
 - **Getting My Help, A Mental Wellness Foundation**
 - Greg Ellis, NFL Probowler, Film Producer & Founder of *Getting My Help Foundation*
- IV. North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) Update
- V. Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) Update
- VI. Dallas County Behavioral Health Housing Workgroup Update
- VII. Dallas County Mental Health Advisory Committee Update
- VIII. Legislative Update
- IX. Funding Opportunities
 - SAMHSA Residential Treatment Grant Update
 - Community Courts Grant Update – Public Defender’s Office (PD)
 - Restorative Justice Division Update – District Attorney’s Office (RJD)
- X. Upcoming Events and Notifications
- XI. Public Comments
- XII. Adjournment



DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
Minutes of the Behavioral Health Leadership Team Meeting
Thursday, November 13, 2025
<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/criminal-justice/bhlt/>

Welcome and Call to Order

Commissioner John Wiley Price called the Behavioral Health Leadership Team (BHLT) meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Commissioner Price welcomed everyone and announced that the meeting was being recorded and those who continued in attendance were consenting to being recorded as a part of the open records.

The Commissioners present were Commissioner John Wiley Price and Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel. Commissioner Price entertained a motion for opening the meeting. A motion was made and seconded by another participant. The motion was unanimously passed by the committee members.

Review/Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the BHLT meeting held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, were included in the meeting packet. Commissioner Price offered an opportunity for the minutes to be reviewed and approved. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Introduction

Commissioner Price welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked first-time attendees to introduce themselves.

- **Theo Pugh**, Mental Health Division Chief, Dallas County Public Defender's Office

North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) Update

Carol Lucky, CEO, NTBHA. Ms. Lucky reported that mental health service utilization consistently spikes in March, and the team prepares by managing capacity and leveraging special case agreements. She highlighted strong partnerships, including forensic beds through Millwood, which allow about 50 incarcerated individuals per day to receive private psychiatric care to reduce long state hospital waits. Ms. Lucky reported Dallas County is leading innovative approaches such as jail-based competency restoration, cell-side services, and civil commitments when charges are dropped, all supported by strong collaboration with jail leadership and private providers. She emphasized several successful programs, including Multisystemic Therapy (MST) expansion, the Youth Crisis Outreach Team (YCOT) now funded for 24/7 service, Critical Time Intervention (CTI) efforts that have served 277 justice-involved and often unhoused individuals, and a new transition program at Terrell State Hospital to ensure appropriate placement and preserve state hospital beds for those with the highest need.

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institution (MMHPI)

Jennifer Erasime, MMHPI. Ms. Erasime reported that she was standing in for Ron Stretcher and shared his update thanking everyone who attended the recent YCOT Summit with NTBHA. She noted that Dallas received one of the few state funding awards to expand the YCOT program and stated that they are working closely with the County to share information and support NTBHA in securing referrals to help expand youth crisis services in Dallas.

Dallas County Behavioral Health Housing Workgroup (BHHWG)

Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel, Dr. Daniel reported that the BHHWG met on October 22 and discussed how legislative changes may affect services. She noted that shelters are currently full, making it critical to balance limited resources while prioritizing those with the greatest need. Dr. Daniel highlighted efforts such as housing navigation, tracking individuals within the criminal justice system, and evaluating whether current strategies are effectively identifying needs and delivering services in both community and institutional settings. Dr. Daniel also emphasized the role of pretrial diversion, mental health screening, and coordination among Metrocare, Housing Forward, Dallas County, and other partners. Dr. Daniel concluded by stressing that the work is ongoing and collaboration across all agencies remains essential.

Dallas County Mental Health Advisory Committee Update

Yordanos Melake, Criminal Justice Department provided the update. Ms. Melake reported, for the month of October, there were 3,019 magistrate orders for 16.22 screenings with 2,434 completed, 1,496 were face-to-face interviews. Ms. Melake reported the average days between order received and interview completed for individuals in and out of custody remained in compliance with statutory requirements. The Mental Health Advisory Committee will continue to meet every three months on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting currently scheduled for Tuesday December 9, 2025, at 2pm.

Legislative Update

Janie Metzinger, Director of External Affairs, NTBHA. Ms. Metzinger reported on the forensic waitlist and ongoing legislative developments, noting that she checks updates weekly. She explained that the Sunset Commission is currently short six commissioners, with only the chairs appointed so far, and no staff report has yet been released based on the HHSC self-report. Ms. Metzinger also noted that interim legislative charges have not been published yet, though timing has varied in past sessions, and she will continue monitoring for updates. With the federal government now reopened, she will also be watching for any related movement on key issues and will keep the group informed

Funding Opportunities Updates

• SAMHSA Residential Treatment Grant Update

Marcus Turner Jr., Specialty Court Program Manager. Mr. Turner reported that although there have been no admissions yet, this is expected because they are in the first month of operating under the SAMHSA grant. He noted that there are two active referrals and staff are working with contracted vendors to connect participants with services at Homeward Bound and Nexus Recovery. He shared positive feedback from the federal government Program Officer (GPO), who praised Dallas County's strong performance under the grant.

- **Community Courts Grant Update-Public Defender’s Office (PDO)**

Christi Dean, Chief, Public Defender’s Office. Ms. Dean reported that the Dallas County Public Defender’s Office has a new Mental Health Group Chief, Theo Pugh, who brings extensive leadership experience and will begin participating in these meetings. She also welcomed Michaela Himes into her new role as Behavioral Health Diversion Process Specialist, noting the position aligns well with her skills and existing work. Ms. Dean shared that staff continue to participate in a City of Dallas homelessness initiative, sending teams every two weeks to engage encampments, build relationships, provide resources, and help address legal barriers. She added that the Juvenile Division has seen strong success with YCOT and MST programs.

- **Restorative Justice Division-District Attorney’s Office (RJD-DAO)**

Julie Turnbull, Chief of Restorative Justice Division. Mrs. Turnbull shared a success story where meeting feedback led to pretrial diversion materials being translated into Spanish through collaboration with the Child Poverty Action Lab. Ms. Turnbull, introduced a new interactive pretrial intervention resource dashboard that allows participants to easily locate required classes, see available virtual or in-person options, identify Spanish or English offerings, and access contact information. She asked committee members to review the dashboard once the link and QR code are shared and submit additional resource suggestions or corrections, noting it can be updated weekly. Finally, Mrs. Turnbull announced that the Chief of the DA’s Mental Health Division, Lee Pierson or Deputy Chief, Kendall McKimmey, will begin attending meetings to provide updates as well.

Kendall McKimmey, Deputy Chief of the Mental Health Division. Mrs. McKimmey provided an update on behalf of the Mental Health Division. She reported that the team is addressing the state hospital waitlist by assigning dedicated staff to monitor cases, assess stabilization, and identify whether individuals can transition to outpatient care, jail-based services, or dismissal to services when appropriate.

Upcoming Events and Notifications

- **Commissioner John Wiley Price** announced that Dallas County will be honoring the late Dallas County District Attorney, Craig Watkins with a commemorative bust. The ceremony will be held on Friday November 14, in the Central Jury Room of the Frank Crowley Court House at 10:00am.
- **Doug Denton**, Homeward Bound. Doug Denton shared that Homeward Bound and community partners, including Nexus, Youth 180, ASAP, and NTBHA, unanimously supported nominating Commissioner Price for the Government Leadership and Advocacy Award from the Texas Association of Substance Abuse Programs. Mr. Denton highlighted that Commissioner Price attended the statewide event in Austin, accepted the Lone Star Award, and delivered impactful remarks that were well received. Mr. Denton also announced that Homeward Bound’s annual holiday party for clients and families be held on December 11. Mr. Denton shared that they are currently conducting a coat, blanket, socks, undergarment, and encouraged anyone able to contribute to drop off donations.
- **Joe Powell, President & CEO, Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA)** Mr. Powell introduced the organization’s new Associate Director, Dr. Renika Cooper.
- **Dr. Walter Taylor**, NTBHA. Dr. Taylor announced an upcoming free training on November 21 with Dr. Jerry Taylor titled “*Man’s Search for Himself: Transforming Anxiety*”

from Intruder to Guide.” This session will offer 2.5 CEUs, light breakfast, lunch, and valet parking. It will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 2800 MLK Boulevard, and attendees were encouraged to register so adequate food can be provided.

