

Forensic HARPS

Homelessness is traumatic and cyclical, and can be a significant barrier to receiving services, including services for behavioral health conditions. Residential supports connect individuals with housing through peer support and subsidies for costs such as application fees, security deposits, and up to a few months of rent vouchers while individuals are helped with finding more permanent housing support.

Residential supports/Forensic HARPS and the Trueblood settlement

As part of the Trueblood settlement, the Health Care Authority (HCA) is setting up four Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services (HARPS) teams. These teams are staffed with people who have lived experience with behavioral health challenges. This staffing model helps foster engagement with people served by the Forensic HARPS team. The goal is to help participants overcome barriers, find housing and maintain housing.

Eligible individuals are those who are identified as unstably housed and are:

- Ordered into an outpatient competency restoration program, or
- On the Research and Data Analysis referral list/receiving Forensic PATH services, or
- Referred by a forensic navigator, or
- Exiting crisis triage/stabilization facilities and meet certain eligibility criteria:
 - Have had at least one prior contact with the forensic mental system in the past 24 months, or were brought to a crisis triage or stabilization facility via arrest diversion under RCW 10.31.110 as determined by the crisis triage and stabilization provider.
 - Need assistance accessing independent living options and would benefit from short-term housing assistance beyond the 14-day vouchers.
 - Are diagnosed with an acute behavioral health disorder and are assessed to need housing support beyond what is offered through the crisis triage and stabilization facilities or the short-term voucher.
 - Are unstably housed.
 - Are not currently in the community outpatient competency restoration program.
 - Do not meet Involuntary Treatment Act (RCW 71.05) commitment criteria.

HCA is procuring providers by December 2019 to deliver residential supports in a way that meets community needs, and will evaluate model effectiveness by October 2020. 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