



**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
ADMINISTRATION**
Center of Excellence
2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	2.5	2.5	2.5
GF-State	\$185,000	\$176,000	\$361,000
Total	\$308,000	\$293,000	\$601,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) requests funding for 2.5 FTEs to study the feasibility of converting the mission of Yakima Valley School (YVS), located in Selah, into a Center of Excellence (CoE) to serve individuals who have both a developmental disability and mental health diagnosis who are in need of services to address significant behavioral health issues. This study will be conducted in collaboration with the Behavioral Health and Services Integration Administration and the state psychiatric hospitals. Yakima Valley School is a Residential Habilitation Center (RHC) Nursing Facility that currently assists people with developmental disabilities in need of significant medical assistance. The Center of Excellence would be examined as a new service model that could provide individualized services and habilitation supports to prepare people who have both a developmental disability and mental health diagnosis to return to the community.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Currently, Eastern State Hospital (ESH) and Western State Hospital (WSH) serve a population of individuals with developmental disabilities who also have a mental health diagnosis and have been determined to be a danger to others, themselves or gravely disabled. There are approximately 30 individuals at WSH and 10 at ESH receiving services in the Habilitative Mental Health (HMH) wards of each hospital. In addition to treatment for mental illnesses, these individuals require habilitation training and education in order to prepare them to return to the community.

The feasibility study will determine whether a CoE focused on providing supports and services to meet these individuals' needs would provide the necessary habilitation supports to prepare them to return to community placements and reduce occurrences of recidivism. A CoE would also be designed to provide training and technical assistance to community providers willing to support these individuals after they have met their mental health treatment goals. Currently, the state hospitals have been receiving less than a 25 percent federal match for the services they provide these clients. It is assumed that services provided in this new service model will receive a 50 percent federal match.



DSHS VISION
People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION
To transform lives

DSHS VALUES
Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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PROPOSED SOLUTION

The Department is interested in studying the feasibility of closing YVS as an RHC/NF and converting it to a Center of Excellence serving people with developmental disabilities who also have significant behavioral health issues. The Department (Developmental Disabilities Administration and the Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration) would look at a model that:

- Examines the needs and history of current HMH residents;
- Closes YVS as a NF and transfer current residents from YVS to other state run and community NFs;
- Modifies the YVS mission to operate as an enhanced services facility specializing in serving people with developmental disabilities who have significant behavioral health issues;
- Re-trains RHC staff to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to work with this specialized population;
- Transfers patients who can be appropriately served in an enhanced services facility setting from the HMH wards to YVS ;
- Creates a service model that better addresses the unique needs of people who have a developmental disability; and
- Allows up to a 50 percent federal match on the service dollars.

If the feasibility study proves this approach to be viable, the department will work with the state hospitals to determine the appropriate use of wards currently used for the HMH programs, and the role that current HMH staff can play in the new model. Consideration will be given to retraining current HMH staff to work in other wards at the state hospitals and to transfer opportunities for those staff who have established therapeutic relationships with current residents of the HMH wards.

It is assumed that in the second year of the biennium, should the feasibility study prove this approach to be viable, the FTEs would begin work on implementation activities based on the findings of the study.

EXPECTED RESULTS



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2015-17 Biennial Budget
The budget request supports the DSHS Goal 3: Protection - Each individual and each community will be safe and DSHS Goal 5: Public Trust - Use of Strong management practices that ensure quality and leverage all resources. This request explores the possibility of developing facility based services specific to people with developmental disabilities who have significant behavioral health issues. This concept has the potential to become a high-quality service alternative to state hospital placements for individuals with both a developmental disability and mental health diagnosis.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Developmental disability advocates and mental health advocates may support a model that serves this specific population. Labor groups should be neutral as any plan created would preserve jobs. Families of individuals currently living in YVS may be opposed to a plan that potentially moves their family member.



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