- **Dr. Deborah Purge**, Dallas Independent School District. Dr. Purge highlighted ongoing suicide awareness partnerships with the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas ISD. Two October events engaged over 800 primarily student participants, featuring Dallas Cowboys players speaking openly about mental health, stress, and seeking help. Additional events are planned, and the Cowboys’ small counseling program is actively engaged despite significant need.

Adjournment

Commissioner Price thanked everyone for their collaboration and service. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

BHLT Presentation outline



Presented by Greg Ellis
January 8, 2026



Marshawn Kneeland

- Dallas Cowboys drafted him during the (2024) NFL draft
- Greg coached him during his rookie season
- Died from suicide (2025)

Greg Ellis Bio

Greg Ellis, a former NFL player, has forged three distinguished careers over the past two decades. He is a playwright, film producer, founder of the Getting My Help Foundation, and was one of the Dallas Cowboys Defensive Line Coaches in 2024.

A native of Wendell, North Carolina, Ellis showcased his athletic prowess early as an outstanding football and basketball player. The Raleigh News & Observer named him Male High School Athlete of the Year, which led to an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At UNC, he earned first-team All-American honors, was a finalist for the Lombardi Award, and was selected for three consecutive All-ACC seasons. Ellis remains UNC's all-time sack leader and earned a degree in Communications.

In the 1998 NFL Draft, Ellis was a first-round pick. He spent 11 years with the Dallas Cowboys and one year with the Oakland Raiders. His remarkable performance earned him a spot in the 2007 Pro Bowl, where he was named Defensive Comeback Player of the Year.

Following his illustrious football career, Ellis pursued his passion for the arts and his love for the community. He founded Play Now Enterprise, LLC, a multimedia company producing TV shows, feature films, and stage plays. The company's first major project was the movie "Carter High," starring Charles Dutton and Vivica A. Fox, which had a national theatrical release.

Ellis's critically acclaimed play, "Juneteenth," debuted in June 2019 in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. The play explores the faith, love, and ingenuity that sustained enslaved people until their emancipation. It commemorates the historical Texas holiday, Juneteenth, which marks the day—June 19, 1865—when 250,000 African Americans in Texas and other parts of the South learned of their freedom, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

Ellis, a passionate mental-wellness advocate, travels the country to educate communities on recognizing the dangers of self-inflicted emotional and physical issues that compound across generations. His nonprofit, Getting My Help, educates, advocates, and empowers individuals facing unique mental-health challenges through three foundational pillars: Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, DNA-based governing rules, and mind-body reprogramming to function as designed.

The foundation is dedicated to leveraging the power of creative and evocative media as a primary vehicle for social change and education, with a specific focus on mental health. By commissioning and utilizing powerful creative works, events, and presentations—such as insightful documentaries, narrative films, walk-a-thons, and its very own GMH app and self-help journal—the organization seeks to achieve a dual objective: to offer profound insights into the complexities of various mental health challenges and, simultaneously, to significantly improve public understanding, empathy, and discourse surrounding these critical issues. This approach moves beyond traditional informational dissemination to create emotionally resonant experiences that foster greater awareness and actively work to reduce the pervasive stigma associated with mental health conditions.

"I believe it is important to be 'my brother and sister's keeper.' The Getting My Help Foundation allows me to be a resource for individuals from all walks of life who struggle with trauma and mental disorders," says Ellis.

Today, Ellis dedicates his time back on the football field, leading a new generation of pro athletes and guiding them toward successful careers.

Greg Ellis Presentation outline to BHLT on January 8, 2026

Presented by Greg Ellis

1. Synopsis of Greg Ellis

- A. Childhood
- B. College years
- C. NFL playing years
- D. Football coaching

2. Greg Ellis current work

- A. Getting My Help (GMH) a mental wellness foundation
- B. Initial and his why
- C. Foundational philosophy

3. GMH Items and events

- A. Work shops, Preparation, walk-a-thons, GMH app, movie with symposium and GMH Self-Help Journal Getting My Help app

4. In-depth reviews

- A. Getting My Help App B. The film entitled "My Dear"
- C. GMH Self-Help Journal

5. Conclusion

- A. Question and answers
- B. Share my contact
- C. Express my gratitude



**Dallas County Administration, 500 Elm Street, 7th Floor, Dallas Texas 75202
December 3, 2025 Minutes**

Mission Statement: The Dallas County Behavioral Health Housing Work Group (DCBHWG), with diverse representation, will formulate recommendations on the creation of housing and housing related support services designed to safely divert members of special populations in crisis away from frequent utilization of expensive and sometimes unnecessary inpatient stays, emergency department visits and incarceration.

Success will be measured in placement of consumers in housing and the decreased utilization of higher levels of care (hospitals and emergency care visits) and reduced incarceration in the Dallas County Jail. The DCBHWG is committed to a data driven decision-making process with a focus on data supported outcomes.

ATTENDEES: Commissioner Theresa Daniel, Dallas County; Latoya Jenkins, Dallas County; Tzegabrhan Kidane, Dallas County; Laura Edmonds, DCCJ; Quincy Hogan, Metrocare; Doug Denton, Homeward Bound; Eric McCarty, NTBHA; Janie Metzinger, NTBHA; Valerie Palmer, Austin Street; John Hill, Housing Forward; Wendy Hardeman, Mesquite Sharing Life

Dr. Daniel opened the meeting by having the members at the table introduce themselves.

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner and the committee approved the minutes from the October 22nd meeting.

RESOURCES

Federal/State Legislative Update: Janie Metzinger, NTBHA

Janie Metzinger reported that the state legislature has still not submitted the interim charges yet. They are typically done in the fall to be heard at the interim hearings in the spring, so they are still waiting. Doug Denton questioned if the federal government has said anything regarding HUD shifting funding away from permanent supportive housing and adding money toward treatment, transitional housing and workforce programs. He stated that about 20 states have filed suit against that administrative order as it is a violation against a congressional mandate. John Hill stated that since the No Funding Opportunity Order has been issued, they have a much shorter window of opportunity to submit projects. Applications are now due on December 11th. He stated that Housing Forward has met with their providers to come up with a unified strategy to address the order and the changes. The Trump Administration wants to put treatment and temporary housing as the focus and that means 70% of permanent housing solutions will be shifted towards temporary solutions and only 30% will be available for permanent supportive housing. Housing Forward is currently focusing their efforts on this new vision to try to remain one of the more competitive COC's in the country. They are trying to mitigate the risk for about 500 tenants that will be impacted. So regardless of what happens with the suit or the administration, Housing Forward will come up with a strategy to maintain. Since 2021, as a system, Housing Forward has transitioned 21,000 people out of homelessness with permanent supportive housing being a major part of that. They are trying to avoid those who can't afford their rent being back out on the streets, so they are having to make their private and public funding stretch further. They are also looking internally at prioritization of apartment placements and the timelines they use that will allow them to gradually release people that have provided their own plan of support for their living situation. They want to continuously make sure they have beds available for those being released from jail or treatment. John stated that he is confident in their system, and he believes that next year they will receive their funding of \$28 million dollars; \$20 million from public sources, and \$8 million from private sources. He also believes they will continue to receive the federal funding they have received in the past.

SHELTER DISCUSSIONS

There was some discussion about the emergency shelter being available during this time due to the weather. Because the weather has not reached the temperature that is mandated, the emergency shelters have not been opened. Because the emergency shelters are full, there are waitlists and the people that are on those lists, are currently waiting on the streets. John Hill stated that those invested in the cause are great at doing something in an emergency situation but are a little more hesitant to be more proactive about a solution and give more funding on the front end of the issue. He referenced the World Cup coming into the area and how there is a focus to really look at the work being done in the homelessness and housing space, but it takes those types of occurrences to highlight the issue. With FIFA coming, it has sparked conversations

and has those involved looking into a six-month plan. Eric McCarty echoed that if we could allocate more resources from the beginning and not have to rely on an event like the World Cup, that the system would be better off.

Wendy Hardeman chimed in and stated that in Mesquite, they only have access to Star Transit and it will not go into Dallas unless a person has medical appointments. She also states the City of Mesquite is not interested in any type of “legal encampment area” and people are just camping out wherever they can. She says their funding is going to cleaning up encampments versus finding another solution for those experiencing homelessness. Sharing Life does have and offers emergency shelter and services, but not everyone wants to use those available services.

