

An old call for action

- Since the beginning of Norwegian forensic psychiatry in the 19th century, psychiatrists as well as others have voiced concerns over the lack of standardization and solid scientific foundation
- In his dissertation from 1896, police- and prison doctor Paul Winge, express a need for a national unit with a mandate to assist the police and courts
- A century later, doctor Egil Bjarnar, the then Head of Brøset Department, St. Olavs hospital, suggested that such a unit should have responsibility for the police requisitions and the supervision of the forensic experts

Official Norwegian Reports

- The Official Norwegian Report 2001:21 from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security stated that the police and courts didn't have updated list of qualified forensic experts, that experts often were chosen by habit and familiarity and usually with the same colleague, and concluded that this results in difficulties in recruiting new forensic experts
- The Official Norwegian Report 2014:10 stated much the same, but the report had a more significant impact as the criticism came in the wake of the terrorist attack of 22. July 2011

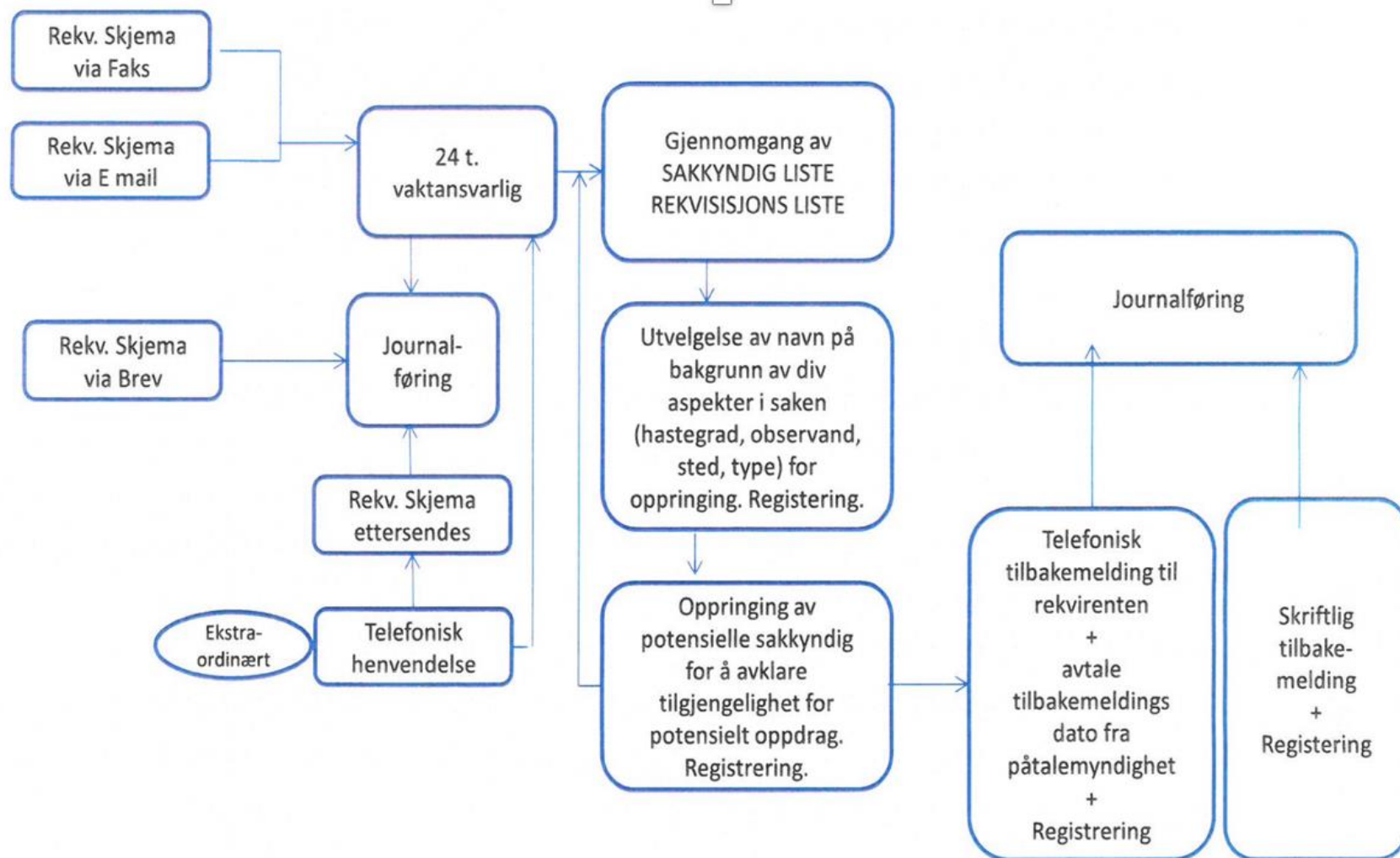
At last, something is changing

- A report regarding the status of forensic psychiatry in 2013 pointed out that “[previous] reports and suggestions have not been implemented”
- The same report recommended several specific and structural changes with the emphasis on being realistic and consistent with the long-term goal to improve forensic services
- The report recommended a pilot project at Brøset Department, St. Olavs hospital, with the aim of implementing the suggested recommendations for improved quality and accessibility

Temporary Forensic Unit (MRE)

- The temporary forensic unit (pilot project)
 - ✓ updated and expanded the list of qualified experts
 - ✓ made this accessible for the police and courts 24/7
 - ✓ made suitable offices available for the experts
 - ✓ made relevant assessment material accessible
 - ✓ made arrangements to increase the safety of experts
 - ✓ made arrangements for video-conferencing with courts
 - ✓ employed experienced personnel for consultations
 - ✓ made efforts to recruit new experts

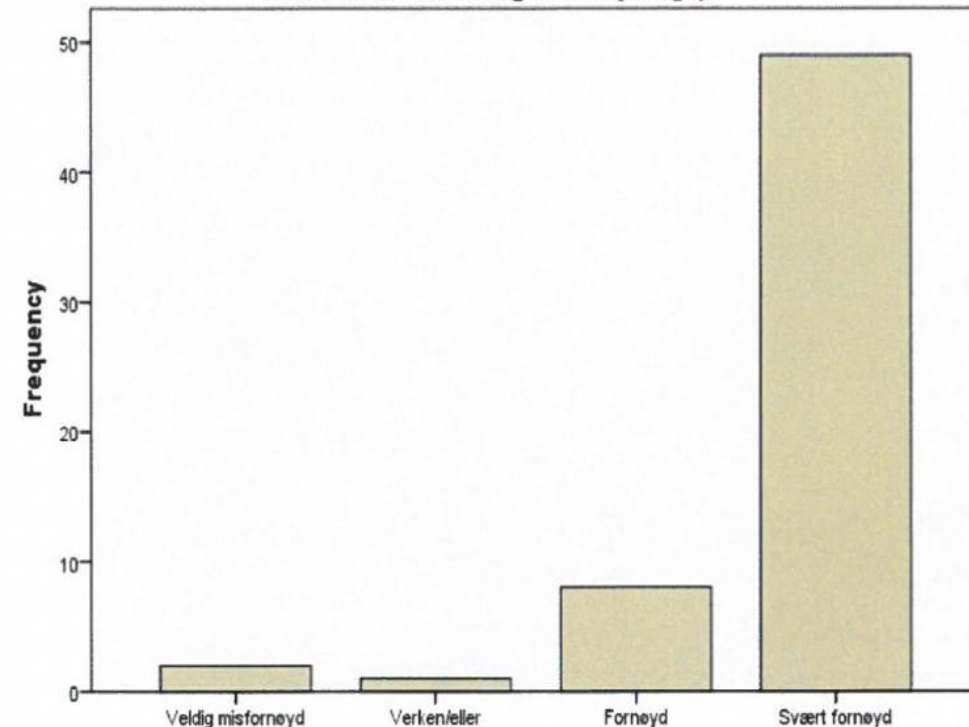
The requisition model



Results from the first evaluation:

