

Behavioral Health and Treatment Center – Steilacoom Unit

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for people detained in city and county jails. The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement establishes a plan for providing services to those involved in the criminal court system and for providing treatment to people when needed so they are less likely to become involved in the criminal court system. The Trueblood Settlement Agreement includes a plan for phasing in programs and services.

About Steilacoom Unit

The Steilacoom Unit provides treatment to residents in a 30-bed residential treatment facility in Lakewood. The program is one of three programs offering resident competency restoration services in the Behavioral Health Administration. The others are at Eastern State Hospital and Western State Hospital.

Our residents

Residents enter treatment if they are in a court proceeding, and a judge determines they do not understand their charges, the court process, and/or that they lack the ability to assist in their defense because of a mental health condition. Residents typically receive orders for 29 to 180 days of treatment depending on the type of charge, which can be extended if approved by the court.

If a resident's competency is restored, then they return to jail to continue with their court proceedings. If their competency cannot be restored, Steilacoom Unit works with the resident to transition them to a state hospital for civil commitment.

Our program

The Steilacoom Unit team uses the Breaking Barriers Competency Restoration curriculum to help residents become competent. These classes address areas such as courtroom knowledge and understanding, symptom management, coping skills, and effective communication with attorneys.

There are two types of interventions typically associated with competency restoration: psychotropic medication and individual monitoring of barriers to competency.

Residents enrolled in competency restoration are evaluated by a credentialed provider who determines whether psychotropic medications may be beneficial and, if so, can prescribe and monitor medication. For individual sessions, residents meet with clinicians, social workers and a peer support specialist to address individual barriers to competency, transition planning, and wellness recovery action plans.

Competency restoration services respect the various facets of people's lives and account for each resident's experiences and needs. Each resident is involved in planning their services, and the program strives to provide an atmosphere of hope that they can achieve mental wellness.

For more information

- Byron Lockridge, 253-820-7695, Steilacoom Unit program director byron.lockridge3@dshs.wa.gov
- Visit the [Trueblood website](#)