John Hill stated that the affordability crisis we are experiencing is contributing to the 700 new people in our region becoming homeless. Valerie Palmer stated that the work Austin Street is doing with Housing Forward to go from shelter to home instead of going from street to home is now becoming the focus. She states she meets twice a week with Housing Forward to focus on their longest tenants getting housed to free up more shelter beds. They want the narrative to be that shelter will get you housed. Eric McCarty stated that he has had success with clients coming from shelter to home and by using their Tenant Based Rental Assistance they were able to assist the clients in paying their rent for up to 24 months.

POSSIBLE HOUSING LEGISLATION

Commissioner Daniel asked if there was something legislatively that could be done with the upcoming session about to start. Janie Metzinger suggested to look at an existing program that someone else has done and expand or improve upon it. She stated that you want to look at proven programs that have data and proof that it works to develop a pilot program with a long term strategy that the state will adopt. John Hill stated that he visited with TX Sen. Parker about his mental health bill and he and other state Republicans are interested in having more mental health beds and are interested in having at least 2 Deflection Centers in the area. Mr. Hill also reported that he, along with Sen. Parker, attended the Republican Summit on Homelessness and the Cicero Institute. This organization is driving more homeless policy and ideas. John suggested to these entities that may consider investing more heavily in expansion of services of the existing providers, but he stated that they are more geared towards building new campuses and put more funding into shelter. Mr. Hill stated that he tried to convey the point to the fiscally conservative that those things are more expensive and they don't come online for years, which puts the current homeless situation even more behind. He also suggests that the state allocates funding the way the city and county does.

PROJECTS AND INDUSTRY UPDATES

Homeward Bound: Doug Denton, Homeward Bound

Doug Denton stated that the Deflection Center has all 16 beds filled. In October, they had the highest number of law enforcement drop offs at 44. They had 40 rapid responders responding to community calls. They are also working with their shelter partners to navigate the wait list and other listings such as the sober housing facilities. They are continuing to work with all partners involved.

Pre-Trial Diversion and Mental Health Screenings: Laura Edmonds, Dallas County Criminal Justice

Laura Edmonds reported that the numbers are pretty consistent month to month. If there are increases, it is normally due to the book-ins increasing, so there is some slight fluctuation with the jail population there but not a significant change with the numbers

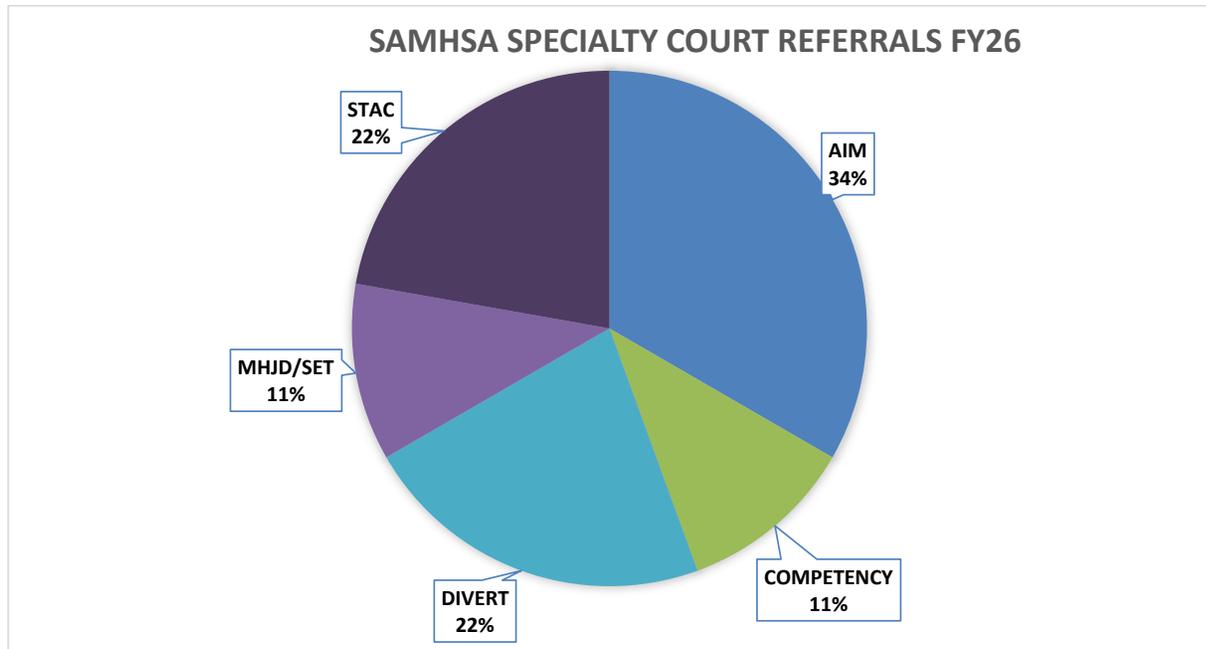
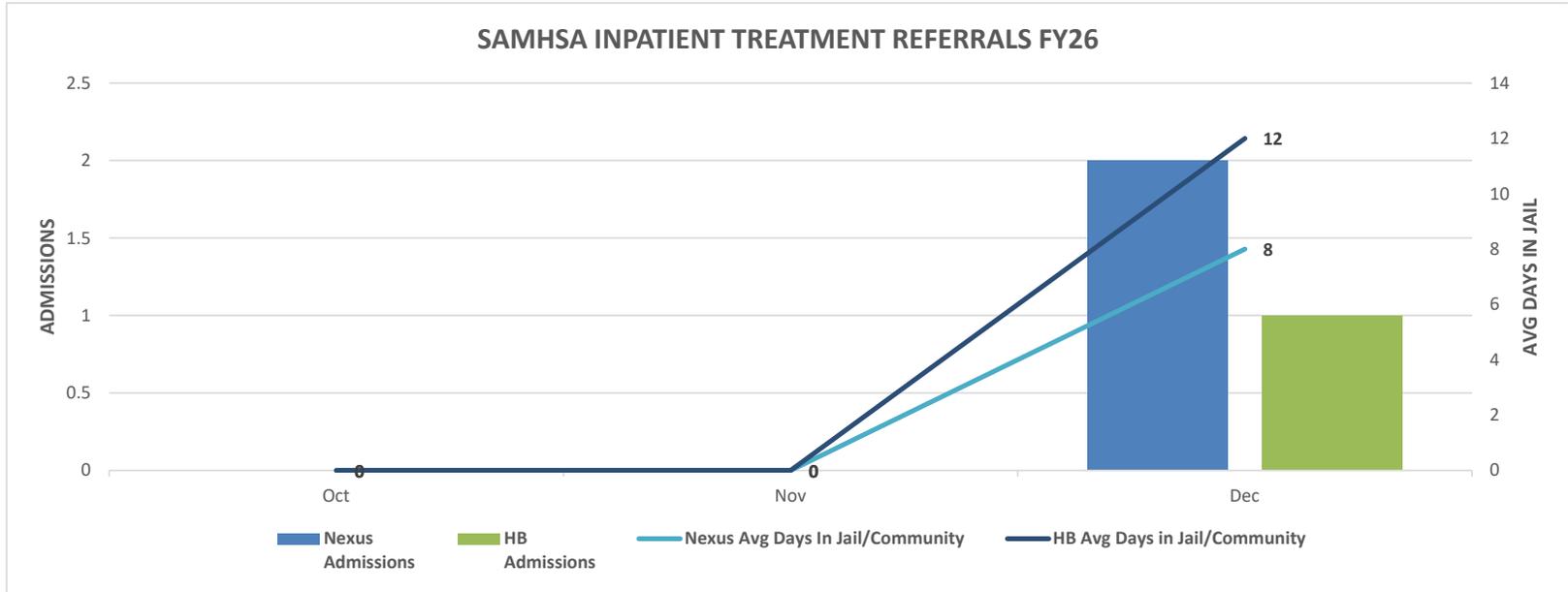
Commissioner Daniel encouraged everyone to look through the entire packet and make notes of the changes within them. She also encouraged everyone to take note of the Mission, Vision, and Values of Dallas County and how we strive to make those things happen for the citizens of Dallas County. She also thanked everyone and wished them a happy holiday season.

