

Behavioral Health Administration

Fact Sheet

Title: Non-Felony Diversion Programs

Updated: October 2017

<p>Overview</p>	<p>Individuals with behavioral health issues are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. High arrest and recidivism rates act as barriers to the recovery of these individuals; are costly and time consuming for law enforcement, jails and courts; and impact the perception of public safety. For example, among a sample size of <i>Trueblood</i> class members, in the year prior to the date the court order was signed for competency, 92% of sample had at least 1 arrest, and 70% of the sample had at least 2 arrests. Many of these individuals, particularly those charged with misdemeanor and low-level felony offenses, are not well suited to criminal justice system involvement and would be better served in outpatient behavioral health settings if more services were available to divert them to care rather than incarceration.</p> <p>These programs focus on keeping individuals out of the criminal justice system by providing community-based solutions post arrest, but prior to incarceration, and significantly reduce the amount of time individuals spend in jail by focusing on reentry solutions. These programs promote trauma informed care and recovery, minimize the risk of recidivism, enhance public safety, and increase the possibility that participants will engage in care and complete supervision and treatment requirements, thereby improving individual outcomes.</p> <p>In FY 2017, four programs were funded: Spokane, Pacific, Greater Columbia and King. In FY 2018, three programs received renewed programming: Spokane, Greater Columbia, and King.</p>
<p>Eligibility Requirements</p>	<p>Individuals with misdemeanor or low-level felony offenses are eligible for a community diversion program when the prosecuting attorney agrees to dismiss charges.</p>
<p>Authority</p>	<p>Chapter 10.77 Revised Code of Washington outlines the requirements for competency services.</p>
<p>Budget</p>	<p>The 17-19 Biennial Budget included an investment of \$4.8 million in funding to support prosecutorial diversion (1.39 mil GF-State each fiscal year and \$1.01 GF-Federal each fiscal year).</p>
<p>Rates</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Numbers Served</p>	<p>132 individuals were served during the FY 2017 within the four programs.</p>
<p>Partners</p>	<p>Law enforcement, community providers, behavioral health organizations, county and municipal governments, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts.</p>

Oversight	OFMHS
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