

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

No. 2026-01

Proposed Resolution Regarding Increasing the Number of Residential Mental Health Treatment
Beds Available for Persons Awaiting Trial

1 **RESOLVED**, That the Connecticut Sentencing Commission recommends that the Connecticut
2 General Assembly appropriate additional resources to the Judicial Branch, Court Support
3 Services Division, for the purpose of (1) increasing the number of community residential mental
4 health treatments beds for men awaiting trial and (2) creating community residential mental
5 health treatment beds for women awaiting trial.

6

Purpose:

Beginning in October 2025, the Connecticut Sentencing Commission has hosted a weekly working group focused on examining pretrial procedures and informing policy. An early focus of this group was understanding variation in pretrial detention length, including whether waiting lists for mental health and substance use treatment delay the release of certain defendants. In response, Michael Aiello, Deputy Director III for Residential and Statewide Projects, JB-CSSD presented to the group on CSSD administered residential services. This presentation highlighted a decline in SU/MH treatment beds from 324 in 2012 to 187 in 2025, alongside a 34 percent decrease in referrals and admissions. Aiello also highlighted that these programs frequently operate at full capacity with significant waitlists, and the only program accepting clients with a primary mental health diagnosis—the Sierra Center—is limited to male participants. The working group also noted that expanding residential treatment for pretrial clients could be cost-effective, given the \$164.01 or higher daily cost of incarceration. Taken together, the reduction in beds, persistent waitlists, lack of options for female defendants, and potential cost savings led the Commission's Pretrial Working Group and Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Committee to bring forth this resolution.