Next Meeting: January 28th, 2026

**Department of Criminal Justice
FY2026 SAMHSA Grant Project**

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	FY2026 Total	FY2025 Total	FY2024 Total	GRANT PERIOD GRAND TOTAL
Nexus New Admissions	0	0	2										2	23	27	52
Nexus Average Days in Jail/Community from Referral to Admission	N/A	N/A	8										8	20	13	14
Homeward Bound New Admissions	0	0	1										1	19	18	38
Homeward Bound Average Days in Jail/Community from Referral to Admission	N/A	N/A	12										12	24	23	20
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT DISCHARGES																
Successful	0	0	0										0	33	31	64
Unsuccessful	0	0	1										1	9	9	19
REFERRING SPECIALTY COURTS FY2026																
Number of Referrals by Specialty Court 9	AIM	3														
	ATLAS															
	Competency	1														
	DDAC															
	DIVERT	2														
	MISD DWI															
IIP																
Legacy Family																
MHJD/SET	1															
STAC	2															
STAR																
Veterans																
4-C																

- *Homeward Bound Pending Admission: 2
- *Nexus Pending Admission: 0
- *Cancelled Referrals: 4
- *Clients Currently in Treatment 2



December		FY2026 MHPD STATISTICS												
ATTORNEY	BEGINNING # OF PENDING CASES	+NEW CASES RECEIVED THIS MONTH	=TOTAL CASES	TRIALS	Alt. Trial Dispos.	PLEAS	COND. DISM.	REVK	REVC	DISMISSALS	INCOMP ETENT	REFER RALS	OTHER COUNSEL APPT.	TOTAL CLOSED
Lenox	99	18	117	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	1	0	8	22
Strather	215	8	223	0	0	2	0	3	0	3	1	2	3	14
Caldwell	147	6	153	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	2	11

December		FY2026 FELONY COMPETENCY STATISTICS															
ATTORNEY	BEGINNING # OF CASES	NEW CASES THIS MONTH	TOTAL	TRIALS	JAIL PLEA	PROB PLEA	REVK	REVC	DISMISSALS	EXTENSIONS	HOSP. TRANSFER	OTHER	TOTAL DISPOSED	TOTAL ENDING PENDING	ENDING # OF PEOPLE IN PTI	ENDING # OF PEOPLE IN OCR	ENDING # OF PEOPLE IN JCBR
Harden	89	3	92	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	85	6	3	8
Scott	28	1	29	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	26	4	0	0
Foster	90	10	100	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	96	6	8	6

December		FY2026 MISDEMEANOR COMPETENCY STATISTICS														
ATTORNEY	BEGINNING # OF CASES	NEW CASES THIS MONTH	TBJ	TBC	Alt. Trial Dispos.	PLEAS	REVO-CATIONS	DISMISSALS	PROBATION	COMP. HRG.	EXTENSIONS	CIVIL COMMIT.	MHMR REFERRAL	CONSULTS	OTHER	ENDING # OF PEOPLE IN OCR
Scott	92	70	0	0	0	1	0	45	0	12	0	4	0	0	0	1

December		FY2026 CIVIL COMMITMENT STATISTICS																						
ATTORNEY	TOTAL NEW CASES RECEIVED	NEW CLIENTS AT TERRELL	NEW CLIENTS AT MEDICAL CENTER MCKINNEY	NEW CLIENTS AT GLEN OAKS	NEW CLIENTS AT PERIMETER ARLINGTON	NEW CLIENTS AT TEXOMA	NEW CLIENTS AT PERIMETER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE	NEW CLIENTS AT PARKLAND	NEW CLIENTS AT CLEMENTS (formerly ZALE LIPSHY)	NEW CLIENTS AT DALLAS PRESBYTERIAN	NEW CLIENTS AT DALLAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	NEW CLIENTS AT HICKORY TRAILS	NEW CLIENTS AT VA	NEW CLIENTS AT GREEN OAKS	NEW CLIENTS AT METHODIST RICHARDSON	NEW CLIENTS AT ARLINGTON MEMORIAL & MILLWOOD	NEW CLIENTS AT HAVEN	PROBABLE CAUSE HEARINGS HELD	NO CONTEST COMMIT	CONTESTED COMMIT	FORCED MEDS HEARING IN COURT	MODIFICATION HEARINGS	OUT-PATIENT COMMIT	IN-PATIENT COMMIT
L. Roberts	112	6	0	24	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	0	0	0
C. Cox	121	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	3	3	0	9
K. Nelson	179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	74	16	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	13	0	0	0
R. Black	112	0	3	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	4	0	5	5	0	0	5

DAN ECKSTEIN		FY2026 MHPR BOND STATISTICS										
MONTH	INITIAL ELIGIBILITY DAILY LIST (MH FLAGS)	MHPR BOND APPOINTMENTS FROM DAILY LIST (MH FLAGS MINUS THOSE SCREENED-OUT)	MHPR BOND HEARING-BOND GRANTED (# of clients)	MHPR BOND HEARING-BOND DENIED (# of clients)	TOTAL HEARINGS (# of clients)	Total # of Cases	Total # of Felony Cases	# of Felonies Approved	# of Felonies Denied	Total # of Misd. Cases	# of Misd's Approved	# of Misd's Denied
December	2840	471	35	27	62	90	66	43	23	24	8	16

FY2026 Public Defender's Office

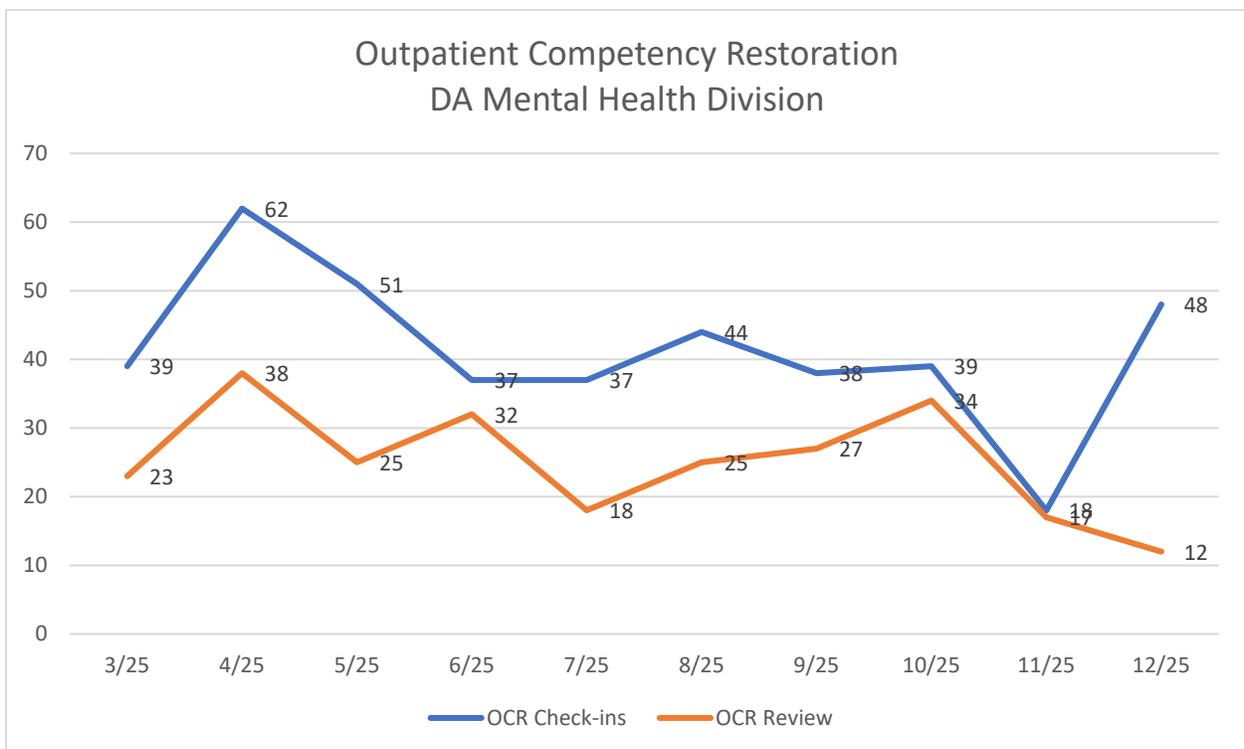
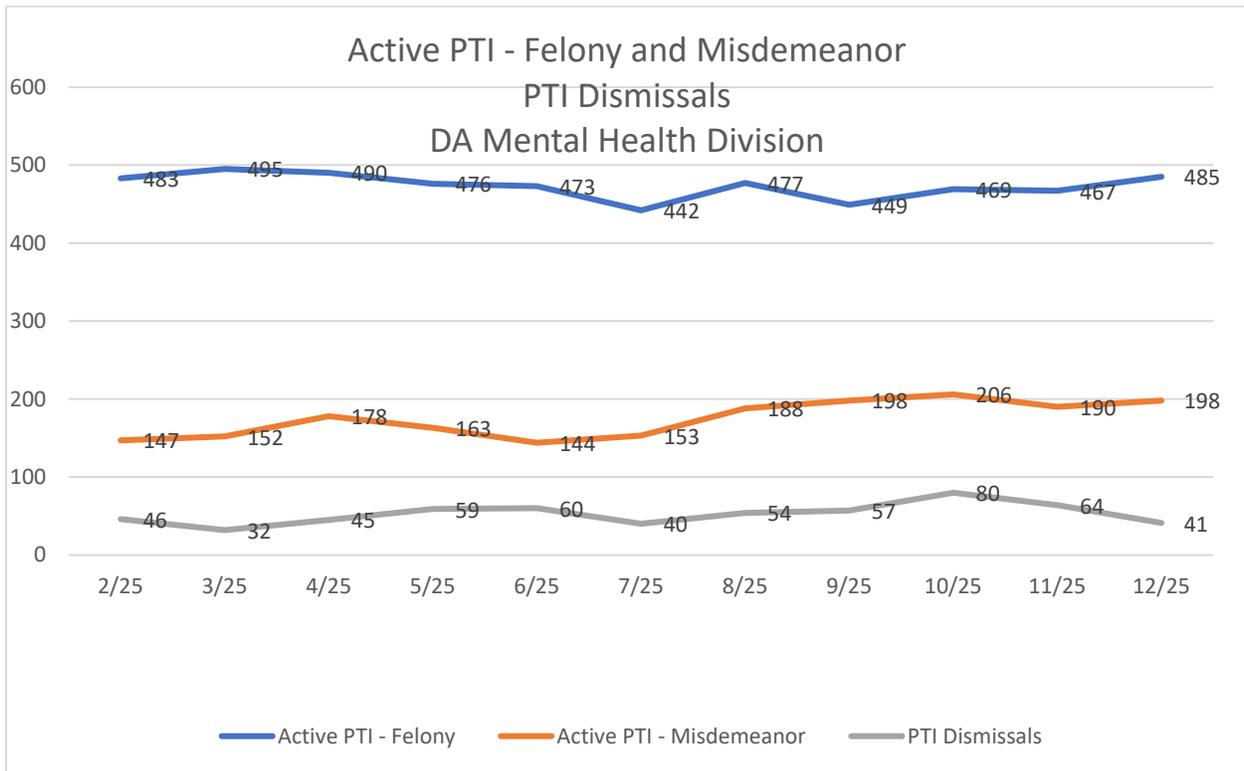
Dec-25

