

Mobile crisis response

An effective mobile crisis response can help keep individuals from being arrested and incarcerated, and connect them quickly with the services they need. A mobile crisis response team includes mental health professionals available to provide professional, timely intervention for individuals in the community who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Mobile crisis and the Trueblood settlement

As part of the Trueblood settlement, the Health Care Authority (HCA) will enhance capacity for mobile crisis response beginning in the Pierce, Southwest, and Spokane regions by:

- Seeking plans from each region by November 2019 on how they would provide mobile crisis services tailored to their community needs.
- Contracting with behavioral health administrative service organizations (BHASOs) to hire mobile crisis response staff and begin services by July 1, 2020.
- Creating awareness of mobile crisis response services and how to request them through outreach and education.

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

In a separate but related component of the Trueblood settlement, the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs is enhancing its mental health field response program, which pairs mental health professionals with law enforcement officers.

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