

Enhancing Crisis Triage and Crisis Stabilization

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 those 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 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.

Crisis triage and crisis stabilization facilities offer a place for people recovering from a behavioral health crisis to receive stabilization support from a multi-disciplinary treatment team. These facilities can help divert people from inpatient hospitalization or incarceration.

The treatment may include psychological first aid, case management, medication management and administration, peer support and other resources.

Crisis Triage and Stabilization and the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement

As part of the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement, the Health Care Authority, in close collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services and community stakeholders, enhanced crisis triage and stabilization services in the Phase 1, 2, and 3 regions of the agreement:

Phase 1 Region Enhancements

- Spokane Region and Pioneer Human Services (PHS). Crisis Triage and Stabilization Enhancements for Spokane region are offered through Pioneer Human Services. This program enhancement also supports staffing at Passages Peer Respite Program.
- Southwest Region and Lifeline Connections. Lifeline Connections Crisis Wellness Center uses enhancement funding for participant transportation, evidenced-based training and supportive housing.

Phase 2

King County, Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) uses enhancement funding to increasing wages for crisis facility staff leading to higher staff retention rates. As a result, they have seen an increase in qualified applicants. Enhancement funds also include increased engagement between CSC staff and law enforcement.

Phase 3

Enhancement funds in Thurston/Mason, and Salish regions are being used to increase staff, offer hiring and retention bonuses, facilitate additional trainings, and working with law enforcement to divert people experiencing a behavioral health crisis away from arrest and incarceration.

For more information

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