Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Building 27 Project
A New Competency Restoration Facility

Transforming Lives

Building 27 Project Summary

Building 27 –located on Western State Hospital (WSH) campus –will be remodeled as a Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) to provide competency restoration treatment services to 30 patients. This project is a collaborative effort between the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Court Monitor and her experts, and the plaintiffs in the *Trueblood et al v. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (Trueblood)* federal court case. In April 2015, the Federal Court found DSHS was taking too long to provide competency evaluation and restoration services. One of the requirements of the *Trueblood* lawsuit is that when a defendant is found not competent to stand trial and is ordered for restoration, they are to be admitted to competency restoration services within seven days. To meet this demand, since April 2015, DSHS opened 104 restoration beds at WSH, Eastern State Hospital and RTF facilities at Maple Lane in Thurston County and Yakima. The Building 27 RTF will create 30 additional beds.

The Building 27 Project is managed through the Office of Forensic Mental Health Services (OFMHS) in the DSHS Behavioral Health Administration. The project receives agency-wide executive level guidance, support and resources. To complete the creation of Building 27, project teams from across DSHS have formed and are working to support planning and implementation activities in areas covering a wide range of topics –such as staffing, licensure, construction, information technology, patient records, training, services, etc.

Updates

Photo of inside Building 27 before remodeling.

- The Construction Review Services application was submitted to the Department of Health in late May.
- The construction completion date has tentatively been pushed back one month to 12/15/2018 and DSHS is awaiting a new project plan noting this change. Construction contractor, AustinCina, is pursuing a demolition permit with the City of Lakewood and seeking a sewer permit from the appropriate entity.
- OFMHS has actively begun recruitment for five key positions. A total of 72 positions are estimated to be hired.
- DSHS plans to accept the first patient into the facility within eight weeks of construction completion.

How can I stay informed?

DSHS will update information as it becomes available on its Trueblood webpage.

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