



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Behavioral Health Administration
Office of Forensic Mental Health Services
PO Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330

May 29, 2019

Dear Community Partners:

In December 2018, the U.S. District Court of Washington approved a contempt settlement agreement (Trueblood Settlement Agreement) in *the Trueblood as Next Friend of AB et al. v. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services* lawsuit. As part of that agreement, the two interim competency restoration programs located at both the Maple Lane facility and within the Yakima Department of Corrections facility will close.

In accordance with the Trueblood Settlement Agreement, the facilities will close in phases based on “trigger” events related to inpatient services wait times. Furthermore, the Trueblood Settlement Agreement included two hard closure dates for both facilities, starting with the Yakima Competency Restoration Center, which has a date of December 31, 2021 and the Maple Lane Competency Restoration Program with a date of July 1, 2024. The facilities will close on these dates even if the trigger events related to wait times have not occurred.

For the “trigger” events, the performance metrics required for each facility focus on wait times. For the Yakima facility, closure would occur when Class Member wait times for inpatient competency services reaches a median of 13 days or less for four consecutive months. For Maple Lane, closure happens when Class Members wait time for inpatient competency services reaches a median of nine days or less for four consecutive months.

Once the “trigger” event has occurred, the ramp down process will begin. A ramp down includes reduction in patient census and staff, along with the removal of records and equipment prior to a facility closure. This can range anywhere from 60 days to six months. Once a facility begins to ramp down, you will receive an email outlining the official date of closure. If ramp down occurs prior to the hard-closure date, the letter will explain the period expected for the facility closure.

If you have any additional questions or if I can assist you otherwise, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at copelsj@dshs.wa.gov or by telephone at 360-725-3474.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Copeland".

Susan Copeland
Competency Restoration Specialist