MONTH	PARTICIPANTS (BEGINNING OF MONTH)	PARTICIPANTS (END OF MONTH)	NEW CLIENTS	IN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	INACTIVE	GRADUATES	DISCHARGES
4C	259	283	49	1	0	5	20
AIM	60	54	3	1	2	4	5
ATLAS	20	22	2	3	8	0	0
CITY SDDC	7	9	2	8	0	0	0
CITY VET	10	12	2	2	0	0	0
DDC	15	13	0	1	1	2	0
DV	73	72	0	13	11	0	1
FELONY DWI	18	19	1	1	11	0	0
MHJD	21	23	4	0	0	1	1
IIP	134	132	3	41	53	13	5
LEGACY	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
SET	40	38	6	10	0	5	3
STAC	152	168	23	6	0	0	7
STAR	14	13	0	6	9	1	0
VET	43	44	5	0	0	4	0
TOTALS	864	872	78	93	102	38	36

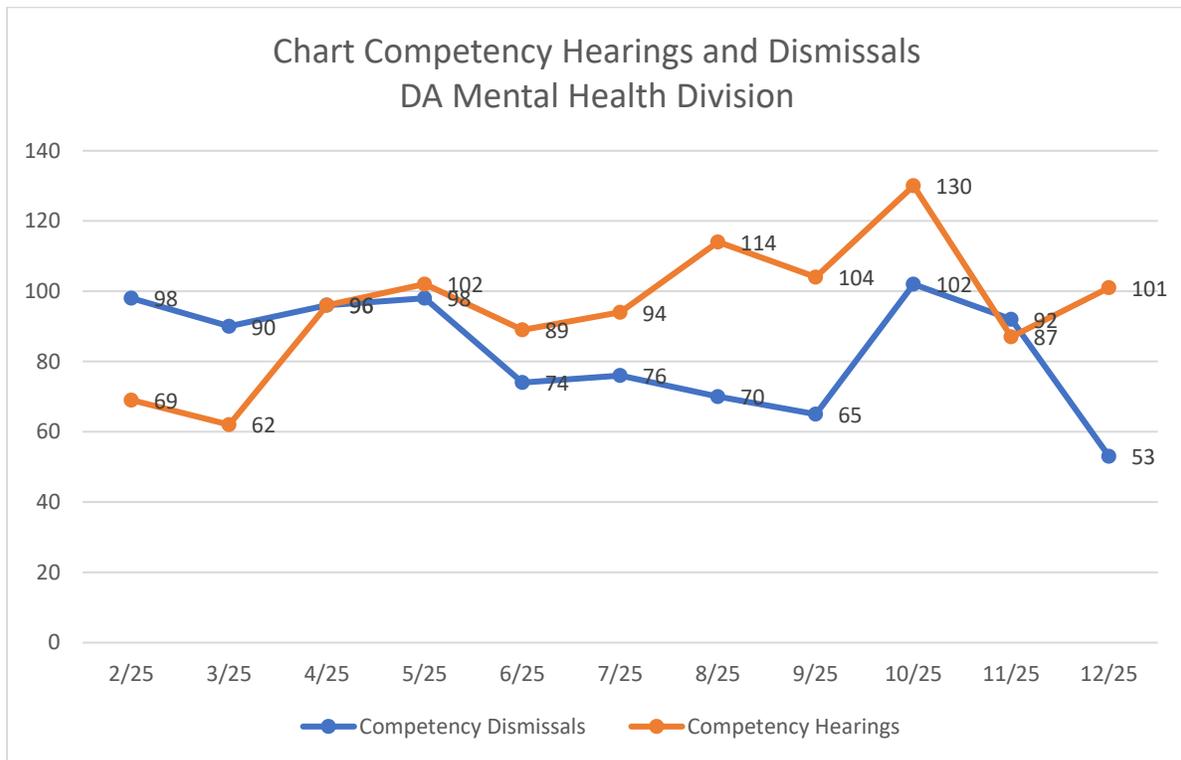
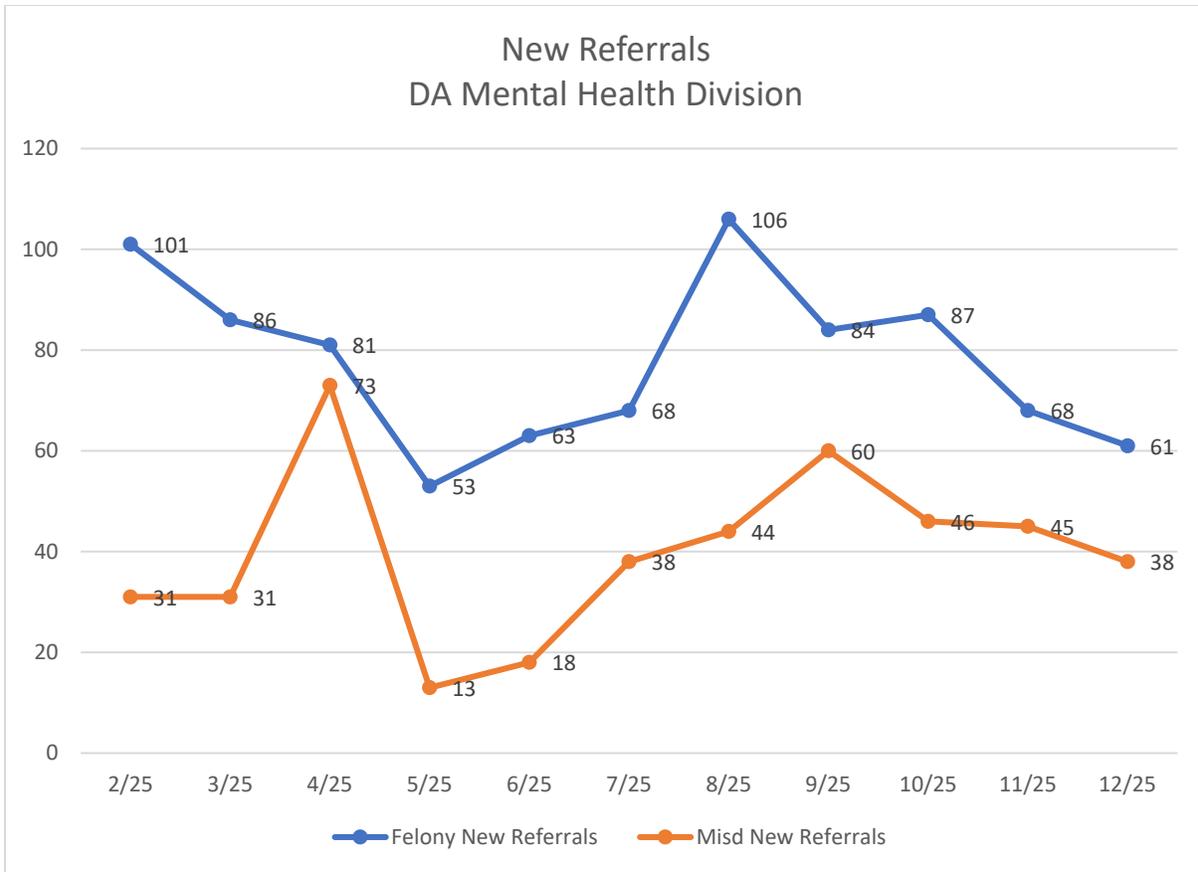
Clients in residential treatment in SAFPF or JJCJTC PRIOR to the in-court phase of a program are not included in the number of active participants or participants in residential treatment. Clients who have completed treatment prior to entering the problem-solving court and are LATER sent to treatment ARE counted in the "IN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT" figures.

