

Enhanced peer support

Peer support involves partnering individuals in recovery to individuals that are currently experiencing behavioral health challenges. Peer support specialists use their lived experience to share a message of hope that recovery is possible and happens every day. Enhanced peer support specialists can assist individuals in navigating through the criminal court system, setting recovery goals, connecting to community resources, and building relationships.

Enhanced peer support and the Trueblood settlement

As part of the Trueblood settlement agreement, the state is developing a continuing education training for certified peer counselors. Through this program, peer support specialists will receive specialized training in the criminal court system.

Once trained, enhanced peer support specialists will be integrated into several facets of the Trueblood settlement agreement, including Forensic PATH, the Outpatient Competency Restoration Program, the Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services program, and technical assistance to jails.

To implement enhanced peer support, the Health Care Authority (HCA) is:

- Developing curriculum by March 2020.
- Training by May 2020.
- Working with stakeholders to determine how best to integrate peer supporters.

HCA is leading this part of the Trueblood settlement, in close collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services and community stakeholders.

About the Trueblood settlement of contempt

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for individuals detained in city and county jails. The Trueblood 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 settlement agreement includes a plan for phasing in programs and services:

- Pierce, Southwest and Spokane regions (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021)
- King region (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023)
- To be determined (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025)

www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs