



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SERVICE
INTEGRATION ADMINISTRATION**

Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	22.8	22.8	22.8
GF-State	\$2,030,000	\$1,893,000	\$3,923,000
Total	\$2,030,000	\$1,893,000	\$3,923,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration (BHSIA) is requesting funding for a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Western State Hospital to serve violent and assaultive patients located at both Western State Hospital (WSH) and Eastern State Hospital (ESH). The PICU will house high acuity patients for short term stays with a transition back to a standard ward after stabilization. PICU patients will be provided specialized patient care and treatment targeted at reduction of violence and assaults. By funding this request, the PICU is expected to decrease patient-to-staff and patient-to-patient assaults and reduce patient-to-staff assault related industrial insurance claims and premiums.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Patient violence and patient-to-staff assaults at WSH and ESH results in poor staff morale, staff retention problems, increased overtime costs due to injury related absenteeism, labor relations issues, and assault related industrial insurance claims. Patient-to-staff assault claims contribute to the cost of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) industrial insurance premiums through the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

If this request is not funded, recent collaborative efforts by DSHS and labor organizations to address the problem will be compromised and a key mitigation strategy for reducing patient violence, patient-to-staff assaults and industrial insurance claims and premiums will not be implemented. Other strategies have included staff training, use of personal protective equipment and specialized Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams to respond to patient behavioral problems.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The proposed PICU at Western State Hospital will be designed and operated to house and treat violent and assaultive patients in order to reduce incidents of violence and assaults. Funding for this unit will cover the operating and staffing



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costs associated with this intensive service package. This unit will be 1-2 beds serving the highest acuity patients in the state psychiatric hospitals.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 1: Health – Each individual and each community will be healthy.

The decision package is essential to implementing the BHSIA Strategic Objective 1.7: Decrease the rate of patient-to-staff assault claims filed at Eastern State Hospital and Western State Hospital and Decrease state psychiatric hospital seclusion and restraint rates.

Desired and expected results are a reduction in the rate of patient-to-staff violence and assaults at Eastern State Hospital and Western State Hospital. This will reduce patient assault related industrial insurance claims and contribute to a reduction in DSHS industrial insurance premiums through the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

Patient care and treatment will be more efficient by separating out high-risk, violence prone patients from the general hospital population. This will be accomplished by having more specialized environments of care and provisions of treatment for the patient populations.

Other desired and expected results are improved staff morale and retention at the state hospitals and improved labor relations.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

This was a recommendation of the State Hospital Ad Hoc Safety Committee, comprised of representatives from all of the labor organizations and management at all three hospitals to identify long and short-term safety improvement initiatives.



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