INACTIVE reflects clients not currently participating due to a pending probation violation and/or who may have an active warrant if the Court considers those clients inactive.

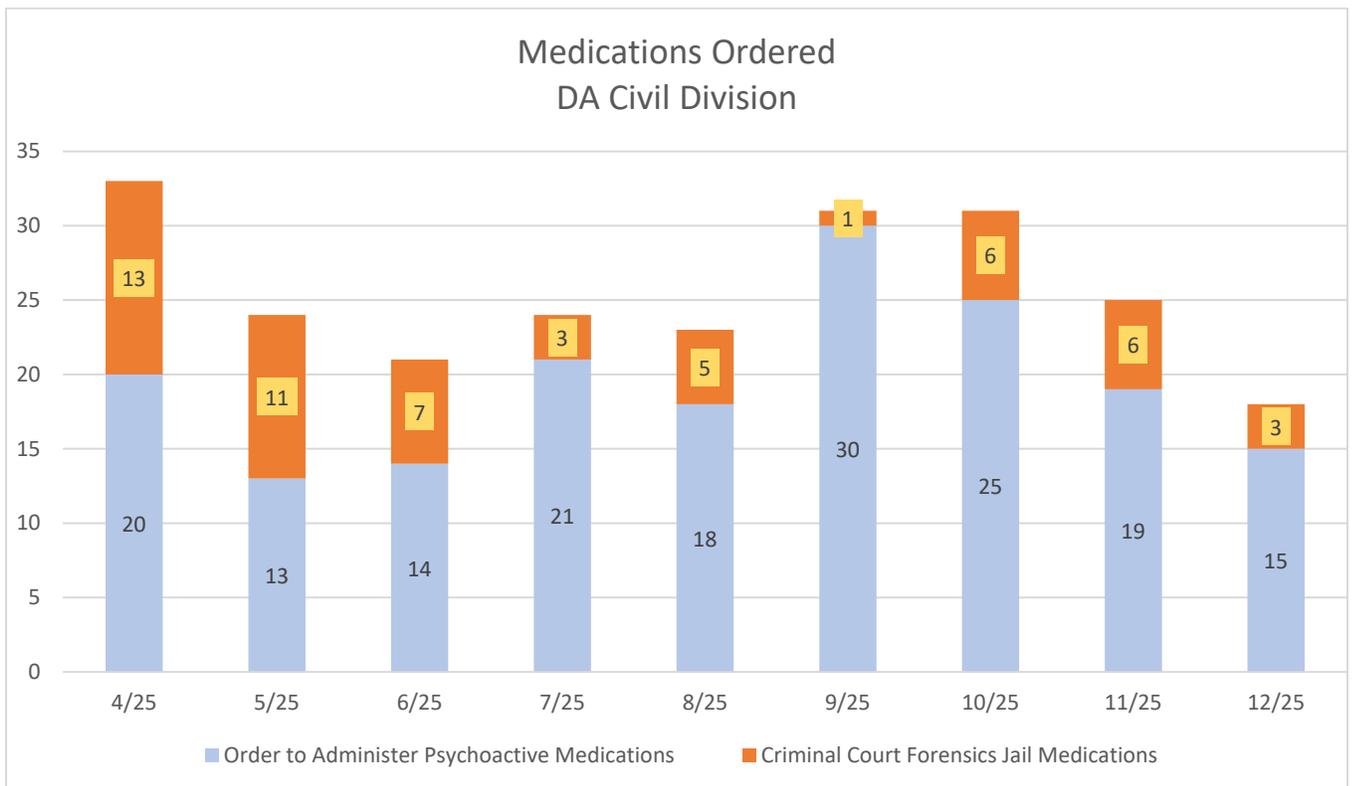
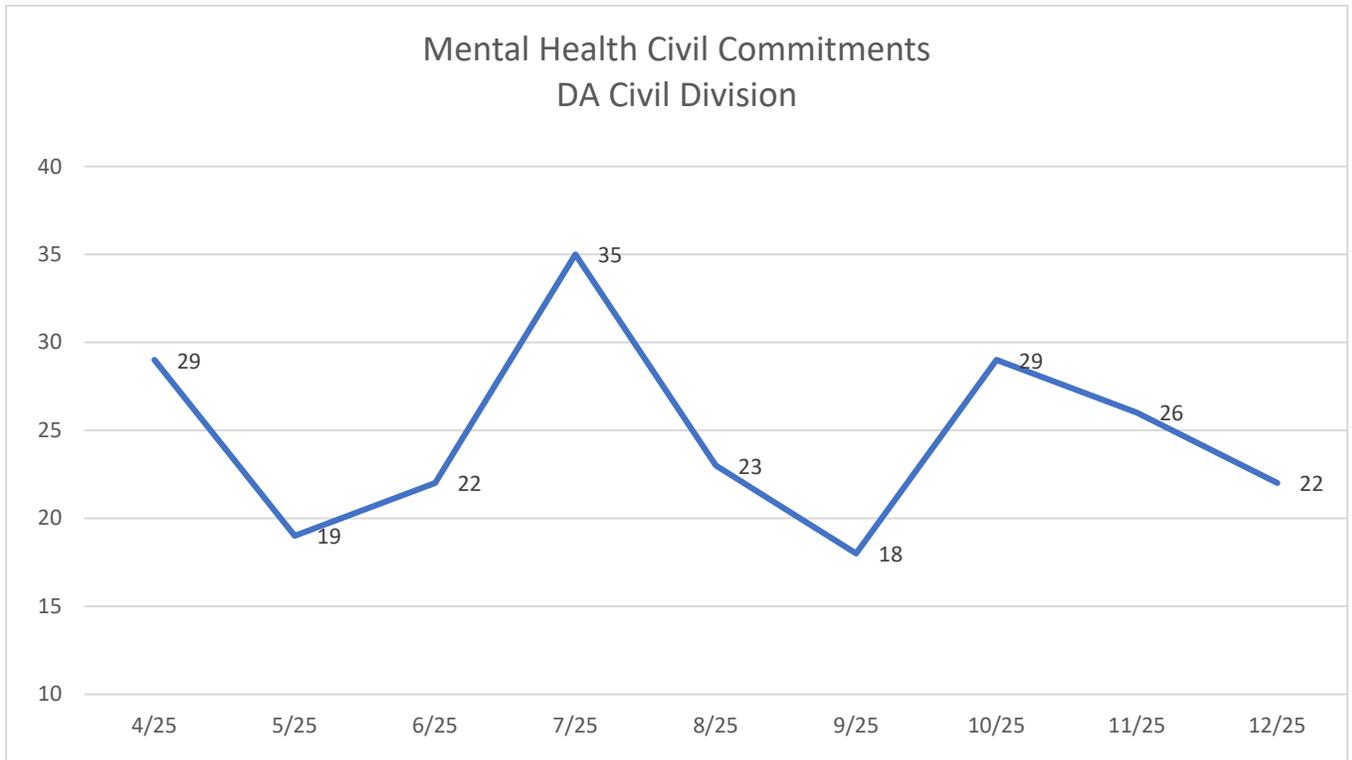
Mental Health



