

# JAIL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Department of Social and Health Services' Office of Forensic Mental Health Services' Jail Technical Assistance Program provides informational and training support to Washington jails. Specific areas of information and training support include:

- Pre- and post-booking options
- Screening and access to treatment
- Guidelines for administration of involuntary medication
- Continuity of care
- Use of segregation
- Release planning, crisis de-escalation, and more

**Program Support** The program is partially supported by the Trueblood class action suit [Settlement Agreement](#) that will improve access to mental health treatment for people waiting in jail for competency evaluations and restoration services. Trueblood, formally known as *Trueblood et.al. v DSHS*, is a federal court case challenging unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services.

## 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](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs)

**Desired Outcome** In delivering education and technical assistance to jails, the State is working with jails in the State of Washington, in accordance with the phased implementation schedule set forth in the Trueblood Settlement. Training offerings include online video-based trainings, webinars, and onsite training offerings. A best practices guidebook for jails will be available in early 2020.

**Eligibility** All jails in the state of Washington are eligible for technical assistance under this program.

**Partners** The program is working with Disability Rights Washington, law enforcement agencies, jail mental health staff, peer support specialists, and others, to establish guidance on mutually agreeable best practices and to develop training.

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