

Transforming Lives

Opening Soon - New Competency Restoration Facility

Located inside Building 27 on Western State Hospital Campus in Lakewood, Washington

Overview

Building 27—located on Western State Hospital campus—will be remodeled as a new Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) to serve individuals needing competency restoration services in a safe, therapeutic environment. Although located on the same property as the hospital, operations will be completely separate as this facility will be licensed and certified as a RTF and not a hospital ward. Once the remodel is finished, the facility will house approximately 30 patients and will be operated by Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). This is a collaborative project with DSHS and the plaintiffs in the federal court in the case *Trueblood et al v. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (Trueblood)*.

Background

In Washington, all criminal defendants have a constitutional right to understand and appreciate the charges they are facing and to assist in their own defense (competent to stand trial). This means that if a court believes that a person is incompetent to stand trial, the criminal case shall be put on hold until an evaluation can determine one's competency to stand trial. In April 2015, *Trueblood* found DSHS was taking too long to provide these competency evaluation and restoration services. One of the requirements of the *Trueblood* lawsuit is that when a defendant is found not competent to stand trial, they are to be admitted to competency restoration services within seven days.

DSHS has employed a number of strategies over the past three years to meet *Trueblood* requirements—including opening 104 restoration beds across the state. Of those beds, 27 opened at Eastern State Hospital, 23 at Western State Hospital and 54 opened at two residential treatment facilities in Yakima (24) and Thurston (30) counties.

Who is eligible for treatment at the Competency Restoration Facility?

All defendants ordered into inpatient competency services are assessed through a screening process to determine which treatment facility best meets their needs. Building 27 will specifically serve patients court ordered into a competency restoration program with a psychiatric acuity commensurate to the current competency RTFs.

How can I stay informed?

DSHS will update information as it becomes available on its [Trueblood webpage](#).



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