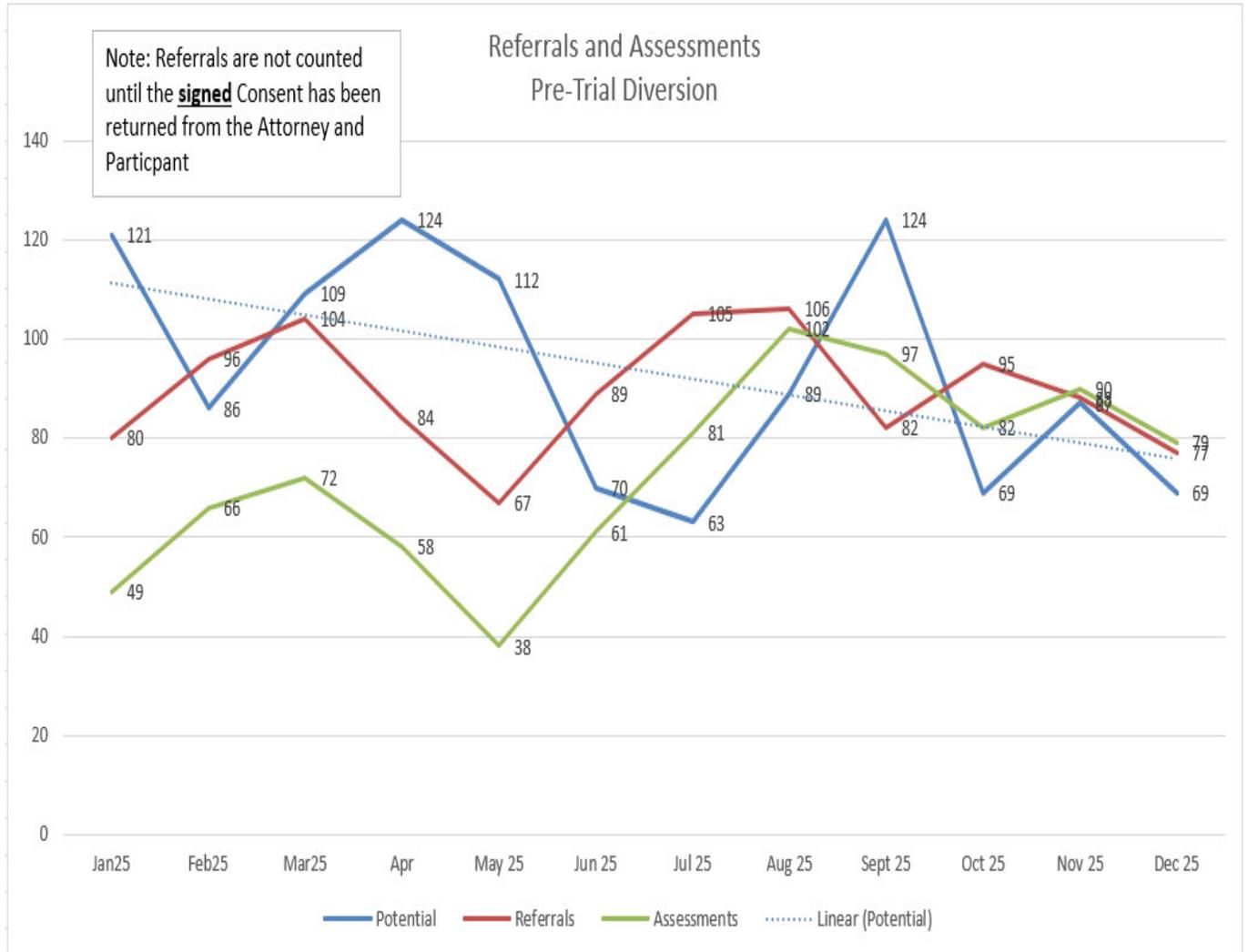
Restorative Justice Division – Mental Health



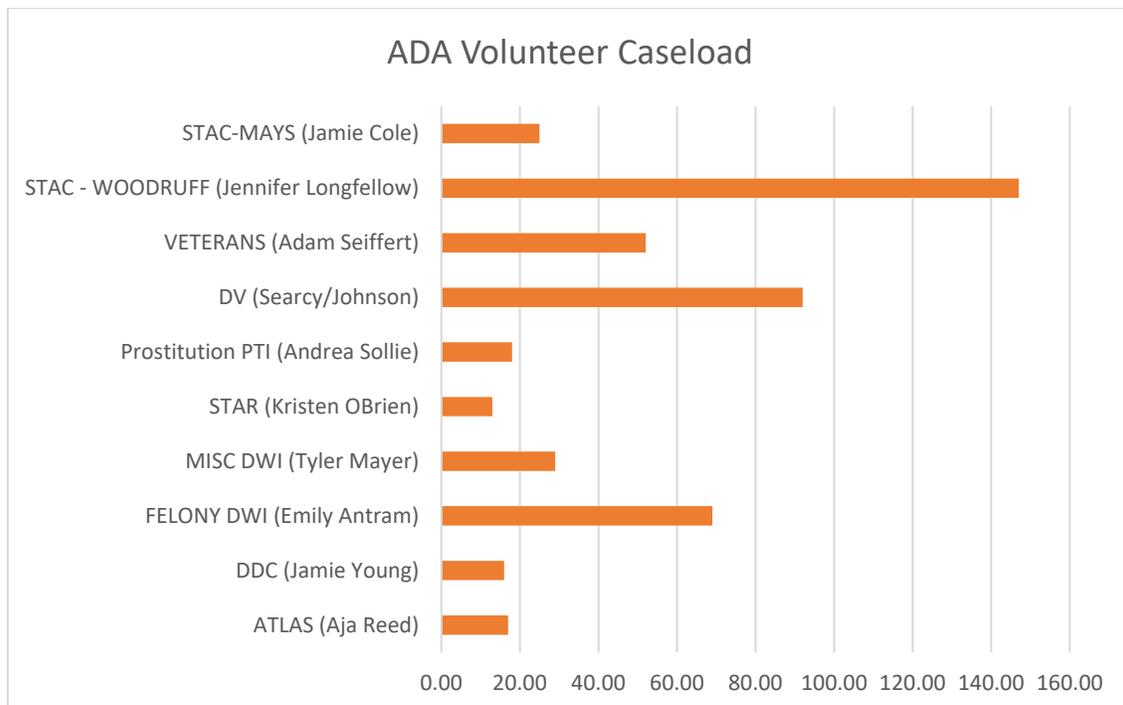
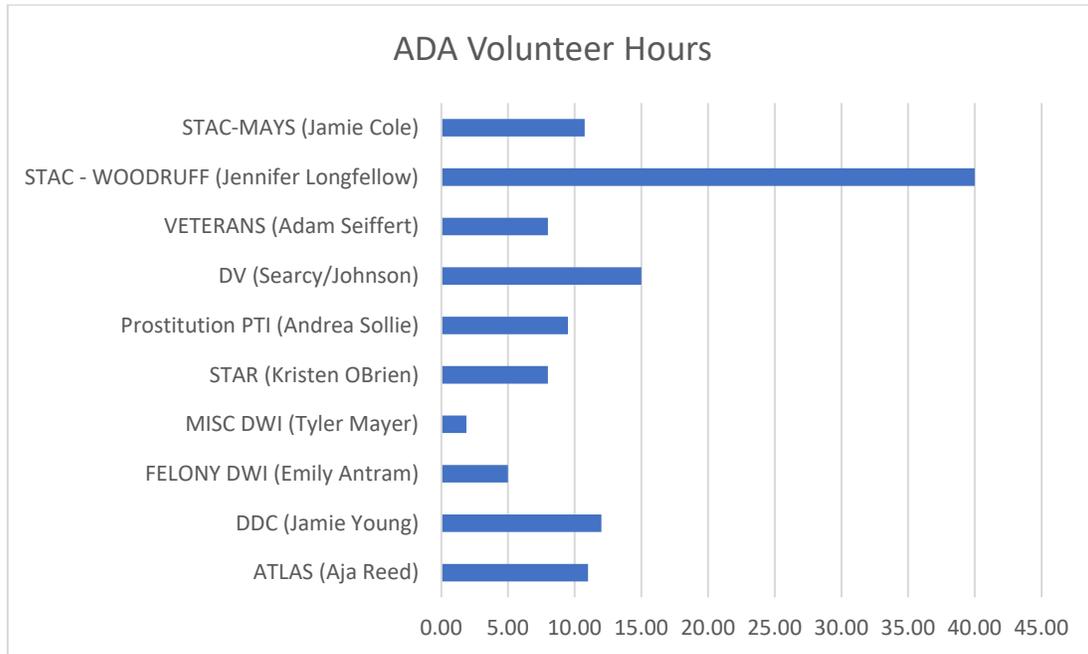
Restorative Justice Division – Mental Health



