

Jail Technical Assistance Program

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 persons 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:

- **Phase 1** [2019-2021]: Pierce, Southwest, and Spokane regions including Pierce, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Spokane, Ferry, Stevens, Adams, Lincoln, and Pend Oreille counties.
- **Phase 2** [2021-2023]: King region/county.
- **Phase 3** [2023-2025]: Thurston, Mason, and Salish regions including Clallam, Kitsap, and Jefferson counties.

The Department of Social and Health Services' Office of Forensic Mental Health Services' Jail Technical Assistance Program provides information and training to Washington jails. Specific areas of information and training support include:

- Screening and access to treatment.
- Guidelines for administration of involuntary medication.
- Continuity of care.
- Use of segregation.
- Release planning, crisis de-escalation, and more.

Program support

The program is partially supported by the [Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement](#) that is improving access to mental health treatment for people waiting in jail for competency evaluations and restoration services.

Desired Outcome

In delivering education and technical assistance to jails, the state is working in partnership with jails in Washington, in accordance with the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement.

JTA offers:

- Online video-based trainings.
- Webinars and onsite training offerings.
- [Best practices guidebook for jails](#) was published in early 2020 and revised in 2025.

Eligibility

All Washington jails are eligible for technical assistance under this program.

Partners

The program is working with Disability Rights Washington, law enforcement agencies, jail mental health staff, peer support specialists, and others, to establish guidance on mutually agreeable best practices and to develop training through facility site visits and networking.

For more information please contact:

- For more information, contact Tracy Grunenfelder at Tracy.grunenfelder@dshs.wa.gov | (360) 489-2957 or email jailassistance@dshs.gov.
- For more information about Trueblood, or to be added to the Listserv, email truebloodtaskforce@dshs.wa.gov.
- Jail Technical Assistance website: www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/office-forensic-mental-health-services/jail-technical-assistance-program