

**Mike DeWine**, *Governor*  
**LeeAnne Cornyn**, *Director*



**Department of  
Mental Health &  
Addiction Services**

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO (CCAO)

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**SUMMER SYMPOSIUM**

**Innovation in Addressing Behavioral Health  
Challenges in Jails**

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Director of Forensic Services

August 21, 2024



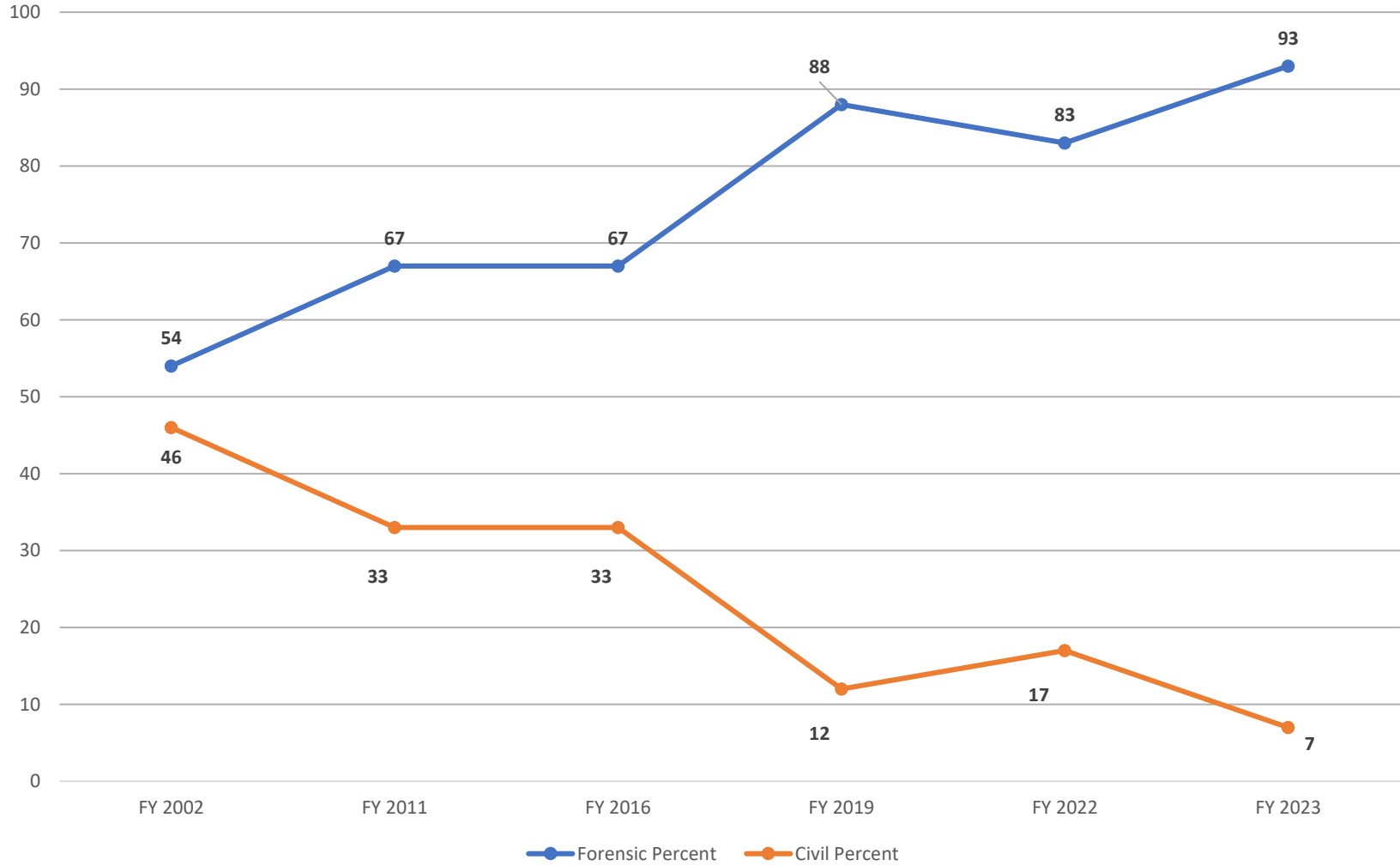
**Department of  
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# WHY WE'RE HERE

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- More than nine out of 10 beds at our state psychiatric hospitals are occupied by forensic patients, challenging our ability to keep pace with court referrals for forensic admissions.
- This limits our state psychiatric hospitals' ability to serve citizens with serious mental illness who are not criminal justice involved.

