

Words to Deeds - California IST Solutions Workgroup

Level

Introductory

CE

CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER

Bio

Melanie Scott, PsyD

Melanie is an Acting Assistant Deputy Director for the Community Forensic Partnerships Division at the California Department of State Hospitals, overseeing the Forensic Conditional Release Programs (CONREP) and the Jail Based Competency Treatment (JBCT) Programs. Melanie was trained in forensic psychology while completing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University in the Division of Law and Psychiatry. She has extensive experience evaluating and treating forensic populations with a specialty in incompetent to stand trial and serious mental illness populations. She has been retained as an expert in both state and federal criminal cases in multiple states across the county.

Narrative

This presentation will review the national landscape of the Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) crisis and present an inside look into California's IST Solutions Workgroup process as a collaborative attempt to identify solutions to resolve the crisis in California. Presenters will discuss how the concept of the workgroup was developed, who participated and present a high-level review of the solutions that were proposed, and the feedback received from the workgroup members. This presentation will highlight the key policy issues and themes that emerged, as well as the obstacles that will be tackled ahead to bring to life the sustainable solutions that were discussed.

Learning Objectives

Describe two elements of the Incompetent to Stand Trial crisis at the national level and in California.

List three major recommendations made by the IST Solutions Workgroup.

Describe three key policy issues, themes, and obstacles identified by the IST Solutions Workgroup.