Single Bed Certification Quarterly Update

July 2018

General Single Bed Certifications

A Single Bed Certification (SBC) allows a person to be detained under the mental health criteria of the Involuntary Treatment Act when there are no available certified Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) facility beds. The detained person is able to temporarily receive involuntary inpatient mental health treatment services from a licensed facility that is not currently certified as an Evaluation and Treatment facility, under WAC 388-865-0500. The Behavioral Health Organization (BHO), Behavioral Health Administrative Support Organization (BHASO) or its designee (Designated Mental Health Professional) must submit a written request for the SBC to the local State Hospital. The SBC rule requires the facility named in the SBC be willing and able to provide timely and appropriate mental health treatment in order to not be considered boarding; which was found to be a violation of a person’s civil liberties in the Supreme Court decision, In re detention DW et al.

In spite of the decline in June 2018 there is still an overall upward trend in the use of Single Bed Certifications since August 2015.
Due to the practice in King Co of using a Single Bed Certification for all detentions, King Co BHO uses about 400 more SBC than any other region.

Single Bed Certifications are also used when an evaluation and treatment facility is unable to transfer their patient with an order for 90 or 180 days more restrictive involuntary treatment to one of the state hospitals. The SBC allows the E&T facility to provide long term involuntary treatment temporarily. As proportionally consistent most of the SBC are for 90 more restrictive involuntary inpatient treatment.
During this quarter the percentage of youth to adult use of SBC is 4.54% which is above the historical average percentage of 3.5%.
Unavailable Detention Facilities Reports (No Bed Reports)

When a Designated Crisis Responder determines a person meets criteria for involuntary inpatient treatment due to a mental disorder, but is unable to detain the person at risk due to the lack of an available bed at an E&T facility, or the person cannot be served by the use of a Single Bed Certification, the Designated Crisis Responder is required to make a report to the Authority within 24 hours stating they were unable to detain the person due to the lack of a certified E&T bed.

As can be seen by looking at the line graph above, the past 12 months have been consistently inconsistent. It could be said that in the last month the increase was due in part to the increasingly unavailable Secure Withdrawal Management and Stabilization facility beds.
Great Rivers BHO and Spokane CRBHO tied for the most No Bed Reports with Great Rivers having 9 in April and Spokane having 9 No Bed Reports for June. There have been 15 No Bed Reports for SUD detentions since April 1, 2018 for the second quarter.
Chelan Co Designated Crisis Responders submitted 8 No Bed Reports, with Grays Harbor Co DCRs submitted 9 and Spokane Co DCRs submitted 10 No Bed Reports this last quarter.

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