

Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (FPATH)

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for people detained in city and county jails. The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement establishes a plan for providing services to those 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:

- Phase 1: Pierce, Southwest and Spokane regions (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021)
- Phase 2: King region (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023)
- Phase 3: To be determined (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025)

Background

The Washington State Health Care Authority is leading this element of the Trueblood Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services, Research Data and Analysis, and community stakeholders.

As part of the Trueblood Settlement Agreement, the state is funding outreach and engagement programs to connect identified individuals who are at risk of referral in the next six months for competency restoration (which the settlement agreement calls “high utilizers”) with services. HCA contracts with community behavioral health providers in the phased regions to provide these services.

FPATH is modeled after traditional PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) programs. The Trueblood Settlement Agreement refers to this program as “intensive case management.”

Teams within community behavioral health agencies are multidisciplinary that include certified peer counselors who have lived experience in behavioral health recovery, as well as outreach workers, housing specialists and mental health professionals. These teams are building relationships with people in the community and help connect them with supports to include housing, transportation and health care services.

Program details

The program was implemented on March 1, 2020. The principles underlying its design include:

- The program offers outreach and case management services for eligible persons who

have significant barriers to accessing behavioral health and mainstream community supports.

- The initial participation period is six months.
- When appropriate, the program offers housing support including: help securing and maintaining housing, subsidies; transportation assistance; support for accessing health services; and training on independent living skills.

Pierce Region

- Pierce County, Comprehensive Life Resources, 253-396-5800, fpath@cmhshare.org
- Pierce County, Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare, 253-581-7020

Southwest Region

- Southwest, SeaMar Community Services Northwest, 360-558-5795

Spokane Region

- Spokane, Frontier Behavioral Health, 509-838-4651

For more information

TB email: truebloodtaskforce@dshs.wa.gov. If you are not on the Listserv and would like to receive information, please email the Trueblood taskforce email.

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