Trueblood: Summary and Programs
Definition of Terms

• Competency: Mental capacity of an individual to participate in, and be responsible for, legal proceedings or transactions.
• Competency restoration: A process of treatment, education, and support to assist those found incompetent to stand trial (IST). This process is intended to lead to the individuals to be adjudicated competent to proceed.
• Forensic: Relating to courts of law or investigation and establishment of facts in a court of law.
• Class members: Those who fall under a group affected by a class-action lawsuit.
Overview of the Trueblood Case

- Trueblood et al. v. Washington State Department of Social Health Services (Trueblood)
  - Named after attorney Cassie Trueblood, ‘next friend’ of A.B.
    - A.B. is abbreviation for represented plaintiff
  - Class Members in this case are individuals detained in city and county jails awaiting competency services
  - The case challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Phased Implementation

• Phase One (2019-2021): Southwest, Spokane, and Pierce Regions focused implementation
• At regional implementation the following elements will be addressed:
  – Competency Evaluation
  – Competency Restoration
  – Crisis Triage and Diversion Supports (upstream support)
  – Education and Training
  – Workforce Development

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Programs of Trueblood

- **Competency Evaluation**
- **Competency Restoration**
  - *Outpatient Competency Restoration Program*
  - Residential Supports as clinically appropriate
  - *Forensic HARPS*
  - *Forensic Navigators*
  - Additional Forensic Bed Capacity (Western and Eastern State Hospitals)
- **Crisis Triage and Diversion Supports (upstream support)**
  - *Enhancing Crisis Triage and Crisis Stabilization*
  - Mobile Crisis Response
  - Forensic PATH
- **Education and Training**
  - *Jail Technical Assistance Program*
  - Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for law enforcement and corrections officers
  - Criminal Courts Technical Assistance (upon request): eligibility, conditions, and use of Residential supports
- **Workforce Development**
  - Enhanced Peer Support Specialists

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and [https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs](https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs)
Forensic Competency Evaluations

- When determined to need forensic services by court order, a forensic evaluation is needed
- Working to increase capacity and decrease delay time of Forensic Evaluations in each region

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Outpatient Competency Restoration Program (OCRP)

- Regional Contracted Agency: Lifeline Connections
- Works with participants to achieve the ability to participate in their own defense in a community-based setting.
  - Has components such as:
    - Symptom management, social skills training, understanding the legal system and courtroom process, referral to behavioral health treatment, housing and peer support
- HCA will continue to support OCRP contracted agencies for technical assistance and forensic navigators

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Forensic HARPS

- Regional Contracted Agency: Columbia River Mental Health Services
- HARPS: Housing and Recovery through Peer Services
  - At least four teams will be set up in WA
- HARPS teams will focus on housing through
  - Addressing barriers
  - Find and maintain housing
  - Subsidizing costs (such as application fees, security deposits, initial rent costs)
- Eligibility pathways
  - ordered to outpatient competency restoration program
  - On the Research and Data Analysis referral list
  - Referred by a forensic navigator
  - Meet crisis triage/stabilization criteria for access (prior forensic systems contact)

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Mobile Crisis Response

• Regional Contracted Agencies:
  – Coordination: Beacon Health
  – Service Providers:
    • Community Services Northwest, Sea Mar
    • Comprehensive Community Health Centers: Mobile Crisis/DCR
    • Skamania County Community Health
• Increase capacity of mobile crisis response in each county in the region
• Increase awareness of mobile crisis response services and how to request them.

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Forensic PATH

- Regional Contracted Agency: Community Services Northwest, Sea Mar
- Connect those at high risk of referral for competency restoration (high utilizers) to services
  - Determined by:
    - Inpatient psych treatment episodes
    - Criminal justice systems involvement
    - Homelessness
- Will use the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) model
  - Meets settlement requirement for “intensive case management”
- Program design
  - Teams will include enhanced certified peer counselors
  - Initial participation period will be six months
  - Will offer help getting and keeping housing, transportation assistance, help accessing health services, training on independent living skills

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Forensic Navigators

• To divert forensically-involved criminal defendants
  – Assigned a navigator when a competency evaluation is ordered by a court
  – If suitable, courts may elect to grant conditional release to receive services including outpatient competency restoration

• Forensic Navigators will serve to

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Enhancing Crisis Triage and Crisis Stabilization

- Assessing capacity in many regions including Southwest Washington
- Coordination and enrollment with community behavioral health support agencies and Apple Health (Medicaid)
- Increasing rates for licensed community behavioral health agencies that operate crisis triage and stabilization facilities
  - Increase capacity to accept individuals brought in by police for 6-12 hour hold for assessment
  - Increase coordination with crisis responders and forensic navigators
  - Short-term housing vouchers provided as needed

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Jail Technical Assistance Program

• TA focus areas:
  – Pre- and post-booking options
  – Screening and access to treatment
  – Guidelines for administration of involuntary medication
  – Continuity of care
  – Use of segregation
  – Release planning, crisis de-escalation
  – And more

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Workforce Development

• Office of Forensic Mental Health Services (OFMHS) has a workforce development program to address capacity issues related to:
  – Competency Evaluation
  – Competency Restoration
  – Forensic risk assessment
  – Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) treatment

• This will be enhanced to include development related to:
  – Community Workforce including crisis response, homelessness, and in-home, residential, and clinic-based services
  – In-patient care
  – Law enforcement and corrections, including jails and prisons

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Enhanced Peer Support Specialists

- Assist individuals in navigating through the criminal court system, setting recovery goals, connecting to community resources, and building relationships
- Developing a continuing education training for certified peer counselors in the criminal court system
- Integrate enhanced peer support into other Trueblood efforts such as:
  - Forensic PATH, Outpatient Competency Restoration Program, Forensic Housing, TA for Jails, and Recovery through Peer Services program.

References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs
Any Questions?

If you have follow-up questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

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References: Various HCA Publications, Trueblood Court Documents, and https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs