

FORENSIC SERVICES

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Director

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NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

ALL IN GOOD HEALTH.



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

ABOUT DPBH

MISSION

To protect, promote, and improve the physical and behavioral health and safety of all people in Nevada, equitably and regardless of circumstances, so they can live their safest, longest, healthiest, and happiest life.

VISION

A Nevada where preventable health and safety issues no longer impact the opportunity for all people to live life in the best possible health.

PURPOSE

To make everyone's life healthier, happier, longer, and safer.



ALL IN GOOD HEALTH.

Forensic Service Requirements

- Per NRS 178.415, when a question arises regarding an individual's competency to proceed with their legal case, two evaluations are required
- Per NRS 178.425, DPBH is required to provide court-ordered inpatient and outpatient services to restore and evaluate individuals so they may proceed with their case. Presently, two secure forensic facilities serve the entire state.
- Per NRS 178.461, DPBH is required to house those individuals who are ultimately determined to be unable to be restored to the statutorily required level of competency to stand trial.
- Per NRS 175.539, DPBH is required to house those found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI).
- These services are not covered by health insurance or federal funding.

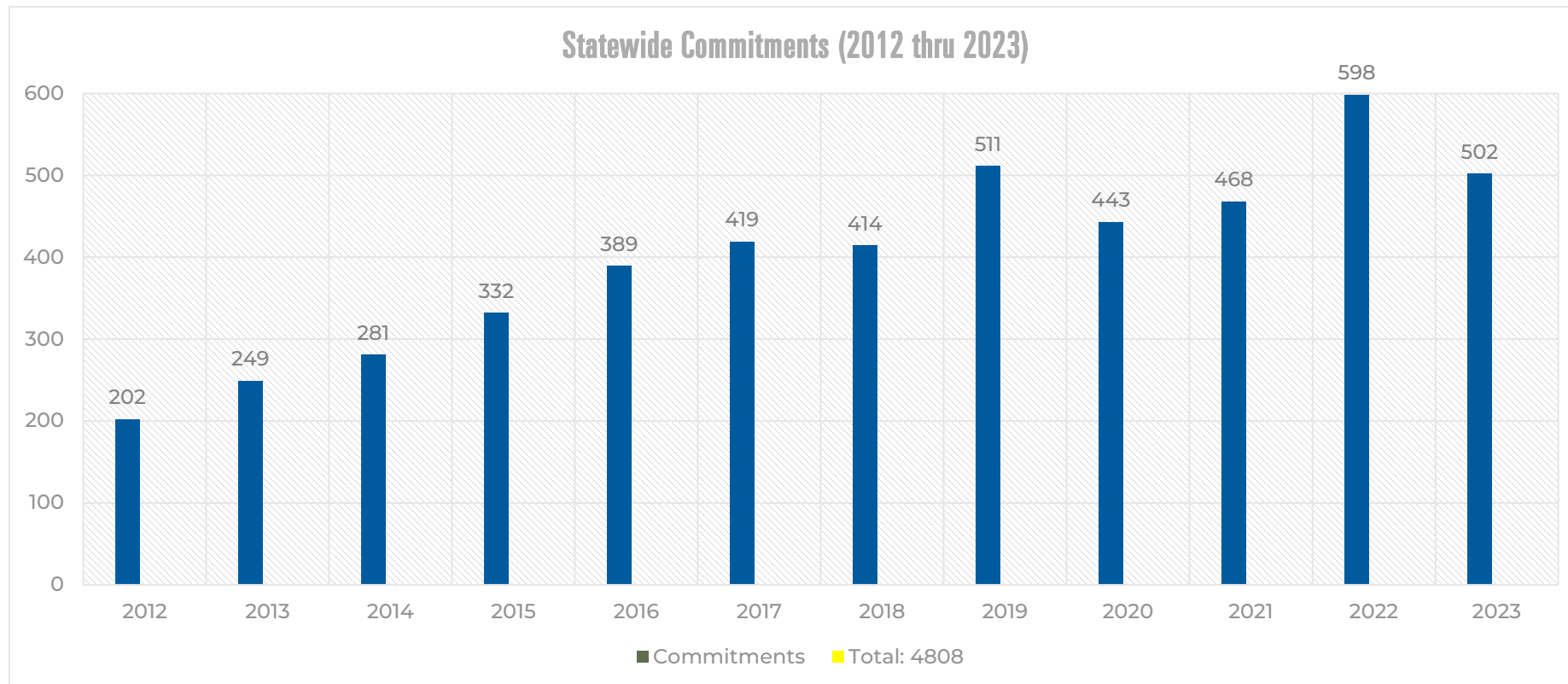


Forensic Service Challenges

- Nevada has experienced an increase in the demand of inpatient forensic needs over the past 10-20 years
- This includes many more individuals referred for inpatient restoration forensic services and an increase in the long-term population
- This has led to delays in the time between the court order date and the date of admission to forensic services

