

Community Forensic Partnerships Division
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**Department of State Hospitals
Community Inpatient Facility (CIF)
Fact Sheet
March 2024**

HISTORY

Over the last decade, California has experienced significant growth in the number of individuals charged with a felony offense who are found Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) under Penal Code [§1370](#) and committed to the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) for competency restoration services. In response, California has invested in developing a continuum of treatment programs to serve individuals with serious mental illness who are committed as IST. Historically, the growth in referrals of felony IST patients has exceeded DSH's capacity and outpaced other efforts made in response to this growth and resulted in an increasing waitlist and wait times to admission.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In the 2021 Budget Act, DSH received funding to establish the Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) and Sub-Acute-Bed Capacity program which has since been renamed to the Community Inpatient Facilities (CIF) program. This program authorized DSH to serve additional IST patients by contracting with private providers or counties to develop new or renovate existing facilities to provide alternative treatment options to state hospitals, in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) [§4361.6](#).

The CIFs are an important component of DSH's continuum of care for IST patients, providing a bridge to stabilizing patients on psychotropic medications before discharging to a lower level of care in DSH's treatment continuum or restoring to competency. CIFs may also be used when an IST patient in a DSH Diversion or Community-Based Restoration (CBR) program needs to receive a higher level of care for a short period of time to maintain placement in a community program.

ACUTE AND SUB-ACUTE CIFS

CIF programs provide acute or sub-acute psychiatric treatment services to DSH IST patients to support a subsequent placement in DSH community-based program, including DSH Mental Health Diversion, in lieu of a more restrictive state hospital or Jail-Based Competency Treatment (JBCT) program.

CIF acute facilities provide rapid psychiatric stabilization primarily through the administration of medication, which may include use of long-acting injectable medications and involuntary medications when clinically appropriate.

CIF sub-acute facilities provide continued stabilization and medication administration services, competency restoration services when appropriate, case management services, and other mental health treatment services when clinically appropriate.

DSH is currently contracted with five CIFs and is actively engaging with additional providers to establish more programs.

DSH Contracted CIF Providers			
Facility Name	Facility Type	Bed Capacity	Activation Date
Sacramento Behavioral Healthcare Hospital (Sacramento County)	Acute	78	April 20, 2022
Bakersfield Behavioral Healthcare Hospital (Kern County)	Acute	29	July 3, 2023
Anaheim Community Hospital (Orange County)	Acute	50	July 3, 2023
Priorities, Inc. (Sutter County)	Sub-Acute	16	July 6, 2023
Sylmar Health and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (Los Angeles County)	Sub-Acute	24	October 30, 2023

REFERRAL PROCESS

The DSH Patient Management Unit (PMU) screens incoming patient referrals for eligibility based on each patient’s treatment needs. Once the review process is complete, the PMU determines if a patient should be placed in a CIF and, if so, which CIF may be best suited for the patient based on geographic proximity, bed availability, clinical needs, and program criteria. Each patient must be determined to be IST on a felony charge and committed to DSH for treatment. The CIF then reviews each referral sent from the PMU for possible acceptance, based on the facility’s admissions criteria.

The DSH Conditional Release Program (CONREP) team may also refer patients to the DSH Diversion Team to determine if a patient is appropriate for a CIF. If the CIF accepts the patient, the CONREP team will make arrangements for treatment with the CIF team.

In the future, referrals from a county Diversion and CBR program to a CIF will be permitted. A referral process will be developed and shared with counties at a later date.

CIF PROGRAM OUTCOME

CIFs are primarily used to stabilize IST patients being considered for a DSH-funded community treatment program, including those who are pending placement and meet the legal eligibility criteria for the [DSH Mental Health Diversion Program](#) or a Community-Based Restoration program.

Once a patient has reached stabilization, the patient may “step-up” or “step-down” into another DSH program for continued treatment. The patient may also be found competent to stand trial per Penal Code [§1372](#) and return to court to proceed with their charges.

DSH CIF Discharge Pathways:

- CIF to DSH Mental Health Diversion Program
 - Upon completion of treatment at a CIF acute or sub-acute program, a patient might be eligible and referred to a DSH-funded Mental Health Diversion program as a step-down in care.
 - The Diversion program permits felony IST defendants to participate in intensive community-based mental health treatment in lieu of inpatient DSH competency restoration treatment.
 - The goal of the program is to break the cycle of criminalization by offering intensive community-based treatment and appropriate ongoing support to reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

- DSH CIF to DSH CBR Program
 - A patient admitted to a CIF may be considered for a DSH-funded county-run CBR program if the CIF team determines that competency is unlikely to occur in the near future.
 - For CBR consideration, the acute mental health symptoms have generally stabilized, but the patient needs more time to work toward overcoming the barriers that are interfering with competency restoration.
 - The goal of the program is to provide ongoing mental health treatment that includes a focus on competency restoration.

- DSH CIF Acute to CIF Sub-Acute
 - A patient who is admitted to a CIF providing acute level of care services may require additional time to attain competency and stabilization, and/or may not be eligible for Diversion. This patient might be redirected to a sub-acute CIF to receive continued treatment if they no longer require an acute level of care.
 - Sub-acute CIFs permit felony IST defendants to participate in competency restoration treatment as an alternative to state hospital or JBCT placement.

- The goal of the sub-acute CIF is to maintain stabilization prior to release into a Diversion or CBR program or to restore competency through intensive treatment in a locked setting.
- CIF to State Hospital
 - A patient who is not eligible for the Diversion program and/or requires a higher level of care to restore competency, might be redirected to a State Hospital as a step-up from either an acute or sub-acute CIF.
- Restored to Competency
 - Upon being evaluated by the DSH Re-evaluation Team or the CIF, a patient can be restored to competency directly from an acute or sub-acute CIF.
 - A patient discharged from a CIF and restored to competency is transported back to jail to resume their court proceedings.

CIF PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- CIFs may include, but are not limited to, Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers (MHRC), Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, etc.
- CIFs provide an alternative pathway for participants who need stabilization prior to placement in a Diversion program.
- Referring less acute patients to a more appropriate level of care in a CIF can support prioritization of state hospital beds for the population with the highest acuity needs and shorten wait times to accessing those beds.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

DSH actively strives to respond to the increasing rate of referrals for IST services through the continued utilization and expansion of innovative, high quality forensic mental health programs including community treatment programs and mental health diversion. DSH is in the process of contracting with several more facilities that are expected to activate within the next few years:

- 40-bed locked MHRC in Fresno County with estimated activation in 2024
- 198-bed locked subacute facility in San Bernardino County with estimated activation in 2026
- Additional facilities in Sacramento, the Bay Area, and Southern California under consideration

CONTACT

For additional information about DSH CIFs, please email: DSHDiversion@dsh.ca.gov or visit the DSH Diversion Program Site: https://www.dsh.ca.gov/Treatment/DSH_Diversion_Program.html.