

# Transforming Washington's mental health system

We know the best way to treat patients is in smaller, community-based facilities that help patients stay close to supportive friends and families. Gov. Jay Inslee has proposed a way to transform our system. He is working with legislators, providers, patient advocates and local communities to find a way to transition to this new system within five years.

Under the proposal, civil patients will be moved into community facilities by 2023. The state's two major hospitals – Eastern and Western – would continue to treat forensic patients. This ambitious timeline will require action in the 2019 session to carry it out.

We want to work with our stakeholders and partners as we develop policy and budget items for the 2019-2021 biennium.

## Community-based facilities statewide

Expand the continuum to provide the appropriate level of care to those in need. In addition to 90- and 180-day civil commitments:

- What type of step-down and expanded-discharge options do we need to develop in Washington state?
- Are there new certification and licensing types needed in order to maximize development of facilities?
- What work needs to be done with local governments and communities to streamline the siting of facilities and ensure individuals are close to family and support systems?

## Treatment options

Explore additional treatment options beyond 24/7 inpatient care.

- Will providers use partial-hospitalization as a treatment modality?
- Are there other options such as Intensive Outpatient Treatment that we need to explore?

## Housing support

Reduce barriers to recovery by providing housing resources.

- How can we best increase the supply of Permanent Supportive Housing in communities?

## Professional workforce

Address the statewide shortage of behavioral health workers.

- What additional educational opportunities can we develop to increase the workforce?
- Are there changes we need to make to maximize use of Peers?
- What are some recruitment and retention strategies that we can support and expand?

## Integrating behavioral health and healthcare

Continue statewide integration path under Governor request legislation HB 1388 (2018) that integrates behavioral health with physical health throughout the state by 2020.

- Are there additional opportunities to maximize Medicaid funding with the transition to community facilities?