

Questions of Interest to the Joint Subcommittee
(Elicited from Regional Jails)

1. What is the Commonwealth's policy regarding housing people with serious mental health disorders in jails, i.e. those requiring hospitalization (including crisis services)?
2. Does state funding support mental health services in jails – the spectrum of mental health services – including medication?
3. In order to help foster and to help maintain continuity of mental health care, including prior to and post jail incarceration, should the Commonwealth assist jails that do not have fulltime access to psychiatrists and or mental health staff?
4. What role should CSBs play in fostering and maintaining adequate mental health care for those incarcerated in jails, and for those transitioning into or out of jail incarceration?
5. Should the Commonwealth foster and fund the restoration of competency to those incarcerated in jails?
6. Should jails have better access to inmate medical records – particularly for situations that often lead to mental health emergencies?
7. Like mental health facilities, should jails working with mental health professionals have the authority to mandate treatment – particularly when an individual may cause harm to others as well as her or himself?