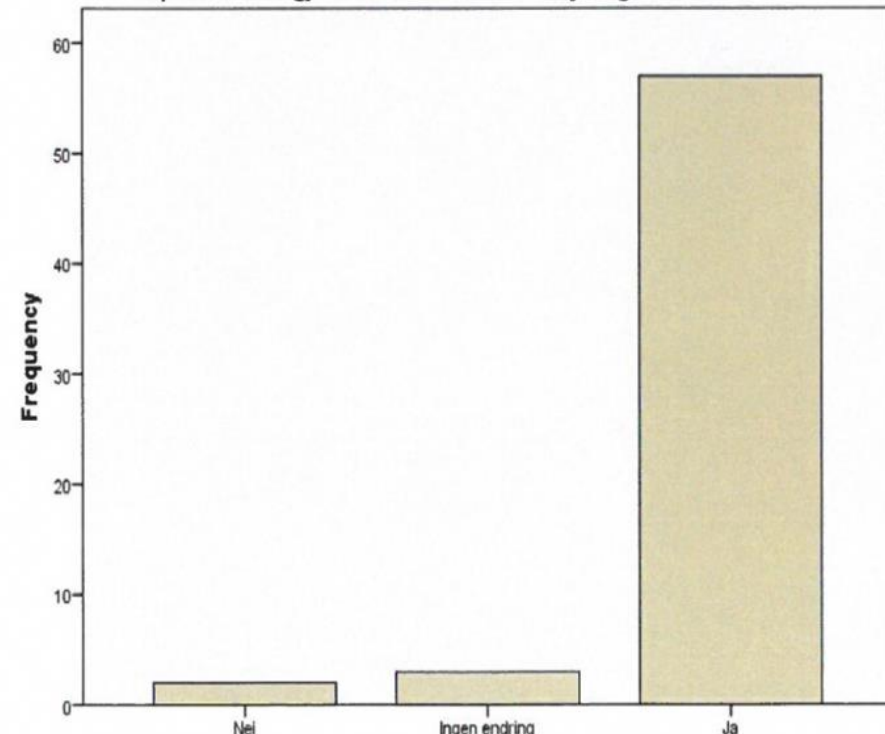
High levels of user satisfaction

Hvor fornøyd/misfornøyd er du med MRE's responstid (tiden fra rekvisisjonen er sendt til du får forslag til sakkyndige)?



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The Norwegian National unit (NERS)

- The Norwegian National unit of forensic psychiatric expertise opened October 30th, 2018, at Brøset, as a primary agency for the appointment of experts. The temporary unit was the model for this permanent unit
- The courts are still free to choose “their own” forensic expert, but the The Director of Public Prosecutions has instructed the police to use the national unit for all full forensic evaluations
- The unit and the model will be evaluated in 2021

Towards the goals

- There has been a steady rise in the number of available forensic experts as well as requisitions
- The period 10.10.18 – 06.08.19 held 792 requisitions from the Police, including from Svalbard and the The Norwegian Police Security Service (PST)
- There are now 122 qualified forensic experts on the list
- Police prosecutors and forensic experts have expressed satisfaction with the easy and prompt access to the updated list of qualified forensic experts
- They have also expressed satisfaction with the possibility of discussing both judicial and practical issues with the experienced psychiatrists and psychologists on staff

The next steps

- Consolidation and expansion of the model regarding requisitions, logistics and statistics
- Invite stakeholders to collaborate on the consolidation and expansion processes
- Further investigate how the unit can contribute to enhance the rule of law and due process of law
(Rettsikkerhet og Rettslikhet)
- Further strengthening the collaboration with the forensic community and contributing with the overall goal of improving the quality of forensic psychiatry