Increase in Demand

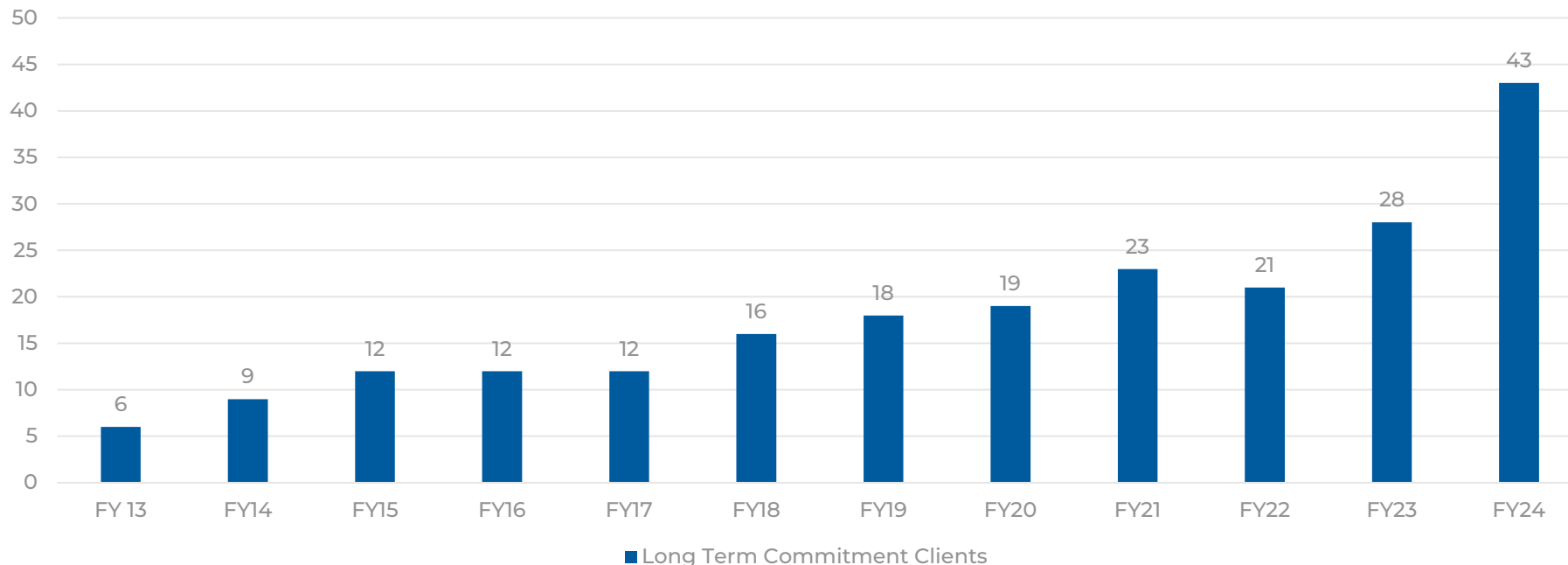
- Between 2012 and 2023, DPBH experienced a 148% increase in commitments.



