



Fall 2025

**Implementing the Illinois Courts Mental Health Action Plan**

Courts are in a unique position to lead change. By following the recommendations and using the resources developed by the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators [National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts’ Response to Mental Illness](#) and the [Illinois Courts’ Mental Health Task Force Action Plan](#), Courts can bring communities together to communicate, collaborate, and improve public health and safety.

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**Leveraging the judiciary's convening power**

As court leaders, judges possess the ability to bring together diverse stakeholders who might not otherwise collaborate. From prosecutors and defense attorneys to law enforcement, behavioral health providers, social service agencies, and individuals with lived experience, the judiciary can unite these groups to break down silos and create meaningful change.

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**Expanding civil court outpatient pathways to care**

Recommendation 6.2 of the Illinois Courts’ Mental Health Action Plan promotes “increasing utilization of assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) as a form of civil commitment that authorizes the judicial system to commit eligible individuals with severe psychiatric disorders to mental health intervention in the community.”

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**Rethinking Fitness to Stand Trial: Recent developments and next steps**

Illinois courts and justice partners continue to advance reforms to the state’s Fitness to Stand Trial system, with recent convenings and new legislation marking important progress. This effort is prioritized in the Illinois Courts’ Mental Health Action Plan in Recommendation 6.1:

*“The Task Force recommends State Court develop a partnership with the DHS DMH Forensic Services Director to further develop alternative competency to stand trial strategies to eliminate practices of warehousing individuals in jails while awaiting competency restoration.”*

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## **Mental health at the 2026 Judicial Education Conference**

With support from the Illinois Supreme Court Judicial College, the Illinois Courts' Mental Health Action Plan recommendations will be integrated throughout the 2026 Judicial Education Conference.

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*For more information or comments, please contact Scott Block,  
Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator to the Illinois Courts, at [sblock@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:sblock@illinoiscourts.gov)*

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