

Forensic HARPS

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for people detained in city and county jails. The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement establishes a plan for providing services to persons involved in the criminal court system and for providing treatment to people when needed so they are less likely to become involved in the criminal court system.

The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement includes a plan for phasing in programs and services:

- Phase 1 [2019-2021]: Pierce, Southwest, and Spokane regions including Pierce, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Spokane, Ferry, Stevens, Adams, Lincoln, and Pend Oreille counties.
- Phase 2 [2021-2023]: King region/county
- Phase 3 [2023-2025]: Thurston, Mason, and Salish regions including Thurston, Mason, Clallam, Kitsap, and Jefferson counties.

Homelessness is traumatic and cyclical and can be a significant barrier to receiving services, including services for behavioral health conditions. Residential supports connect people with housing through peer support and subsidies for costs such as application fees, security deposits, and up to a few months of rent vouchers while they are helped with finding more permanent housing support.

Residential Supports/Forensic HARPS and the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement

The Health Care Authority has set up Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services teams in the Phase 1 and 2 regions and is working to set up teams in the Phase 3 regions. These teams are staffed with people who have lived experience with behavioral health challenges. This staffing model helps foster engagement with people served by the Forensic HARPS team with the goal of helping participants to overcome barriers, and to obtain and maintain housing.

To be eligible, a person must be identified as unstably housed and:

1. Ordered into an outpatient competency restoration program, or
2. On the Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis referral list/receiving Forensic PATH services, or
3. Referred by a forensic navigator and meet criteria in 1, 2, or 4, or
4. Exiting crisis triage/stabilization facilities and meeting certain eligibility criteria:
 - Have had at least one prior contact with the forensic mental system in the past 24 months or were brought to a crisis triage or

stabilization facility via arrest diversion under RCW 10.31.11 as determined by the crisis triage and stabilization provider.

- Need assistance accessing independent living options and would benefit from short-term housing assistance beyond the 14-day vouchers.
- Are diagnosed with an acute behavioral health disorder and are assessed to need housing support beyond what is offered through the crisis triage and stabilization facilities or the short-term voucher.
- Are unstably housed.
- Are not currently in the community outpatient competency restoration program.
- Do not meet Involuntary Treatment Act (RCW 71.05) commitment criteria.

Forensic HARPS teams use all types of housing interventions while focusing on participant choice of housing and household composition. These teams work with eligible participants for an initial six months, providing housing subsidies and supports during this time. For those identified as requiring additional time to remain stably housed, teams may request an extension in the program on a case-by-case basis for a total of no more than 20 months.

For more information

- For more information, contact Sarah Taylor at sarah.taylor@hca.wa.gov
- For more information about Trueblood, or to be added to the Listserv, email truebloodtaskforce@dshs.wa.gov

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