

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Statewide Accounting of Contracted SVP Housing and Treatment Providers

RCW 71.09.097

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Executive Summary

RCW 71.09.097 directs that the Department shall maintain a statewide accounting of the contracted community housing and treatment providers in each county and provide a biannual report to the legislature and Governor by December 1st on the availability and adequacy of less restrictive alternative placements and the department's compliance with fair share principles.

Matrix of Contracted Treatment Providers by County

Counties Served by Provider	Number of Contracted Providers	Number of residents on LRAs
King	11	23
Kitsap & Pierce	5	41
Walla Walla & Spokane	2	9

Matrix of Contracted Housing Providers by County

Counties Served by Provider	Provider	Number of residents on LRAs
Kitsap	West Sound Support	3
Thurston	Supreme Living LLC	0

Availability and Adequacy of Less Restrictive Alternative Placements

The current availability at contracted housing is one vacancy at West Sound Support in Kitsap County. The SCC currently has a contract with Supreme Living that would provide six contracted beds in Thurston County, but the provider is awaiting permitting before they can admit residents.

The SCC is in the process of contracting with Grace and Hope, this housing provider already houses five SCC residents in this home, and completion of the contract would provide one additional bed for a total of six contracted beds in Pierce County. The SCC is also in process of contracting with The Garden House, completion of this contract will add six contracted beds in King County.

The SCC continues to pursue contracts with housing providers in counties where housing options for conditional release are not currently available, to ensure each county has an adequate number of housing options equivalent to the number of residents committed from that county as an SVP.

A greater availability of state-operated and contracted housing options would provide better cost controls and oversight of placements in the community. SCC works with non-contracted housing providers when the courts approve discharge plans with placement

in a non-contracted housing option. In the absence of a requirement to contract with SCC, there is a limited ability for the SCC to control costs of these non-contracted housing placements and no incentive for housing and treatment providers to enter into contracts with SCC. The SCC continues to prioritize the development of contracted housing to ensure compliance with service deliverables while also maintaining fiscal responsibility of state funds.

The SCC has hired an outside agency to conduct a housing study to explore the development of conditional release and transition facilities including community-based state-operated living alternative (SOLA's), similar to SOLA's as operated by the Developmental Disabilities Administration. KMB architects was hired in March of 2022 to conduct a housing study, with the final report anticipated in August of 2022.

Secure Community Transition Facilities (SCTFs) provide a step-down type housing option for residents who are transitioning from total confinement to an LRA. The existence of these facilities in Pierce and King County provides adequate and readily available housing in those counties.

The SCTF in Pierce County (SCTF-PC) currently houses eleven residents, with a total capacity of twenty-three beds. Seven beds at the SCTF-PC are identified for High-Acuity residents (two High Acuity residents currently in residence), and the other sixteen beds identified for regular and special needs track residents. The SCTF in King County (SCTF-KC) currently houses eight residents, with a total capacity of twelve beds.

The design for a SCTF in Snohomish County, as directed by the legislature, will allow for more housing options in that county which has the third largest number of commitments under RCW 71.09 in the state behind King and Pierce Counties respectively (twenty total SVPs committed from Snohomish County). The SCC continues efforts toward the completion of the siting project for the SCTF in Snohomish County.

An increase in contracted housing options, a greater number of contracted treatment providers, and the expansion of state-operated facilities such as the SCTF's or SOLA's would create a more robust network of transition supports to better meet the individualized needs of residents as they transition to community-based LRA's. Also, the SCC recognizes a need for medical or nursing home type housing options to meet the needs of our residents with ongoing or chronic medical issues.

While the SCC is working to build more state-operated beds and contracted options, a requirement for providers and housing placements to contract with SCC would provide better cost control of state funds, increase accountability of service delivery, and better assist the SCC when developing clinically appropriate and individualized discharge planning for residents. Contracting with the SCC will help to ensure residents' treatment and housing needs are met and provide a stable basis for residents to have a successful community transition and ensure community safety.

Compliance with Fair Share Principles

The SCC currently has a total of seventy-eight residents residing in community based LRA's in a total of six counties (King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, and Walla Walla). Five of the six counties where SVPs reside are currently in compliance with the Fair Share Principal.

Pierce County is the only county that currently exceeds its' identified Fair Share number (32 committed from Pierce, 38 currently residing in Pierce); however, the Fair Share Principle (RCW 71.09.092) refers to a number "generally equivalent" and the SCC is working to develop LRA housing providers outside of Pierce County to help bring Pierce county's Fair Share number back into compliance.

Fair Share numbers by county:

- **King County**- 65 total committed as SVP, 23 current LRA residents
- **Kitsap County**- 13 total committed as SVP, 3 current LRA residents
- **Pierce County**- 32 total committed as SVP, 38 current LRA residents
- **Snohomish County**- 20 total committed as SVP, 5 current LRA residents
- **Spokane County**- 11 total committed as SVP, 6 current LRA residents
- **Walla Walla County**- 3 total committed as SVP, 3 current LRA residents