



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Disability Services
Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration
PO Box 45050, Olympia, WA 98504-5050

July 26, 2013

TO: Counties Stakeholders and Interested Parties

RE: Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5551

As you may be aware, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5551 is effective on July 28, 2013. This bill allows counties to appoint qualified experts to complete in-jail competency evaluations, and request reimbursement from the Department for these evaluations.

ESSB 5551 states that “the department shall reimburse the county in an amount determined by the department to be fair and reasonable with the county paying any excess costs. The amount of reimbursement established by the department must at least meet the equivalent amount for evaluations conducted by the department.”

Therefore, the process for reimbursements will be as follows: Attorneys or evaluators should submit bills to the county, who will pay the evaluator. The county will then request a reimbursement directly from the Department.

The legislature appropriated \$160,000 for fiscal year 2014 and \$80,000 for fiscal year 2015 solely for implementation of ESSB 5551. Due to the limited funds appropriated for this purpose, the reimbursement amount will be capped at \$800.00 per evaluation.

Counties are eligible for reimbursement if the hospitals have not met the performance targets established in RCW 10.77.068(1)(a)(ii) for in-jail competency evaluations, during the most recent quarter, in fifty percent of cases referred by any one county. At the end of each quarter, you will be able to find a list of counties eligible for reimbursement at the following link:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/mhsystems/essb5551countyeligibility.shtml>

A list of counties who are eligible for the \$800.00 reimbursement is enclosed, and can also be found at the web address above. For questions related to ESSB 5551, or your county's eligibility please contact Keri L. Waterland at 360-725-2265 or Keri.Waterland@dshs.wa.gov.

County Stakeholders
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Please note on your requests that this is for an evaluation under ESSB 5551. Please send reimbursement requests directly to:

Keri L. Waterland, PhD
State Hospital Policy, Programming and Legislation
Department of Social and Health Services
Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration
P.O. Box 45050
Olympia, WA 98504-5050

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Beyer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jane Beyer
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure



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Counties currently eligible for reimbursement under ESSB 5551
(Eligibility will be updated on September 30, 2013)

ASOTIN
BENTON
CHELAN
CLARK
COWLITZ
FERRY
FRANKLIN
GRANT
GRAYS HARBOR
ISLAND
KING
KITSAP
KITTITAS
LEWIS
LINCOLN
MASON
OKANOGAN
PACIFIC
PEND OREILLE
PIERCE
SKAGIT
SPOKANE
STEVENS
THURSTON
WHATCOM
WHITMAN
YAKIMA