



# HB 307: RESEARCH UPDATE

November 13, 2025



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🌐 <https://collaboratory.unc.edu/>

🔗 [HB307](#)



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL



# ABOUT THE NC COLLABORATORY

Established in 2016 by the North Carolina General Assembly, the Collaboratory supports cross-sector research partnerships that seek to transform academic research into **evidence-based solutions** for environmental, health, and societal challenges faced by people in North Carolina.

Codified as Article 31A of NCGS 116-255 and -256





# HB 307 RESEARCH STUDY MANDATE

**SECTION 4.** The North Carolina Collaboratory (NC Collaboratory) shall study the following:

(1) The intersection of mental health in the justice system for both adults and juveniles in North Carolina, including initial response, mental health evaluation, inpatient and outpatient involuntary commitment, incarceration, post-release monitoring and treatment, and any other items the Collaboratory deems relevant.

(2) The availability of house arrest as a condition of pretrial release in each county or judicial district.

(3) Methods of execution other than those currently authorized by State law.

# NC COLLABORATORY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HB 307

- Serve as broker between research teams and House Select Committee on Involuntary Commitment and Public Safety Chairs and legislative staff
- Meet with researchers and State agency staff to identify research priorities, research teams, and collaborators
- Solicit and fund research proposals aligned to legislative and State agency priorities
- Advise, monitor, and support research studies
- Facilitate acquisition of necessary data sets
- Share relevant and timely results and recommendations from funded studies with State and local policymakers

# INITIAL ENGAGEMENT

## **Stakeholders engaged so far:**

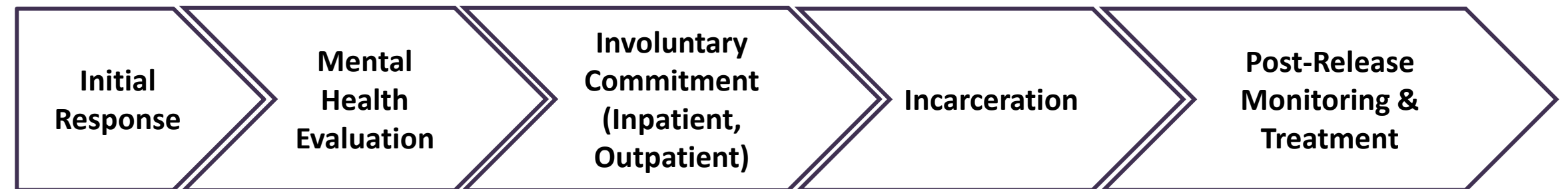
- NCGA Members and Staff
- Researchers
  - UNC School of Government, Criminal Justice Innovation Lab
  - Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke Law
  - National legal and mental health policy experts (e.g., Manhattan Institute, Arnold Ventures)
- State Agencies
  - Department of Health and Human Services
  - Department of Adult Corrections
  - Department of Public Safety

## **Stakeholders to engage in coming weeks:**

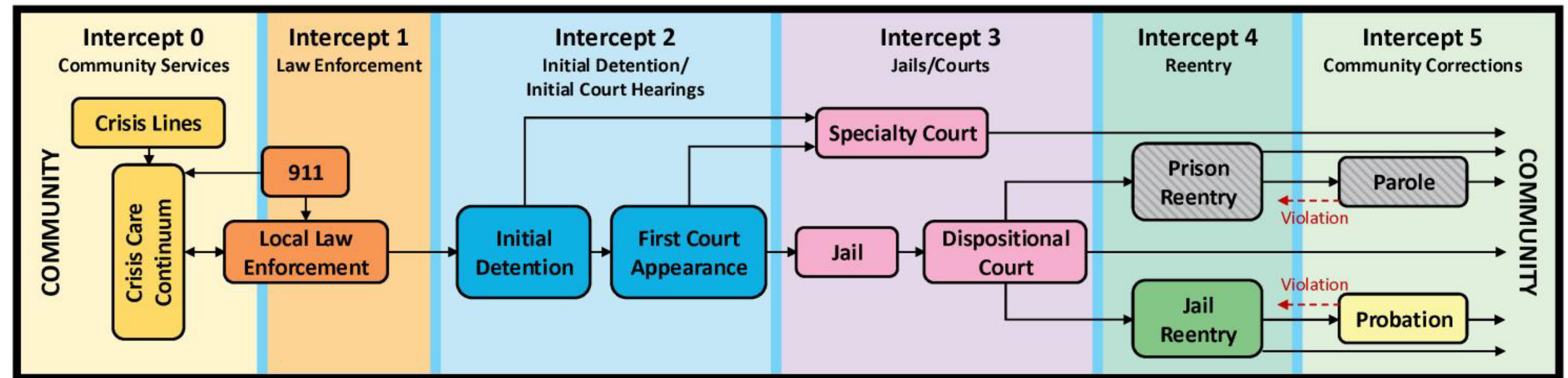
- NC Administrative Office of the Courts
- NC Department of Justice
- NC Sheriffs' Association
- Local policymakers and agencies (e.g., county commissioners, local health and public safety departments, community services providers)
- Additional researchers (e.g., medical researchers, attorneys)
- Mental health service providers (e.g., Wake Med Behavioral Health Network)

# PRELIMINARY RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS

Processes Outlined  
in HB 307



**Sequential Intercept Model**  
Utilized nationally and in NC to map intervention opportunities in the criminal justice system



# DRAFT RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the current policies and practices in North Carolina at the intersection of the criminal justice and mental health systems for people with severe mental illness (G.S. 122C-3), both adults and juveniles?
2. What models or policy reforms from the evidence base or other states could be adapted for the North Carolina context?
3. What are the current met and unmet needs in the systems that serve individuals in the criminal justice system with severe mental illness (e.g., staffing, training, facilities, funding, licensure, liability, data)?
4. What existing pilot initiatives in North Carolina related to severe mental illness could be rigorously evaluated to generate future evidence and inform policy statewide?
5. What are the potential impacts of the changes enacted in HB307 and how can State and local agencies plan for implementation?

# ANTICIPATED STUDY PARAMETERS

- **Research Teams:** Principal Investigators must be from NC institutions of higher education, with opportunities for consultants inside or outside NC
- **Funding:** up to \$1M from previously appropriated funds to NC Collaboratory for Iryna's Law study mandates
- **Timeline:**
  - ✓ Project start date: January 1, 2026
  - ✓ Preliminary report due: April 1, 2026
  - ✓ Research update brief due: November 1, 2026
  - ✓ Final report & policy recommendations due: March 1, 2027
  - ✓ Potential for supplemental research
- **Anticipated research activities:**
  - ✓ Reviewing and summarizing current literature
  - ✓ Identifying and analyzing existing data
  - ✓ Collecting new data (qualitative and quantitative)
  - ✓ Engaging with and convening state and local stakeholders
  - ✓ Designing evaluations of existing pilot programs/initiatives
  - ✓ Developing policy briefs and summarizing research for legislators



# THANK YOU & QUESTIONS



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