

Jail-Based Restoration of Competency Treatment for Justice-Involved Individuals

Accelerating access to psychiatric stabilization and competency restoration for justice-involved individuals with serious mental illness.

The Liberty ROC® model augments state hospital systems and helps local jails by improving access to mental health care.

Liberty innovated the jail-based restoration of competency (ROC) model to help solve the waiting list problem of America's "competency crisis" in which justice-involved individuals with serious mental illness languish in jails awaiting forensic hospital admission. ROC benefits state mental health authorities, local jails, and individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial (IST) by accelerating access to psychiatric stabilization and restoration of competency.

Our recovery-oriented approach combines the proactive use of psychiatric medications and multi-modal rehabilitative activities that address competency holistically rather than a narrow focus on legal concepts and courtroom protocol.

Liberty's multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, forensic psychologists, forensic social workers, nurses, psychiatric technicians, and educators coordinate with the jail's staff to operate seamlessly within their work culture and environment.

The Positive Impact of Liberty's ROC Program

Widely Accepted Treatment Model

With more than 17 years of experience in operating ROC programs, Liberty has treated 6,000+ individuals deemed IST. The jail-based competency treatment model is widely accepted in multiple states and has been broadly adopted by the California Department of State Hospitals. To date, Liberty has helped remove over 800 individuals deemed IST from the statewide waiting list.

Empirically-Based Treatment

Liberty clinicians have published evidence-based research in *Behavioral Sciences and the Law* (2021) and *The Journal of Correctional Healthcare* (2014) showing that the ROC model works and that 56% of patients deemed IST can be restored to competency in an average of just 48.7 days.

Reducing Liability Exposure for Jails

ROC reduces the time that individuals with serious mental illness are incarcerated in the jail awaiting IST services, which reduces risks of suicide, self-injury, violence, behavioral outbursts, injuries to staff, and litigation.

ROC Program Advantages

State and Mental Health Authorities

- Reduces waiting lists for admission to limited state hospital forensic beds.
- Expands and enhances the continuum of competency treatment options.
- Enables patients deemed IST to obtain needed psychiatric treatment and medication sooner for rapid recovery.
- Reduces unnecessary hospital admissions, while distinguishing patients deemed IST who need inpatient care to recover.
- Provides needed treatment that restores patients deemed IST at a lower cost of inpatient hospitalization.

Local County and Regional Jail

- Reduces the time that patients deemed IST are incarcerated in the jail while awaiting transfer to court-ordered hospital treatment.
- Lowers medical costs of caring for individuals with severe mental illness.
- Reduces the risks of suicide, self-injury, violence, behavioral outbursts, injuries to staff, and litigation.
- Bolsters the acute psychiatric capacity in the jail and helps target patients who need more intensive psychiatric support.
- Funding can be a revenue source to offset the cost of psychiatric services.

Effective Treatment with Lower Costs

The California Legislative Analyst reported in 2012 that Liberty's first jail-based ROC saved an average of \$70K per restoration compared to the state hospital and reported in 2017 that ROC program beds cost just \$125K compared to state hospital beds at \$246K.

Recognized for Making a Difference

Liberty's ROC program earned the best practices award from the California Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH)* for improving access to high quality psychiatric care and treatment in a jail setting.

"If I ever have an issue with anything, all I have to do is tell **Liberty and they fix it.** I don't even think most problems even reach me as they are handled long in advance if there ever are any.

We are so very pleased with the customer service that we get from Liberty. Liberty staff are just so responsive and our inmates receive **excellent treatment with excellent results."**

- Lieutenant, CA

Components of the Liberty ROC Program

Staffing

Assessment and treatment provided by an interdisciplinary care team that includes: psychiatrists, forensic psychologists, forensic social workers, nurses, psychiatric technicians, and educators.

ROC Programming

- Multi-modal treatment approach to help participants recover across the five domains of functioning: competency, mental illness management, physical health, cognitive functioning, and socialization/leisure.
- Daily one-to-one meetings with individuals to evaluate progress in mental health and competency treatment.
- Competency curriculum and client workbook are applied to address the 14 competency barriers relevant to the given individual.
- Rich array of individual and group-based interventions and activities include: anger management, medication management, symptom management, substance use management, social skills, life skills, health and wellness, and more.
- Daily and weekly interdisciplinary reviews with both medical and custody staff to proactively identify and collaboratively monitor at-risk individuals with co-occurring medical and substance abuse disorders, suicidality, and complex medications.

Working Collaboratively

The model uses dedicated security officers who are cross-trained to perform security functions with enriched awareness of treatment milieu principles and positive behavioral management.

**Formerly known as Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)*

Working with Liberty Staff

The psychiatrist and nurses visit patients frequently for psychiatric evaluation and medication management. The forensic social worker visits patients to monitor progress and provide competency counseling and education. Licensed psychiatric technicians monitor progress and assure coordination of medications. The activity therapist focuses on health and wellness and socialization. The clerk coordinates scheduling, court dates, transports, and forensic reports.

Staff-to-patient ratios ensure active treatment and care for all ISTs in proportion to the bed capacity of the given ROC program (<12, 13-20, >21).

For more information, contact

Ken Carabello, Senior Vice President:

P: (310) 384-9183

E: ken.carabello@libertyhealth.com



Liberty Healthcare Corporation
THE FREEDOM TO SUCCEED™



© Liberty Healthcare Corporation