

UW behavioral health teaching facility long-term inpatient care beds

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5187; Section 215(106); Chapter 475; Laws of 2023
December 1, 2023

Legislative summary

ESSB 5187 (2023); Section 215(106):

The authority must coordinate with the department of social and health services and the University of Washington to evaluate and determine criteria for the current population of state hospital patients, committed pursuant to the dismissal of criminal charges and a civil evaluation ordered under RCW 10.77.086 or 10.77.088, who can be effectively treated at the University of Washington behavioral health teaching facility. The authority, in coordination with the department of social and health services and the University of Washington, must submit a report to the office of financial management and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023, summarizing the numbers and types of patients that are committed to the state hospitals pursuant to the dismissal of criminal charges and a civil evaluation ordered under RCW 10.77.086 or 10.77.088, the numbers and types that would be appropriate to be served at the University of Washington behavioral health teaching facility, and the criteria that was used to make the determination.

Key findings

The Department of Social and Health Services Behavioral Health Administration (DSHS/BHA), and the Health Care Authority (HCA), met with representatives from the University of Washington (UW Medicine) to discuss the admissions criteria that UW Medicine is developing for patients who would benefit most from treatment at the University of Washington behavioral health teaching facility (now referred to as the Center for Behavioral Health & Learning at the UWMC Northwest Campus (CBHL)).

The Center was designed by UW Medicine and the State Legislature to provide the following types of beds for treating different patient populations in need.

- 150 total new behavioral health inpatient beds
 - 75 patients held on long term 90- or 180-day involuntary civil commitment orders,
 - 50 patients who have both acute medical/surgical needs and acute mental healthcare needs,
 - 25 beds for patients with unique geriatric psychiatric challenges.
- An additional 14 beds in a nearby facility for patients seeking voluntary inpatient psychiatric care will serve patients upstream to prevent the need for involuntary commitment.

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UW Medicine has developed the following draft criteria for patient admissions into the facility for the 75 long term civil commitment beds:

- 75 beds in the CBHL designated specifically for patients on 90- or 180-day civil commitment orders.
- The primary goal for treatment of these patients is the safe return of the patient to the community. Thus, there must be a reasonable expectation that the patient will improve and be able to discharge at some point.
- Some consideration of priority will be given to those patients who:
 - Need specialized neuromodulation services, such as electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS). These interventional psychiatry modalities will be available in-house at the Center;
 - Could benefit from direct involvement of their family/caregivers/outpatient providers in their hospital care.
- Exclusionary Criteria:
 - Civil conversion status is not an exclusionary criteria for admission to the 75-bed unit,
 - Geriatric status is not an exclusionary criteria for admission to the 75-bed unit,
 - A medical or surgical need is not an exclusionary criteria for admission to the 75 bed unit,
 - Co-occurring substance use is not an exclusionary criteria for admission to the 75-bed unit,
 - Intellectual & developmental disabilities are not exclusionary criteria for admission to the 75-bed unit, and
 - Borderline Personality Disorder is not an exclusionary criteria for admission to the 75 bed unit.

As a result, potential referrals of patients for long terms civil commitment can be made from involuntary treatment settings including from the state hospitals. Admission will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Next steps

Outpatient treatment is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2024 with the first individuals being admitted on a 90- or 180-day civil commitment order in early July 2024.

Once the CBHL is operational, regularly scheduled coordination meetings between UW Medicine, the HCA, and the DSHS/BHA will occur to ensure the process moves forward and to resolve any barriers to placement of patients that may arise.

Contact

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