Outpatient Competency Restoration Program

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

Program

The Outpatient Competency Restoration Program helps people charged with crime restore competency in a community-based setting rather than an inpatient restoration setting. OCRP services address barriers to competency that are identified in each person's competency evaluation and assessed upon admission to the program.

OCRP is designed for people who are not considered a high risk to public safety and are likely to participate in community-based treatment. The program accepts people from jails, restoration treatment facilities, or those who have been released from jail on personal recognizance awaiting restoration and connects them with community-based Outpatient Competency Restoration programs in the phased regions.

OCRP focuses on

- Courtroom knowledge and understanding
- Behavioral health symptom management
- Relaxation and coping skills
- Effective communication skills
- Psychotropic medication management
- Support, goal setting and community building by certified peer counselors
- Connection with other community supports including forensic navigators, Forensic Housing and Assistance through Peer Services, Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, outpatient behavioral health, substance use treatment, supported employment, client support funds and other services as needed.

Outpatient Competency Restoration Program and the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement

As part of the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement, Washington created an Outpatient Competency Restoration Program to be implemented in the Pierce, Spokane, and Southwest regions in 2020 and in King County in 2022. The program will be expanding to the Thurston/Mason and Salish regions as part of Phase 3.

The Health Care Authority is leading this part of the Contempt Settlement Agreement, in close collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services and community stakeholders.

For more information

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

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