

## **The Turnaround: Santa Barbara County's Approach to IST Treatment and Diversion**

John Lewis, PhD

Track: Legal/Clinical

Level: Intermediate

Room: TBD

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN, MCLE (1.5)

### Narrative

Many California jurisdictions have experienced increased rates of individuals adjudicated to be Incompetent to Stand Trial on misdemeanor charges, which often strains limited treatment resources and results in delayed access to treatment. This presentation will describe how Santa Barbara County has sought to address the matter through collaboration among partner agencies and the expansion of outpatient competency restoration procedures. The speaker will also describe plans to increase opportunities for diversion and conclude with a list of lessons gleaned from this experience.

### BIO

#### **John Lewis, PhD**

John Lewis is a licensed clinical psychologist and former Forensic Services Manager for the Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness, where he oversaw several programs aimed at facilitating access to treatment for adults and juveniles involved in the criminal justice system. John completed his doctoral degree at George Mason University and over the course of his career has worked in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings, to include a maximum security forensic psychiatric hospital and community behavioral healthcare clinics. At present time, John serves as the Interim Crisis Services Manager for Santa Barbara County and is focused on efforts to increase opportunities for diversion among individuals with criminal justice system involvement.

### Learning Objectives

1. Describe what it means to be Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) and provide a summary of legal procedures for competency restoration under California's penal code.
2. Describe how outpatient competency restoration can benefit both individuals found to be IST and local agencies responsible for restoring them to competency.
3. Describe how collaboration between behavioral health agencies and their criminal justice system partners can improve outcomes for individuals found to be IST.
4. Identify diversion strategies that can decrease the incidence of ISTs.