

**Progress Report to Joint Commission on Health Care
October 7, 2009**

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Chair, Commission on Mental Health Law Reform**

I. Key Accomplishments

- Coordination, consensus-building and habits of collaboration
- Data needed for informed policy-making and oversight
- Common understanding of problems we face and key elements of the solutions

II. Unfinished Business in Emergency Services and Commitment Reform

- Continue to enhance opportunities for intensive intervention services to prevent, ameliorate and stabilize crises without invoking commitment process or initiating criminal process
- Lengthen TDO period to facilitate thorough evaluation and stabilization before scheduled hearing
- Facilitate discharge or conversion to voluntary status in clinically appropriate cases
- Based on experience and available resources, identify most appropriate role for mandatory outpatient treatment (MOT)
- Develop integrated, stand-alone “Psychiatric Treatment of Minors Act”
- Continue to reduce reliance on law enforcement transportation through Alternative Transportation Orders

III. Empowerment and Self-Determination

- Implementation and dissemination of revised Health Care Decisions Act, especially new advance directive provisions for mental health care
- Clarification and refinement of HCDA

IV. Upcoming Plans

- 2009 Progress Report
- Report on Access to Services (2010)
- Commission Final Report (2010)