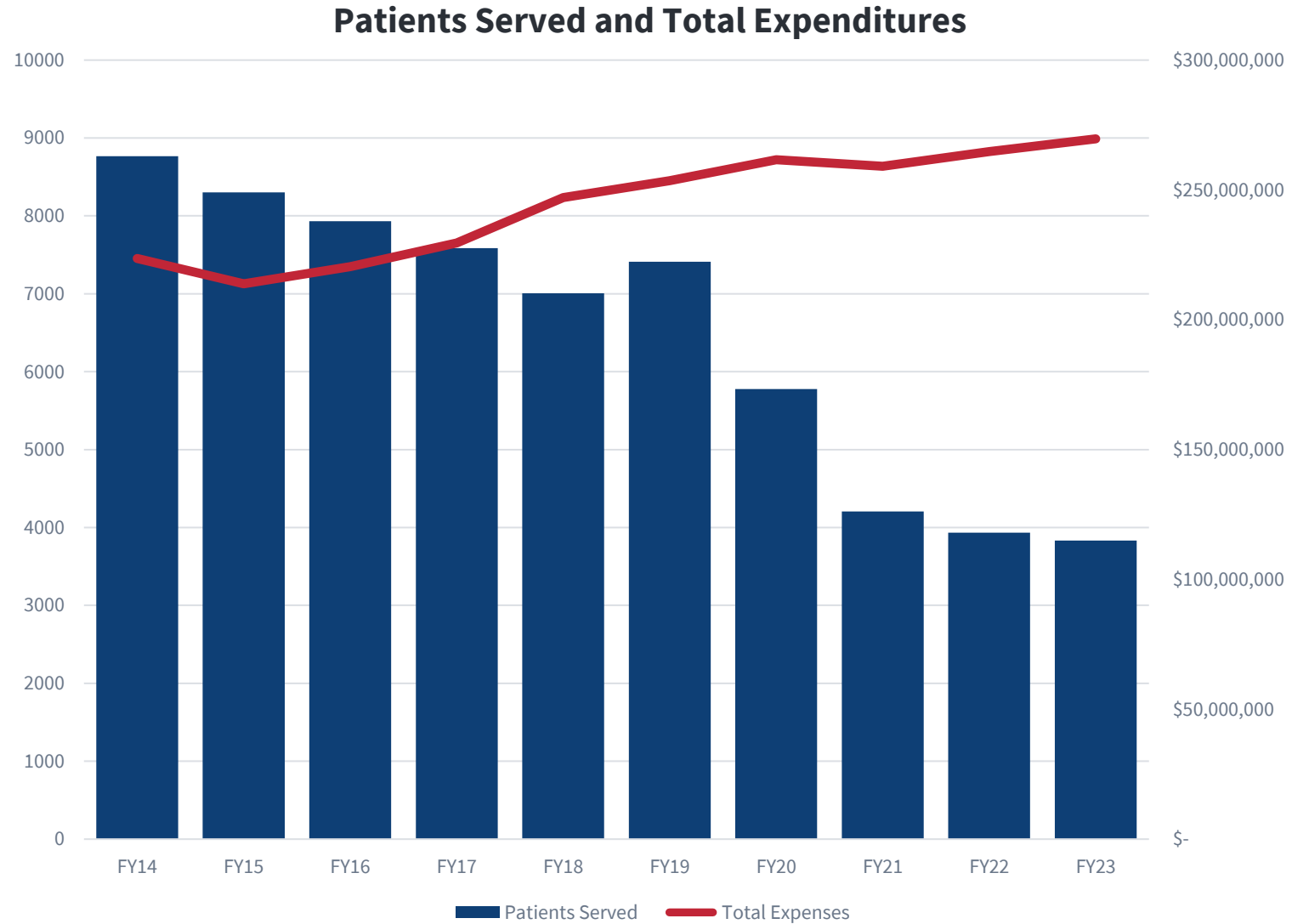
Point in time Percent of On-Rolls  
Forensic vs. Civil



- Forensic population has grown over time squeezing out access and capacity of civil beds in the state hospitals.
- Rise in competency restoration referrals from both municipal and common pleas courts.
- Ohio's criminal justice systems are often using competency restoration as a pathway to access mental healthcare rather than for its intended purpose.
- Bed days are over-utilized for a complicated legal process shutting out access for dedicated mental health care

# COST PER PATIENT

- The number of patients served has decreased.
- The total expenditures have steadily increased.
- How does this affect the average cost per patient served over time?



# Governor DeWine Convenes New Work Group on Competency Restoration and Diversion

*April 03, 2024*

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(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today convened a new working group to address the increasing number of criminal justice-involved (forensic) patients being treated at Ohio’s six regional psychiatric hospitals.

