

## Community-Based Residential Treatment Facility

In 2019 Washington State Legislature supported the vision to provide mental health services in local communities for people with acute mental illness. The Legislature enacted a budget and provided direction to DSHS to begin development of three community-based behavioral health residential treatment facilities. Construction of these facilities would give the state a unique opportunity to improve access to behavioral health services by providing more capacity and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness by creating a more effective treatment model.

The Behavioral Health Facility would provide three 90 to 180-day treatment facilities. The 90 to 180-day facility is an involuntary in-patient facility for individuals who have been civilly committed to receive mental health treatment in a secure acute care environment for a period of 90 to 180 days. These individuals may have completed treatment in an Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) facility but require further treatment prior to being returned to their community. The 90 to 180-day facility will have large spaces for activities/life skills/exercise space to keep patients engaged for the longer stay and to help teach life skills that will help transition patients back into the community. These services are not currently provided in Washington outside of the Western State Hospital in Lakewood and Eastern State Hospital near Spokane.

DSHS identified the Fircrest School campus as a potential site for a 48- bed behavioral health center, as part of a state-wide effort to provide better access to mental health services for those suffering from acute metal illness. In March 2020 a predesign report titled *Behavioral Health: Community Civil 48 Bed Capacity*, completed by BCRA/BWBR, considered six alternative sites, including Fircrest School, for the location of a 48-bed facility (see Appendix A.4 of the Master Development Plan). While the report identified Clark County as a preferred alternative for one of the facilities, Fircrest School is also a favorable location for DSHS to locate this facility.

The proposed 48-bed Behavioral Health Facility will consist of three single story buildings, each approximately 17,000 square feet, and each containing 16-beds for the care of patients. The buildings are proposed to be located in the northeast corner of the campus in place of the current Adult Training Program Building which is proposed to be demolished and relocated elsewhere on campus.