Workforce Development

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for individuals detained in city and county jails. The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement establishes a plan for providing services to persons 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 Contempt 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.

Workforce Development

Workforce development involves initiatives that educate and train people to create, sustain and retain a viable workforce that meets current and future business needs (e.g., services).

Background

The DSHS Office of Forensic Mental Health Services implements and oversees a statewide, systematic, and comprehensive forensic mental health services Workforce Development Program to support competency evaluation, competency restoration, forensic risk assessment and not guilty by reason of insanity treatment. DSHS also offers training to jail staff, the courts, attorneys, and other involved stakeholders.

Contempt Settlement Agreement requirements

The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement and subsequent legislative funding have provided for specific enhancements to the OFMHS Workforce Development Program. DSHS workforce development specialists focus on workforce development activities in the following areas:

- Community, including crisis response, homelessness, in-home, residential, and clinic-based services.
- Inpatient, including residential treatment facilities, private hospitals, and state hospitals.
- Law enforcement and corrections, including jails and prisons.

Some examples of workforce development activities are:

- Participating in workforce development workgroups with stakeholders such as state hospitals, community health care organizations, law enforcement and jails.
- Conducting training needs surveys/gaps analysis.
- Developing and coordinating training including standardized training manuals and guidelines.
- Collaborating with organizational workforce development staff.
- Conducting training program evaluations.
- Assessing the need for new or enhanced training programs, certification programs or possible degree programs.

The Workforce Development Program does not provide staffing or staffing contracts.

For more information

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- For more information about Trueblood, or to be added to the Listserv, email truebloodtaskforce@dshs.wa.gov

Washington State Health Care Authority

DSHS Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Criminal Justice Training Commission Washington

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