

Welcome and thank you for joining.



Working together for safer communities.



Transforming Lives.

What to expect during our time together...

- Technology level setting
- Opening remarks by Kevin Bovenkamp, DSHS Assistant Secretary of Behavioral Health Administration and DOC, Assistant Secretary of Community Corrections Division, Mac Pevey.
- Presentation by DSHS subject matter experts
- Presentation by DOC subject matter experts
- Q&A

Closed Captioning and ASL Interpreter Pinning enabled for attendees.

Q&A enabled and monitored.

Please use the Q&A function for all questions and comments. A moderator will be posing your questions to the subject matter experts during the Q&A portion of this webinar. Hand raising is not enabled. Thank you.

Special Commitment Center

Community Presentation
Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Objectives

- Civil Commitment process overview
- How SCC Residents are released – conditional/unconditional
- Where SCC Residents are conditionally released to – SCTF, LRA
- Court-ordered conditions of release
- Law Enforcement Notification
- Resident Community Transition Team

Civil Commitment Process

- Court determines a person meets the criteria for Civil Commitment and orders them to SCC
- Resident resides at SCC receiving evidence-based sex offender specific treatment, psychiatric treatment, and other individualized care and treatment as needed
- Every year each resident receives a forensic evaluation to determine if they still meet civil commitment criteria and if they do, can they safely be served in a less restrictive alternative (LRA). Forensic evaluation is submitted to the court.

How are Residents released ?

- The Resident can petition the court for release with or without support.
- The Court orders SCC to identify a LRA home w/in 90 days that meets “Fair Share” standards
- If no placement exists within the county of commitment, SCC must identify another LRA home considering “Fair Share Principles”
 - DOC conducts investigation
- Court orders resident to LRA homes

Note: Defense Attorneys can also develop an LRA plan independent of the SCC and are not required to follow fair share principles.

Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA)

- LRA means a living environment that is less restrictive than McNeil Island.
- LRA types include:
 - Secure Community Transition Facilities
 - Staffed Housing
 - Independent Housing
 - Staffed and independent housing may or may not be contracted.

Law Enforcement Notification Process

- The law requires SCC to provide notice to Law Enforcement no less than 30 days prior to a resident releasing to an LRA placement
- The Sheriff's Department determines how community notification is provided to the public

Refer to RCW 4.24.550 as well as RCW 71.09.335.

Resident Community Transition Team

- Each resident has a team that consists of:
 - DOC Corrections Specialist
 - Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider (Private practice)
 - SCC Clinical Social Worker
- Monitors the resident to ensure compliance with the court order

Resident Community Transition Team (continued)

- Approves all the following (unless pre-authorized by the court):
 - When a resident leaves the LRA home
 - Where a resident goes in the community
 - Who the resident is allowed to talk to or visit with
 - Other individualized requests
 - Meets monthly and as needed to review resident progress

Working Together for Safer Communities

CIVIL COMMITMENT PROGRAM

LESS RESTRICTIVE ALTERNATIVES



Introductions

- Donta S. Harper, Ed.D.
 - Regional Administrator
- Brandon Duncan, MA LMHC
 - Civil Commitment Program Manager

Program Overview

- 13 Specialists/Case Managers on standby 24/7
- Average one specialist per 10 residents
- Currently supervise 86 cases in the field across King, Pierce, Spokane, Walla Walla, Snohomish and Kitsap counties
- DOC's participation includes (but is not limited to):
 - Investigation report
 - Pre-transition meetings
 - End of Sentence Review
 - Notification process
 - Supervision in collaboration with the Residential Community Transition Team (RCTT)

DOC's Role in Placement

- **Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) Investigation:**
 - DOC ordered to complete report within 60 days
 - **DOC does not approve or deny the placement**
 - LRA Court Special (report) includes:
 - Interviews with resident, treatment providers and others as needed
 - Detailed description of the land, property and neighborhood
 - Housing provider program outline
 - Concerns related to schools, parks, playgrounds, transportation, victim/witness, etc. of the proposed location
 - Community treatment plan
 - Community support
 - Conditions recommended by specialists include:
 - Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring requirements
 - Residential, supervision, treatment, standard and special conditions

Sex Offender Release Notification

- **End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC)**
 - A multi-disciplinary team, including:
 - Law enforcement
 - DSHS
 - DOC
 - Mental health experts
 - Victim liaison
 - And more
- DSHS presents a drafted notification
- ESRC reviews criminal, psychiatric, risk evaluations and treatment history
- ESRC makes a recommendation for sex offender registry level
- DOC supports any additional notification processes

DOC Supervision

- DOC ensures compliance to the individualized court-ordered LRA conditions
- The resident:
 - Releases with GPS installed, and all safety elements established before release
 - Registers with local sheriff's office
 - Reports to DOC office where all conditions and requirements are reviewed:
 - Movement restrictions and curfews are established
 - Site surveys
 - Itineraries
 - Approved contacts and chaperones

DOC Supervision, Continued

- The Specialist:
 - Participates in regular meetings with the Treatment Team
 - Conducts face-to-face home and community visits
 - Maintains regular phone check-ins
 - Conducts random drug and alcohol tests
 - Monitors and regulates internet-capable devices
 - Is authorized to immediately return a resident to total confinement
- Treatment Team and specialist report violations to the court
- The court conducts a violation hearing

Resident Violations and Escapes

- Treatment Team has several options when addressing violation of any condition:
 - Return to total confinement
 - Movement restriction
 - Restriction to residence
 - Treatment assignment
- DOC specialist has independent discretion for returns and restrictions based on safety concerns
- Escape from LRA Standard Operating Procedure:
 - Specialist verifies and attempts to locate resident
 - Law enforcement and DOC fugitive apprehension teams are immediately notified
 - DOC immediately enters warrant
- Resident is arrested, taken into custody and placed in confinement
- Escape from LRA can result in a new felony charge

Resources and Links

- RCW 71.09, Sexually Violent Predators:
 - <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=71.09>
- DOC Website:
 - <https://doc.wa.gov/>
- DOC Victim Services Program:
 - 360-725-9350
 - Toll-free 1-800-322-2201

Thank you for attending.



Working together for safer communities.



Transforming Lives.

What to expect next...

- Complete recording of this webinar will be available on the DSHS YouTube channel within 48 hours.
- FAQ's will be updated to reflect the most frequently asked questions that arose this evening.
- Registrants will receive a follow up email with links to the YouTube channel and the SCC webpage within 24 hours.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us.
We value your experiences, time and voices.