

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Transforming
Lives

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Special Commitment Center Specialized Equipment

ESSB 5092 Sec 207 (2)
November 01, 2023

Behavioral Health Administration
Special Commitment Center
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SPECIAL COMMITMENT CENTER SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

ONE TIME REPORT (2021-2023 BIENNIUM)

The 2021 Washington State Legislature enacted Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5092 – the 2021-2023 Operating Budget. Sec 207 (2) of the bill states:

“...\$1,204,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$1,079,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for specialized equipment and additional medical staff to provide more capacity to deliver care to individuals housed at the total confinement facility. No later than November 1, 2023, the department shall report to the legislature on the number of individuals treated on the island that previously would have been transported off the island for treatment.”

This report describes the Department’s efforts to purchase specialized equipment and fund additional medical staff to provide more capacity to deliver care to individuals housed at the total confinement facility and treat individuals on the island that previously would have been transported off the island for treatment.

Major purchases were made to treat residents on the island rather than sending residents off island to the local hospital for treatment. Major purchases were comprised of a portable GE Xray machine, dental Xray, and GE ultrasound device. Additionally, other specialized equipment was purchased that included items such as a bladder scanner, vein finder, venous doppler, oxygen concentrators, medication refrigerators, and vaccine refrigerators. In consideration of our aging population, multiple hospital beds and assistive devices were purchased to include bariatric equipment.

Additional expenditures for medical staff training included Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support certification for all nurses, physicians, and other providers. We have supported Basic Life Support training to update the certification for all staff who work at Special Commitment Center (SCC). Wound care training for the Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) is being accomplished, as well as training in the use of ultrasound and X-rays by providers. This education will allow for treatment at SCC rather than off island specialty care or radiology referrals.

With funding for staffing, we have been able to fill several vacant positions to include the SCC Medical Director, the RN4 Medical Clinic Nurse Manager, and an ARNP. We have also been able to access agency nursing for unfilled Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, and Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) positions. The CNAs have been crucial with respect to assistance with activities of daily living for our aging resident population.

The number of individuals able to remain at SCC that would have been previously transported off the island for treatment is difficult to ascertain with any precision at this time. Our residential treatment facility requires strict adherence to best practices for the prevention and spread of

disease in a congregate setting. In 2021 and 2022 significant disruption of medical services continued due to the need for intermittent isolation and quarantine in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In July 2022 the SCC initiated an electronic record to retain documentation of resident activities and medical care. The electronic record was implemented over time in a phased roll-out and will take some time to obtain enough data for analysis. Over the next fiscal year, we anticipate that more information will be entered into the electronic record pertaining to medical services. We can then extract usable data from the electronic record that will allow us to provide more specific information pertaining to the effect of expenditures on new equipment, staff positions, and staff training for on island medical care that would otherwise have required an off-island trip for residents.