

"Sandra", 50

STUCK IN THE SYSTEM

"Sandra" was stuck in the revolving door of the justice system for 15+ years. Living with serious mental illness, her last arrest was in 2018 after the police were called while she was in a psychiatric crisis. After being found incompetent, she was sent to competency restoration but was never restored. She then languished in jail for two years, forgotten and detached from reality, until TJP found her. She has been in a state-contracted hospital bed on a civil commitment ever since 2021.

The Problem:

Sandra **most likely met criteria** for a civil commitment long before she was ever offered one, leaving her cycling in and out of jail for 15+ years

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In the state-contracted hospital bed, Sandra has **no autonomy or purpose**. She is detached from any sense of community.

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Sandra has a high level of need but has **nowhere** to go and **nobody** to support her outside of the hospital. Jail should not be the default residential option

Next Steps:

Utilizing **civil commitments** connects people to the care they deserve and keeps them out of jails and off the streets

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Community-based long-term settings allow people to live with purpose and dignity **despite** the need for a high level of care

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Appropriate step-down facilities to support people who need long-term care that **doesn't rise to the acuity of hospitalization**



Appropriate stepdown care
can be modeled after
retirement communities
based on level of need:

- Independent living
- Supported living
- 24/7 nursing care
- Locked, secure option



Right now, our continuum of care has nothing between the hospital and the streets

Many people wrongfully assume that Texas State Hospitals are appropriate settings for long-term care. After all, isn't that the **only option?**
The State Hospital is just that: **a hospital**. Confined to a small room, you have no autonomy, independence, freedom, or meaning.

Everyone deserves to live with purpose and dignity

For people needing long-term care, we need appropriate **step-down solutions**. There is currently **no long-term community-based care** in Texas. Expanding these options gets people out of state hospitals, frees up beds, and allows these individuals the autonomy and dignity they deserve.



Read the state audit on
competency restoration
and state hospital beds



See an easy-to-read
breakdown of the audit from
Texas Jail Project