Increase in Long Term Population

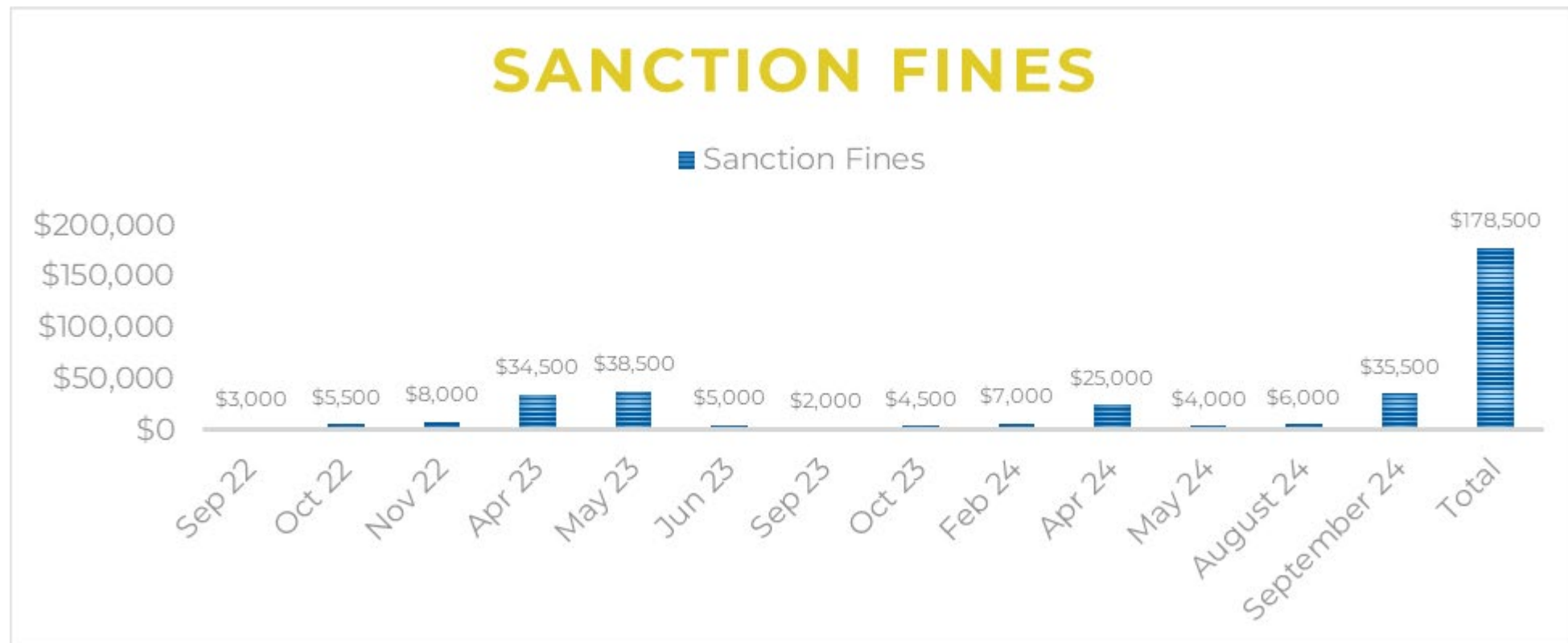
- DPBH's long-term client population (persons committed for 10-plus years and NGRI acquittees) has increased by 616% between 2013 and 2023 (from 6 to 43), which has led to less available bed space for restoration individuals.

Long Term Commitment Clients



Sanction Fines

- DPBH has been fined due to the amount of time individuals await admission to inpatient forensic services



DPBH Response to Challenges



- ARPA funded Initiatives:
 - Jail-based programming (JBP) is a collaboration between Clark County, Washoe County, and DPBH.
 - Use of alternative, off campus, long term care
 - Increase the workforce with skilled clinicians
- Expansion of inpatient capacity
- Formation of Jail Liaisons
- Exploration of Diversion Opportunities

Jail Based Programming

- ARPA funding has been used to create programming in Washoe and Clark county jails for individuals awaiting inpatient restoration services.
- The goal of JBP is to introduce treatment and programming for individuals who have been deemed not competent to proceed and exhibit mental health symptoms.
- Participation in the JBP allows for earlier initiation of psychiatric services, which is beneficial to the individuals.
- This allows for the potential for improvement in adjudicative abilities, at which time an individual may be re-evaluated, found competent, and removed from the admission list.
- Presently, approximately 64% of those on the admission list are participating



Clark County JBP





Alternative Long-term Care

- Some individuals committed under 178.461 have aged to the point of being infirm or have significant medical concerns. These individuals would receive a more appropriate level of care in a skilled nursing facility off campus.
- This frees up additional space for restoration individuals.



Workforce

- Workforce shortages impact services across the state and the specialized training required for forensic work has only exacerbated the issue.
- Through ARPA funds, DPBH has been able to expand contracted services, bringing on several staff through this program and will continue to do so with the available funding.
 - Outpatient services
 - Outreach to jails
 - Additional evaluators

Increase in Inpatient Capacity

- Additional beds were added to the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS) campus in 2024 to expand the census and allow for additional admissions, raising the total number of beds available at Stein Hospital from 113 to 153.
- Maximum capacity:
 - Lake's Crossing: 86
 - Stein Hospital: 153
 - Total: 239
- An emergency project was just approved by the October Board of Examiners. This is anticipated to add 21 forensic beds.



Jail Liaisons / Diversion

- Trained clinicians go into the jail and identify nonviolent offenders with low-level charges who are awaiting inpatient forensic services to explore diversion opportunities.
- Once selected, these individuals are presented and discussed with the competency court (judge, district attorney, public defender) for potential diversion to other services that address their mental health issues.
- This leads to the potential for charges to be dismissed, as the individual no longer needs inpatient forensic treatment and is removed from the admission list.



