

# RCEB Forensic Specialist Overview

Working with Developmental Disabled Clients involved in  
the Court System

Presented by:

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**“Nearly every person with a form of intellectual disability lives in the community and is susceptible to becoming involved in the criminal justice system as a victim or a suspect.” - thearc.org**

- The Forensics Service Specialist assists and supports case managers with clients who have become involved in the criminal court, either as a defendant or a victim of a crime. The forensic specialist does not typically get involved in dependency or family court placement cases.
- Most common services for Case Managers
  - Court Appearances
  - Status & Progress Reports
  - Placement Recommendations

# Competency To Stand Trial

- Due to the fact that our clients are developmentally disabled, a judge may ask for a competency evaluation, training, or assessment to determine if a client is competent to stand trial for his/her charges
- 1368 Competency Evaluation for a person with mental illness; 1369 competency evaluation for a person with a developmental disability; 1370.1 competency assessment at Porterville Developmental Center
  - Competency cases typically involve serious felonies – however, the Forensic Specialist can also assist in misdemeanor cases

# Consistency and Court Standards from Arrest to Sentencing

- The forensic specialist is able to provide support to the case manager from arrest to sentencing for most cases. Court is typically fast moving and stressful.
- The forensic specialist works with public defenders, district attorneys and judges to explain, advocate, and educate legal staff about RCEB services and limitations.

# When should I schedule an Forensic Review?

- Is your client currently in custody?
- Is your client having difficulty understanding the scope of his/her crime or court proceedings?
- Does your client have a court date within the next 30 days?
- Has a judge ordered RCEB to provide a report to the court?
- Would you like consultation about how to proceed in an upcoming court matter with a client?
- Is the case manager being asked to testify or appear in court?

# Community Representation and Involvement

- Alameda and Contra Costa Multi Disciplinary Forensic Teams led by BART PD, Concord and Richmond Police
- Crisis Intervention Team [CIT] training for police officers based out of Oakland and Concord PD. The training is a joint effort with Andy Hoang from the RCEB Crisis Response Project
- The East Bay Coalition on Disabilities and the Criminal Justice System led by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- The Association of Region Center Agencies [ARCA] State Forensic Task Force in Sacramento