Ohio’s six state-run regional psychiatric hospitals exist as a safety net for Ohioans experiencing serious mental illness and provide comprehensive in-patient care and treatment to more than 1,000 patients daily. These specialized facilities provide services for civil patients as well as those referred by criminal courts. Over time, the forensic population has steadily increased, squeezing out access and capacity of civil beds in the state hospitals. Forensic patients – which include jail transfers, restoration to competency and Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity patients – currently account for

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# WORKGROUP GOALS

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- Ensure adequate access to state psychiatric hospital beds for those experiencing a crisis and are not criminal justice involved.
- Develop recommendations to enhance Ohio's outpatient competency restoration program.
- Develop best practices and strategies for expanding jail diversion programs for those with mental health and substance use disorders.
- Develop strategies to expand access to jail-based competency restoration and treatment.

# MEETING SCHEDULE & TOPICS

- April 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Overview of Ohio's Forensic and Regional Psychiatric Hospital Systems**  
Dr. Lisa Gordish, Chief, Forensic Services; Bob Short, Deputy Director, Hospital Services, OhioMHAS Staff
- April 17<sup>th</sup>: **Overview of OhioMHAS Criminal Justice Involvement**, Chris Nicastro, OhioMHAS  
**Stepping Up Initiative**, Retired Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton  
**The Sequential Intercept Model**, Dr. Emily Ribnik, CJ-CCoE
- May 8<sup>th</sup>: **Jail Based Services** Charmaine McGuffey, Hamilton County Sheriff Hamilton County  
**Jail-Based Diversion and Restoration Services**, Tom Sauer, Gary Yuratovac, Dorothy O'Neil & Dr. Mary Maddox, Hamilton County
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Report out on Regional Workgroups**, Dr. Gordish/Beth Gersper, OhioMHAS  
**Mental Health Diversion**, The Honorable Judge Leifman, Miami-Dade
- June 6<sup>th</sup>: **State of Tennessee Behavioral Care Center- Diversion, Competency Dockets, Criminal Justice/Behavioral Health Liaisons, and Intensive Support Homes (Residential)**  
Dr. Jeff Feix, Natalie Hanlon, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BC Shara Biggs, LPC-MHSP, CCHP  
**Assisted Outpatient Treatment** Betsy Johnson, Treatment Advocacy Center, Judge Larry Heiser, Probate Court Judge, Marion County
- June 28<sup>th</sup>: **Small group exercise- feedback on early recommendations**-Work Group members  
**Introduction to Clear Pathways**, Rick Weller & Alicia Smith, Peg's Foundation
- July 10<sup>th</sup>: **Clear Pathways**, Alicia Smith, Peg's Foundation; **Dialogue and Prioritization of draft recommendations**- Work Group Members  
COBH tour after meeting
- July 24<sup>th</sup>: **Final recommendations for report**, Work Group members



# COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

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- OhioMHAS held 6 regional stakeholder discussion and listening sessions from April through June.
- Goal: Learning regional challenges and best practices with the criminal justice/mental health populations they serve.
- We gathered feedback regarding gaps in service and ideas about potential solutions.
- Trends and feedback from these regional meetings have been provided to Governor DeWine's work group on Competency Restoration and Diversion

## **THEMES & RECOMMENDATIONS**

Forensic navigators

Enhancement of jail-based mental health programs

Court competency practices/dockets

Pre-trial diversion program

Transitional residential treatment facilities

# GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES -- COMPETENCY RESTORATION AND DIVERSION

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## **Diversion**

- Pre-arrest diversion in conjunction with crisis services;
- Pre-trial diversion program build out (Miami model/Nashville model)

## **Competency Restoration**

- Competency Dockets
- Expanding community competency restoration with housing supports
- Improving Jail Based Mental Health Services

## **Overall system**

- System Collaboration and Cross System Data Sharing
- Criminal Justice /Mental Health Navigators – care coordination
- Step down treatment facilities- hospital back door discharge supports

# GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES -- BROADER MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

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- Bolstering Prevention Services
- Expanding Crisis Care Services
- Addressing Housing Needs- Developing a continuum of supportive housing
- Improving Workforce Challenges
- System Collaboration and Cross System Data Sharing; Familiar Faces

# SYSTEM-WIDE COLLABORATION

There is a lot of work to do in a changing system and environment.

Managing the rise in Forensic mental health cases is a System-Wide endeavor

Now more than ever, collaboration amongst OhioMHAS, ADAMH Boards, Courts, Jails, Sheriffs, RPH and Private Hospitals is paramount to serving the population with severe mental illness

Identifying the right level of service for the right client in the right environment

Growing pains are inevitable as new services are stood up to fill existing gaps.



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#### Health Care

## Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine proposes \$10 million for new mental health facility in Dayton

# QUESTIONS?

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[MHA.OHIO.GOV](http://MHA.OHIO.GOV)



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# THANK YOU

[mha.ohio.gov](http://mha.ohio.gov)

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