

Workforce Development

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)

Workforce development involves initiatives that educate and train people to create, sustain and retain a viable workforce that meets the needs of current and future business (e.g., services) needs.

Background

The DSHS Office of Forensic Mental Health Services implements and oversees a statewide, systematic and comprehensive forensic mental health services Workforce Development Program, to support competency evaluation, competency restoration, forensic risk assessment and Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity treatment. DSHS also provides training to jail staff, the courts, attorneys, and other involved stakeholders.

Contempt Settlement Agreement requirements

The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement and subsequent legislative funding has provided for specific enhancements to the existing OFMHS Workforce Development Program. Specifically, DSHS is employing workforce development specialists who will focus on workforce development activities in the following areas:

- Community, including crisis response, homelessness, in-home, residential, and clinic-based services
- Inpatient, including residential treatment facilities, private hospitals, and state hospitals
- Law enforcement and corrections, including jails and prisons

Activities include:

- Participating in workforce development workgroups with stakeholders such as state hospitals, community health care organizations, law enforcement, and jails
- Conducting training needs surveys/gaps analysis
- Assisting in the development of a master training plan
- Developing and coordinating training including standardized training manuals and guidelines
- Collaborating with community-based, organizational workforce development staff
- Conducting training program(s) evaluations

DSHS is also assessing the need for new or enhanced training programs, certification programs, and possible degree programs.

Please note the DSHS OFMHS Workforce Development Program does not provide staffing or staffing contracts.

For more information

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- If you are not on the Listserv and would like to receive information, please email the Trueblood taskforce.

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