

Outpatient Competency Restoration Program

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)

About Outpatient Competency Restoration Program

The Outpatient Competency Restoration Program helps people charged with a crime restore forensic competency in a community-based setting as opposed to an inpatient restoration setting. OCRP services address the person's barriers to competency that are identified in their competency evaluation and assessed upon admission to the program.

OCRP is designed for people who are not considered a high risk to public safety and are likely to participate in community-based treatment. The program accepts individuals from local jails, restoration treatment facilities, or those who have been released to the community from jail on personal recognizance awaiting restoration and connects them with community-based restoration services.

OCRP focuses on:

- Courtroom knowledge and understanding
- Behavioral health symptom management
- Relaxation and coping skills
- Effective communication skills
- Psychotropic medication management
- Support, goal setting and community building by Certified Peer Counselors
- Connection with other community supports to include forensic navigators, Forensic Housing and Assistance through Peer Services, Forensic Pathways Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, outpatient behavioral health, substance use treatment, supported employment, client support funds, and other services as needed.

Outpatient Competency Restoration Program and the Trueblood Settlement Agreement

As part of the Trueblood Settlement Agreement, Washington created an Outpatient Competency Restoration Program to be implemented in the Pierce, Spokane and Southwest regions in 2020 and in the King County region in 2022. Program work has included:

- Reviewing reports and evaluations of other OCR programs and current OCR programs.
- Establishing stakeholder groups in the targeted regions to refine the program model and referral criteria.
- Procuring OCRP contracted services for the King Country region in 2021. OCRP services were procured in the Phase 1 regions in 2020.
- Working collaboratively by providing training and technical assistance to forensic navigators, OCRP providers, criminal courts, jails, and other Trueblood Settlement Agreement elements.

The Health Care Authority is leading this part of the Trueblood Settlement Agreement, in close collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services and community stakeholders.

For more information

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

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