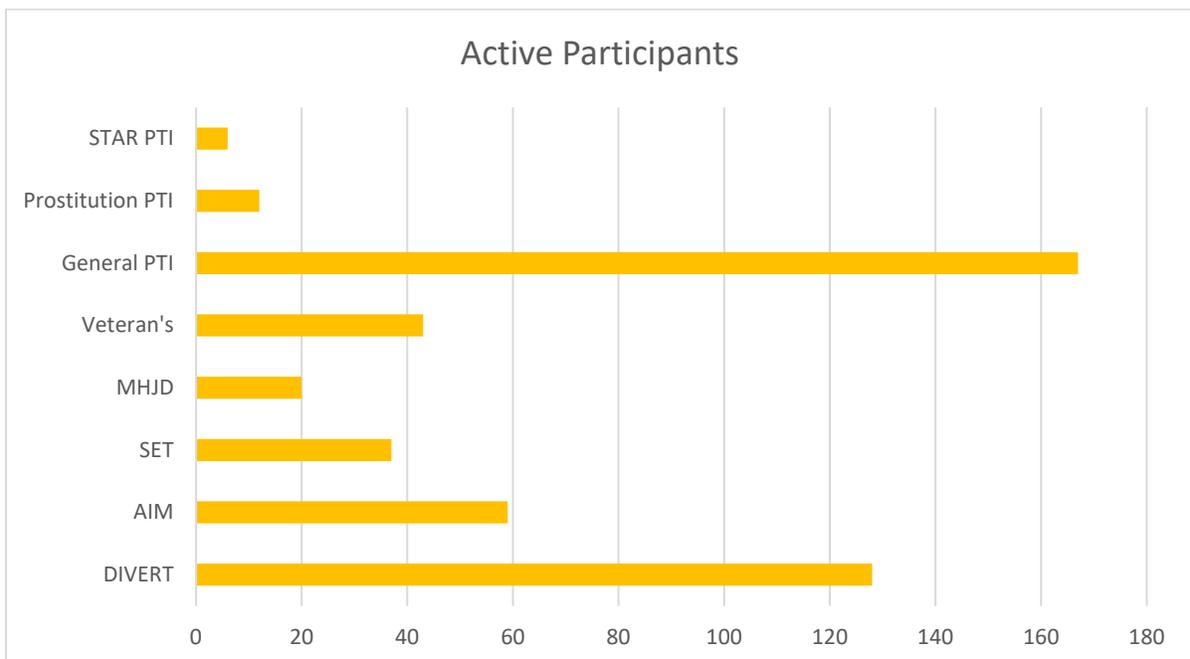
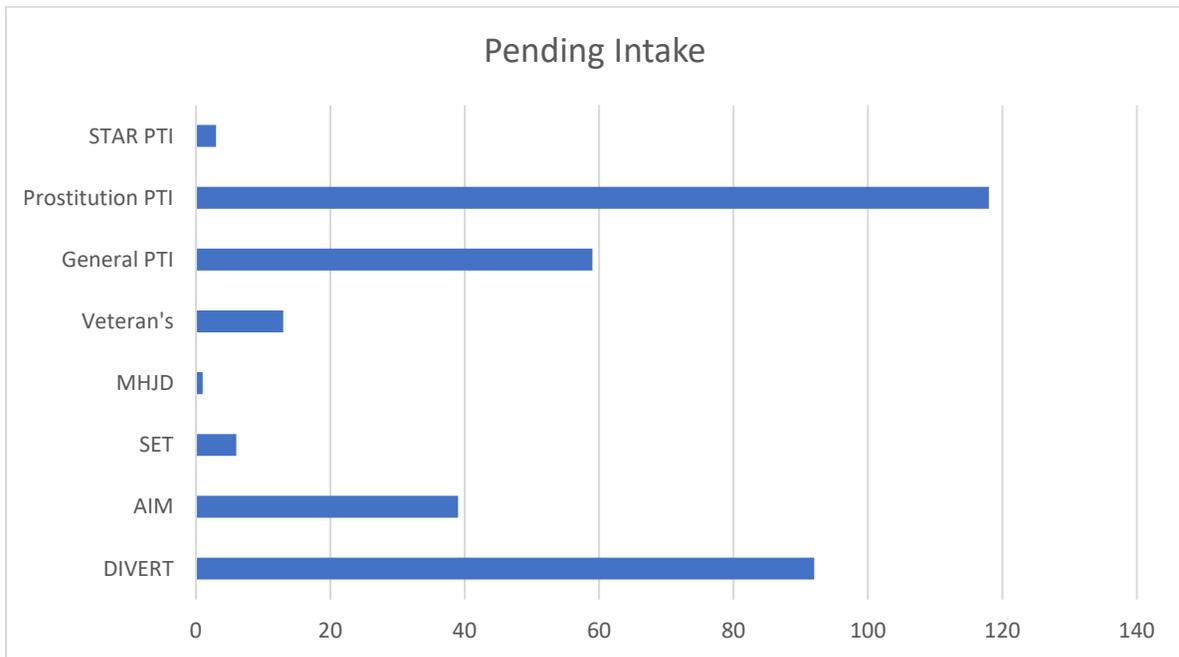
Pre-Trial Diversion



RJD SPECIALTY COURT/PROGRAMS ADA VOLUNTEER HOURS-NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025



SPECIALTY COURTS AND PROGRAMS MONTHLY STATISTICS-NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025





COTTAGES MONTHLY PROPERTY METRICS													
53 Units Total (50 Cottages, 3 Containers)	2025												Notes Comments
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Occupancy %	100%						100%	100%					
Start Resident Census	50	52	51				51	53	53	50	50	50	
Evictions	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Terminations	0	1	0				0	0	1	0	0	0	
Exit to Permanency	0	0	0				0	0	4	2	3	0	
Move-ins	2	0	0				2	0	2	0	0	1	
Ending Resident Census	52	51	51				53	53	50	48	50	51	
New screenings for waitlist	3	0	1				3	3		7	5	4	
DHA Inspections	2	52	3				3	0	2	2	3	1	
Lease Violations Distributed	6	4					1	0	1	3	2	0	
Units Ready	0	0					0	0	2	2	1	2	
Units Off-Market Vacant	0	1	1				0	0	3	3	3	2	
Residents receiving Case Management Services	50	48	48				50	53	50	48	48	48	
Residents served by Community Nurse CCD Clinic	20	20	20				20	20	20	20	20	20	
Residents attending Life-skills Groups	10	10	10				10	10	10	10	10	10	
Residents attending Community Groups	25	25	25				25	25	25	25	25	25	
INCIDENT REPORTS													
Property	0	0	0				0	0	1	1	0	0	
Medical	0	0	0				2	1	0	1	0	1	
Psychiatric	0	0	0				1	0	0	0	0	0	