

Fact Sheet: Single Bed Certification

Updated: October 26, 2016

Overview	<p>In 2014 the Washington Supreme Court held in the case of D.W. et al vs. the Department of Social and Health Services and Pierce County that psychiatric boarding is illegal for persons detained under the Involuntary Treatment Act. Psychiatric boarding is when a detained psychiatric patient waits to receive evaluation and treatment.</p> <p>RCW 71.05 permits people to be detained only to state certified E&T facilities or state hospitals. Single Bed Certification (SBC), is an expedited process of temporarily certifying a bed in an appropriate facility when needed services are unavailable. Facilities must attest to their willingness to provide or arrange for evaluation and individualized treatment.</p> <p>Following the court’s decision, the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) revised and clarified the single bed certification procedures, began tracking data specific to SBC, instances when no facility is willing to accept a client, and inpatient authorizations and certifications. DBHR is taking steps to promote additional evaluation and treatment capacity and improve detention processes across the state.</p>
Eligibility	N/A
Authority	<p>RCW 71.24 RCW 71.05 RCW 71.34 Single Bed Certifications are authorized as described in WAC 388-865-0500</p>
Budget	N/A.
Rates	N/A.
Numbers Served	In SFY 2016, 8,030 people were served by single bed certifications.
Partners	DBHR has ongoing partnership with the Washington State Hospital Association, Washington Association of Designated Mental Health Professionals, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and Behavioral Health Organizations through the Best Practices Workgroup.
Oversight	Quality oversight is accomplished through monthly review and reporting conducted by DBHR. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy provides annual reports on ITA investigations, detentions and the E&T bed capacity.
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