Increased Communication with Community Providers and Jails

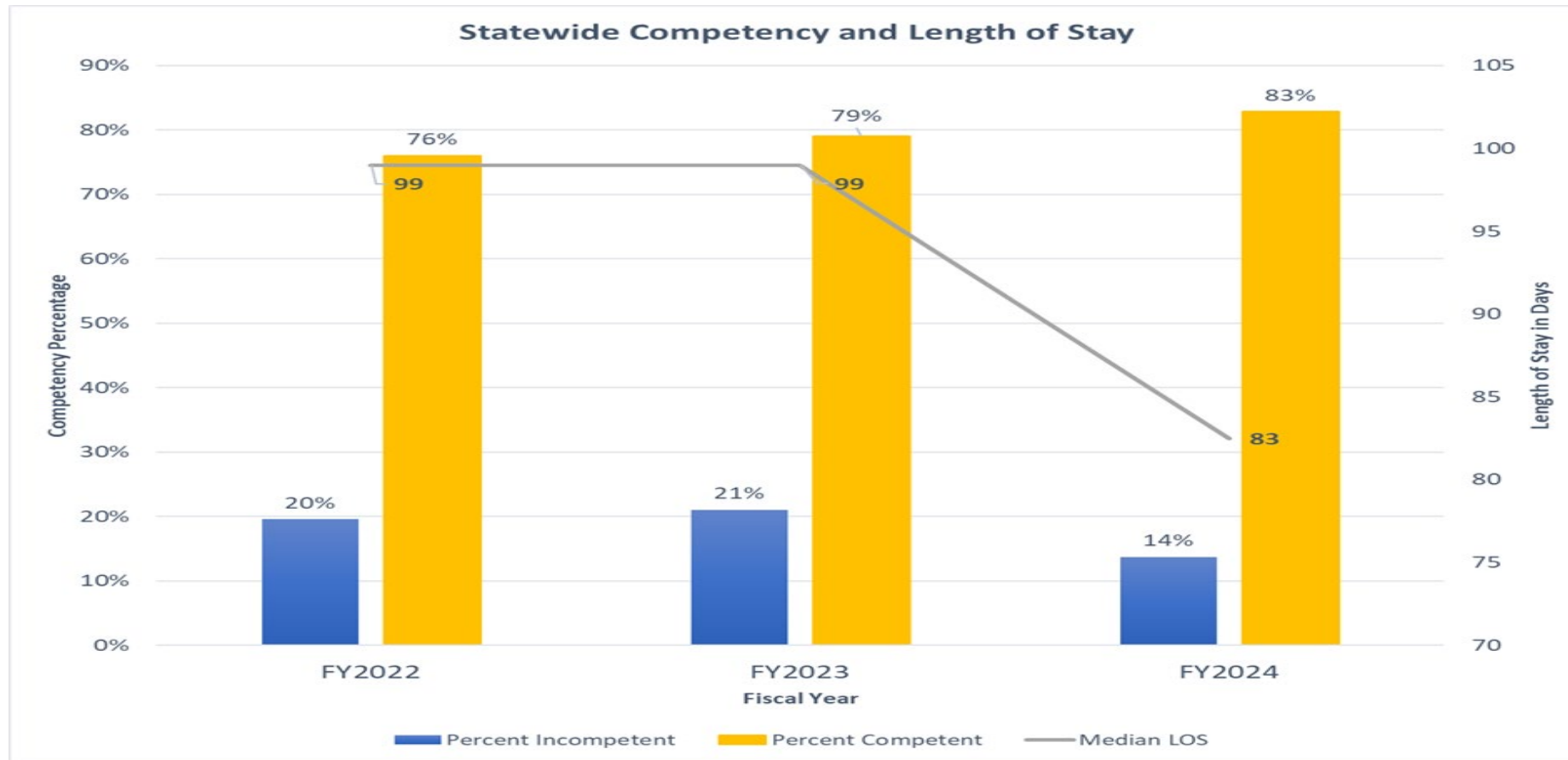
- Regular communication between DPBH and detention centers across the states.
- Increased collaboration with defense attorneys, district attorneys, and judges.
- A DBPH team recently met with representatives from the rural detention centers to explore their unique challenges and offer solutions.
- Working closely with community providers increases opportunities for diversion off the admission list, if appropriate.

Forensic Services: The Future

- A new forensic facility is being designed for placement on the SNAMHS campus in Clark County. This 300-bed facility would be able to serve all the restoration commitments in Clark County and surrounding counties.
- As recommended by Groundswell, DPBH is creating a small, dedicated team of experienced forensic staff who primarily focus on these issues and challenges and implement change on a statewide level. In 2024, a Statewide Forensic Program Director position was created and additional staff will be added to the newly created statewide forensic office.
- The initiatives and efforts outlined herein will lead to an elimination of fines and decrease in delays in offering treatment, while also preserving the integrity of the judicial process.

