Single Bed Certification Quarterly Update

January 2019

General
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 for up to 30 days, under WAC 388-865-0500. The Behavioral Health Organization (BHO), Behavioral Health Administrative Support Organization (BHASO) or its designee Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) 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.

The use of single bed certification continues to rise overall since December 2014.
As a direct result of the practice in King Co of using a Single Bed Certification for all detentions, King Co BHO continues to use about 300 or more SBC than any other region.

Single Bed Certifications are also used when an evaluation and treatment facility is unable to transfer its 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 SBCs are for orders of 90 days more restrictive involuntary inpatient treatment.
The average percentage of youth to adult use of Single Bed Certification decreased during this quarter from 4.2%, which is above the historical average of 3.7%, to 1.5 % which is below the average.

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 or a substance use disorder, but is unable to detain the person at risk due to the lack of an available bed at an E&T facility or a Secure Withdrawal Management and Stabilization facility, and 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 involuntary inpatient treatment bed.

As can be seen on the line graph above, there was a dramatic jump in No Bed Reports in January 2019. This is likely due to both the increase in integrated managed care regions and the lack of substance use involuntary treatment beds.
The Great Rivers region submitted the most No Bed Reports with 19 reports for the past 3 months, Spokane had second place with 15 No Bed Reports submitted in the past three months.

Grays Harbor County DCRs submitted the most No Bed Reports, with 16 reports. Chelan County followed with 11, and Spokane County submitted 10 No Bed Reports.

Twenty of the 86 total No Bed Reports were submitted due to the lack of access to a Secure Withdrawal Management and Stabilization facility bed.

For information regarding this report, contact Robby Pellett at peller2@hca.wa.gov.