

Enhanced Peer Support Continuing Education 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 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)

Peer support involves partnering people in recovery with people who are currently experiencing behavioral health conditions. Certified peer counselors use their lived experience to share a message of hope that recovery is possible and happens every day. Certified peer counselors can support people in setting recovery goals, connecting to community resources, and building relationships.

Enhanced peer support and the Trueblood Settlement Agreement

As part of the Trueblood Settlement Agreement, the state developed continuing education training for certified peer counselors. Through this training, certified peer counselors receive specialized education in the criminal court system.

Certified peer counselors are integrated into several facets of the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement, including Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, the Outpatient Competency Restoration Program, the Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services program, and technical assistance to jails.

To implement the enhanced peer support continuing education program, the Health Care Authority (HCA):

- Has developed a curriculum for the training, "The Intersection of Behavioral Health and the Law."
- Is moving forward with the creation of a virtual version of the IBHL curriculum. When physical distancing protocols allow, an in-person

version of the IBHL training will be available.

- Has worked with stakeholders to determine how best to integrate certified counselors into forensic environments peer.

HCA is leading this part of the Trueblood Contempt 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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