Results of Efforts

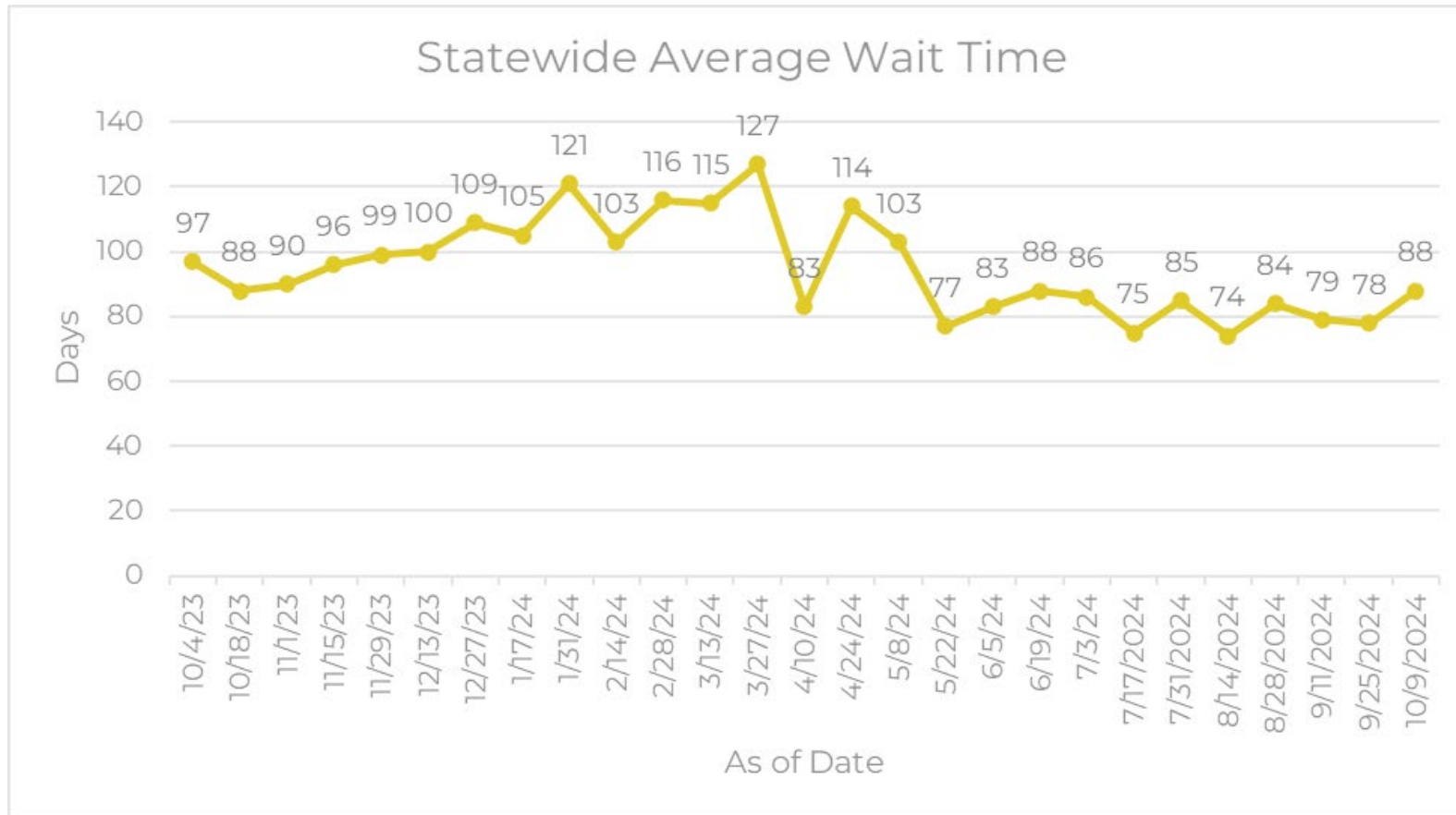
- Decreased length of inpatient stay





Results of Efforts

- Decreased length of time individuals spend waiting for admission



Questions and Discussion



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Acronyms

- NRS – Nevada Revised Statute
- ARPA – American Rescue Plan
- DPBH – Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- NGRI – Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity
- AOT – Assisted Outpatient Treatment
- SNAMHS – Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
- JBP – Jail-based Programming