

Jail Technical Assistance Program

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for individuals detained in city and county jails. The Trueblood Contempt 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 Contempt 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)

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 Contempt [Settlement Agreement](#) that will improve access to mental health treatment for people waiting in jail for competency evaluations and restoration services.

Desired Outcome

In delivering education and technical assistance to jails, the state is working with jails in Washington, in accordance with the phased implementation schedule set forth in the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement. Training offerings include online video-based trainings, webinars, and onsite training offerings. A [best practices guidebook for jails](#) was published 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.

For more information

Tim Hunter, M.A.

Acting Workforce Development Administrator
Office of Forensic Mental Health Services

huntetj@dshs.wa.gov

(360) 790-7983

Webpage: www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/jail-technical-assistance-program

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

Revised 2/21

