

North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Testimony



NC House Select Committee on Involuntary Commitment and Public Safety

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Protecting our public

Protecting our patients

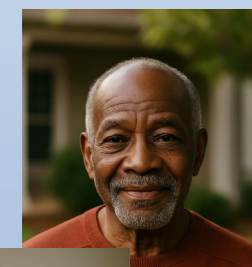
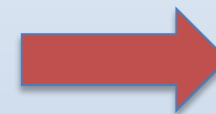
Protecting our healthcare teams

Right Care. Right Time. Right Place.

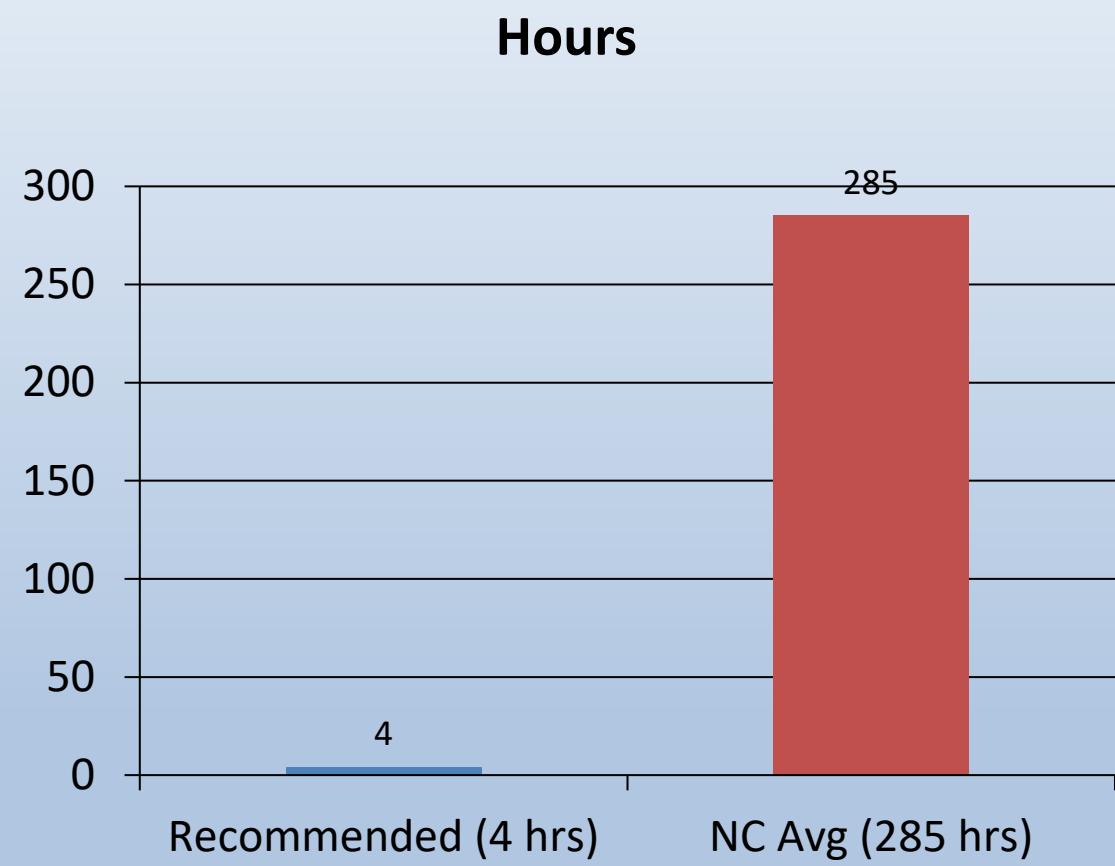
Emergency Medicine



Current Process



Behavioral-Health Boarding Crisis



Behavioral-Health Boarding Crisis



JUSTICE INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS Iryna's Law



NO IMMEDIATE DANGER

Ordered by a court;
no statutory timeframe

INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT (IVC)



IMMEDIATE DANGER

Evaluation required
within 24 hours

Judicial Evaluations ≠ Emergency Evaluations

Impact on Law Enforcement



Officers remain off the street for extended periods transporting and guarding medically stable individuals.

Shared ED spaces increase safety hazards for patients, staff, and officers

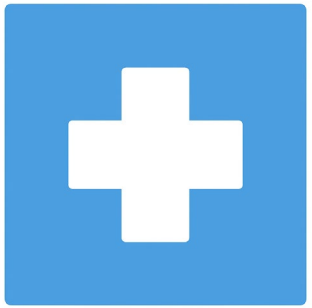
The Path Forward



Telepsychiatry: A Proven North Carolina Strength (NC-STeP)



NCCEP Recommendations Before December 2026



Clarify ED role
(emergent
only)



Expand
telepsychiatry



Increase
BHUC/Crisis
Units



Expand
WPVM
Efforts



Improve real-
time data
sharing



“The right care, at the right time, in the right place — that’s how we protect North Carolinians.”