

Behavioral Health Administration

Fact Sheet

Title: Forensic Workforce Development and Quality Assurance

Updated: October 2017

<p>Overview</p>	<p>Essential for an effective forensic mental health care system is a well-trained, competent, and quality-focused workforce. The Office of Forensic Mental Health Services (OFMHS) develops, implements and oversees a statewide, systematic and comprehensive forensic mental health services workforce development program, to include competency evaluation, competency restoration, forensic risk assessment and treatment among people adjudicated as Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity. In addition to training the workforce, the OFMHS recognizes the value of training the broader community regarding forensic mental health services and processes. Training is also provided to the courts, attorneys, legislative staff, and other involved stakeholders. Forensic Workforce Development and Training activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OFMHS developed the Washington State Legal System Guide to the Forensic Mental Health System that provides an overview of the forensic mental health system and processes in the state. • The OFMHS has established, as part of its Quality Management System, a statewide policy and process for quality review of forensic evaluation reports. • The OFMHS has developed a new forensic evaluator manual for DSHS employees that standardizes all procedures across the State. • The OFMHS has developed a new Competency to Stand Trial Report Guidelines manual for both DSHS employees and community forensic evaluator professionals statewide. • DSHS has contracted with the University of Washington to explore and develop a plan for a new Training Service (psychiatry) at Western State Hospital. Part of the training program will include rotations at the Center for Forensic Services (forensic evaluation and clinical treatments of forensic patients). The partnership with the University of Washington provides opportunities for additional training offerings. The final plan was delivered to DSHS leadership in November 2017. Funding for implementation is being explored. • OFMHS and WSH continue to support an active American Psychological Association accredited psychology internship program (forensic focus) and post-doctoral fellowship program at Western State Hospital. Both of these programs provide opportunities for didactics that all forensic evaluators may participate in. These programs also support recruitment of graduates into State employee forensic evaluator positions at the State hospitals.
<p>Authority</p>	<p>Chapter 10.77 Revised Code of Washington outlines the requirements for competency services and the establishment of the Office of Forensic Mental Health Services.</p>
<p>Budget</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Rates	N/A
Numbers Served	N/A
Partners	N/A
Oversight	N/A
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