



The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

MINUTES

ASH Redesign Competency Restoration Workgroup

Thursday, September 2, 2021 ▪ 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ▪ Conference Call

Agenda

1. Welcome and Group Charge
2. Member introductions
3. ASH Redesign and context for upcoming work (PowerPoint)
4. Discussion regarding regional CRT work by members
5. Upcoming Design Institute for Health workshop: September 13, 2021 via Zoom

Attendees Steve Strakowski, Sydney Harris, Cory Morris, John Pettrila, Nancy Hohengarten, Natalie Privett, Crystyn Cordova, Lauv Bruner, Francela Brazil Williams, Karlee Anderson, Dulce Gruwell, Jason Steans, Dan Prashner

Minutes

Welcome, Group Charge, and Member Introductions

Group was welcomed, agenda was reviewed and each member introduced themselves. Shared who the co-chairs would be and who the DMS and HHSC support team is. An email with attached PP, updated agenda, and list of who is in the group will be sent out to members. There will be a postponement of any discussion on CRT work until the next meeting, given low attendance turn-out of meeting.

Group charge:

Chairs identified the initial group charge to fix criminal justice competency restoration system, to really take a more focused look at the processes that exist and a build a roadmap to make very specific recommendations for change, as well as recommendations for what type of funding it would take to bring workgroup recommendations to fruition. Focus of the group is specifically the competency to stand trial, and the components to it versus the broader issues. Other workgroups are addressing other systemic issues, such as housing.

ASH Redesign and Context on Upcoming Work

Group reviews ASH Redesign principles, background, and progress. It was suggested to get more details regarding the project to go to ashredesign.org for full details. A brief overview was provided on state-wide hospital redesign efforts. For more information on all hospital redesigns, please go [HERE](#). Expected [timeline](#) for the workgroup was briefly reviewed. Co-chairs noted the potential for a longer, in-person meeting, likely in the spring, pending pandemic impact. Potentially can replicate longer sessions virtually, as well.

Co-chair emphasized the uniqueness of Texas state hospitals – while across the country, states have primarily built new hospitals that are all exclusively forensic, Texas still reserves beds for civil use, which could be seen as a rare resource. The hope is also to have a regional and catchment approach. Demand for forensic care steadily increased in need for competency

restoration and other forensic related care issues that have slowly displaced civil admissions. The number of people cared for in ASH has gone down, creating a bottleneck – this is also a nationwide challenge. There is also a potential to finding a solution that could translate to other states. Texas state hospitals are running out of room; actionable solutions are critical.

Goals

- Develop pilot(s) based on road map.
- Propose pilot to funding agency to test pilot(s).
- Examine the statutory and regulatory framework to determine whether any changes might facilitate new approaches to competency restoration.
- Do this from a catchment area perspective

Focus:

- This IS about defendants who are examined and found incompetent to stand trial (IST) by court order and the processes for examination, commitment, and restoration that follow
- This is NOT about prearrest diversion, housing reentry, or clinical care at ASH except as related to the IST process

Chair reviewed goals, emphasizing a critical focus on statutory and regulatory frameworks through a catchment perspective. There may be things that overlap with other committees, or have to do with care and different issues that happen in the jail, that are not related to statute, but that cause delay in utilization. We are not going to be talking about pre-arrest diversion per se. There are efforts in this county and others that are larger areas that would leave us unable to focus very specifically on competency. There is another group working on housing, for example.

Discussion Regarding CRT Work by Members

Tabled for next upcoming meeting.

Upcoming Design Institute for Health Workshop: September 13, 2021 via Zoom

Chairs and DIH lead discussed details of upcoming DIH Competency restoration workshop. The workshop will focus on building a CR roadmap, creating a framework for making suggestions for change. The roadmap may potentially involve statutes, regulations, practices, availability of care in jails, or even lack of forensic examples.

Next Steps

Group discussed a few wrap-up points. Next meeting group will work to identify what is happening in counties in the way of innovations, a scan of counties, and member suggestions regarding the statutory and regulatory framework.

Upcoming dates and group focal points in CR work:

- **Competency Restoration Roadmap Workshops**
 - *Roadmap workshops are led by the Design Institute for Health*
 - *Current Roadmap Workshop – September 13th from 3-5pm*
 - *Future Roadmap Workshop – October 18th from 3-5pm*
- **Develop pilot(s) based on roadmap**

- *Consider current efforts in the ASH catchment area focused on the competency to stand trial process, from examination to adjudication to restoration*
- **Examine statutory and regulatory framework**

Close

Co-Chairs and DMS support team will review meeting suggestions and provide meeting minutes to the group.

Resources

- [ASH Redesign Project Website](#)
- [All HHSC Hospital Projects](#)
- [Work Group Timeline](#)