

Trueblood Update

On 2023-2025 Biennial Budget

May 2023



Washington State
Health Care Authority



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Discussion Items

- Contempt Settlement/Trueblood Phase 3: expansion to new regions and enrichment of existing regional programs
- Senate Bill 5440: enhancing treatment and diversion services for class members
- Other budget decisions/updates that will affect Trueblood

Trueblood Contempt Settlement

The Contempt Settlement Agreement outlines an array of services intended to better deliver the right care, at the right time, to the right people and reduce the number of people who become or remain class members.

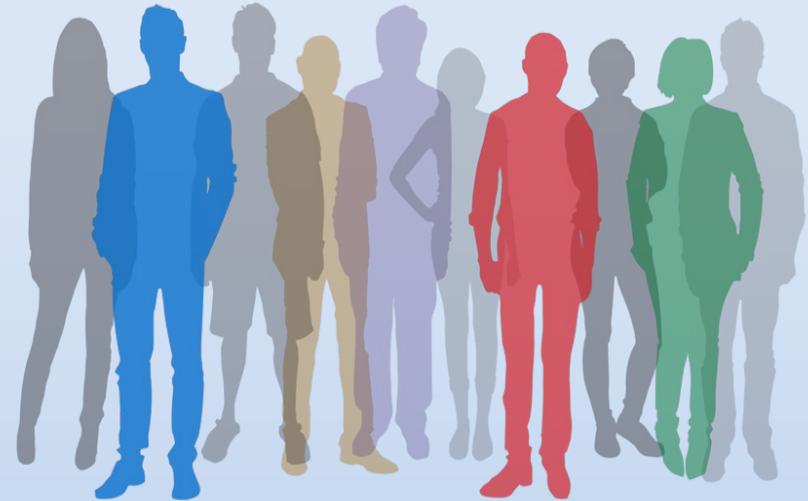
Washington state is entering Phase 3 of implementation July 1, 2023, which covers the Thurston-Mason, and Salish regions.

Phase 3 Implementation

Trueblood-required programs will be implemented in Thurston-Mason (Thurston and Mason counties) and the Salish Region (Kitsap, Jefferson, and Clallam counties) as part of Phase 3, which will begin July 1, 2023.

- Phase 3 will also provide additional funding to the following existing programs implemented in Phase 1 and Phase 2 to better improve and expand services in those regions:
 - Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services
 - Outpatient Competency Restoration Program
 - Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
 - Forensic Navigator Program

Senate Bill 5440 is the state legislature's response to unprecedented wait times for defendants awaiting inpatient competency restoration services and an overwhelming increase in demand for these services. The bill identifies the need for collaborative solutions from local governments and other entities to improve availability and effectiveness of behavioral health services provided outside the criminal court system.

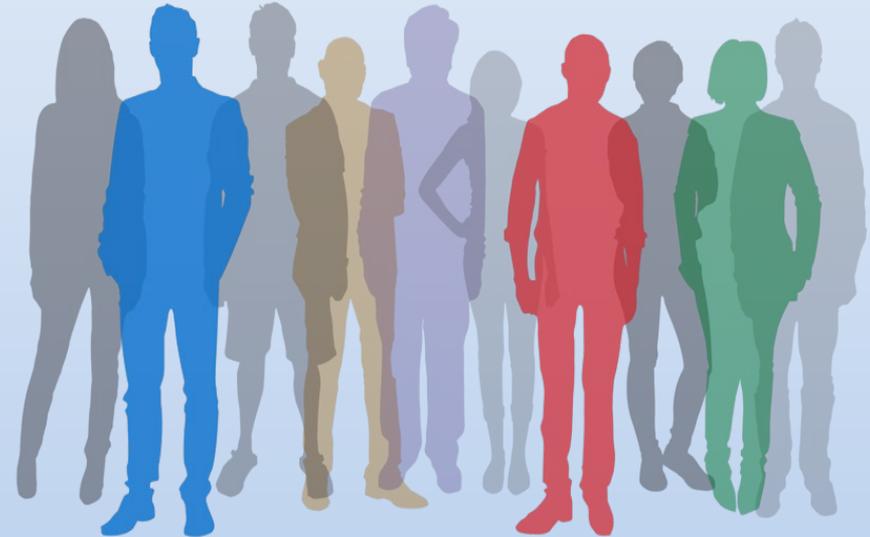


With the passing of SB 5440, the following will go into effect:

- If incompetence is determined to be the result of intellectual or developmental disability, dementia, and/or a traumatic brain injury, clients will be referred to the Developmental Disabilities Administration or Aging and Long-Term Support Administration of DSHS.
- When a petition has been filed for involuntary medication, it will also authorize the continuation of involuntary medication in jail.
 - Medication for patients started at treatment facilities will be continued when patients are returned to jails.
- Clinical Intervention Specialists will work with jail healthcare workers to provide direct support for services to class members in jail.

Senate Bill 5440 changes continued...

- For most misdemeanors and class C felonies, courts will first consider all appropriate alternatives to hospital-based competency restoration (such as diversion to outpatient competency restoration).
- Following a competency evaluation under RCW 10.77, people who are found not competent to stand trial and not restorable due to an intellectual or developmental disability, dementia, or traumatic brain injury, shall not be referred for competency restoration services. DSHS will create new programs for these people to prevent returning to the competency/court system repeatedly.
- Requires increased communication and coordination with Tribes if class members were previously accessing tribal services and health care.



SCORE—A Clinical Intervention Specialist Pilot Program



The South Correctional Entity (SCORE) is a government agency pursuant to RCW 39.34 and is a regionally owned detention facility.

DSHS is discussing options with SCORE to better meet the behavioral health needs of people who are already in the facility as class members. The clinical intervention specialist and staff will work collaboratively with jail staff to help enhance behavioral health services through therapy, medication management, and programming. They may also assist in making recommendations for treatment and diversion options for class members.

Western State Hospital New Wards

- Forensic wards F9 and F10 provide 58 new beds (29 beds each) for competency restoration and evaluation patients at WSH.
- F9 is at or nearing full occupancy and F10 is preparing to actively admit and receive transfer patients.





Expansion of Maple Lane

Maple Lane current and upcoming programs:

30 Beds
16 Beds
30 Beds
32 Beds
Total: 108

- Columbia Cottage, the soon-to-be NGRI residential treatment program - slated to open in Fall 2023
- Oak Cottage, the newly opened civil residential treatment program
- Cascade Cottage, a competency restoration treatment program
- Baker Cottage - slated to open in late Spring 2024
- Additional beds are funded and coming on-line in 2025 at Maple Lane and the Vancouver treatment campuses

Success that Points to a Better Future

While recently opening additional beds this year and in this biennium budget, BHA is working to streamline processes and reduce delays by increasing capacity and improving efficiencies through technology, communication, and collaboration for sustainable change.

We've made numerous changes to improve treatment programs and increase staff training opportunities. Looking forward, innovation continues to be a key building block to every endeavor, from incorporating psychological safety in workplace programs for our staff to repurposing facilities to better meet treatment needs.

Feedback BHA receives through partnerships like yours is integral to current and future changes.



For more information about Trueblood vs. DSHS, access to Court Monitor monthly reports, and one-pagers that describe the programs and services of Trueblood in more detail, please go to:

www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs

To join the Trueblood listserv, please email truebloodtaskforce@dshs.wa.gov

For additional questions, email: bhacommunications@dshs.wa.gov