

**CSHCD Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health (Administrative Services Organization),
SCRBH (ASO)**

2020 Legislative Request

Statewide, Rural Counties: Provide Sufficient State Funding to the Health Care Authority and/or the Behavioral Health - Administrative Services Organization (BH-ASOs), and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) for the cost of transportation to the psychiatric or Secure Detox facility for individuals involuntarily detained. RCW 71.05 requires involuntary detention transport be conducted by law enforcement or ambulance only.

- a. **Barrier:** Rural counties do not have sufficient law enforcement personnel or ambulance resources available to transport individuals out of the county, including across the state to an available bed for an involuntary detention. Involuntary detention transports by law enforcement personnel require a minimum of two personnel's salary and benefits, as well as mileage. Rural counties have limited law enforcement resources to ensure community safety. Therefore, oftentimes, a rural county may not have a sufficient number of officers/deputies on duty to assign two to provide involuntary transport to an inpatient facility outside of the county or across the state. At certain hours, there may only be one officer on duty for the entire county. Diverting an officer/deputy from patrolling the county or responding to emergency calls to provide transportation creates safety risks and leaves the county and citizens vulnerable. Rural counties may have to request off-duty officers to work overtime in order to provide the involuntary transports to an inpatient facility, which increases the costs to the county.

When law enforcement or ambulance resources are available for transport, the Health Care Authority reimbursement does not sufficiently cover the total costs of travel, creating further hardships for rural counties to meet community resource needs, which, in turn, increases the likelihood law enforcement and ambulance companies will decline future transportation requests. It also results in lost beds when transportation cannot be secured, which includes a loss of all the staff time already invested in trying to locate a bed and the additional staff time it will take to find a new bed and secure transport to the location.

- b. **Scope:**
- i. Increase Non-Medicaid funding for reimbursement of involuntary detention transports to cover the total costs of a roundtrip for two law enforcement officers, including out of region transports.
 - ii. Increase the Non-Medicaid funding for reimbursement of involuntary detention transports for the total cost an ambulance company incurs for a roundtrip to a facility, including out of region transports.
- c. **Fiscal Impact:** SCRBH (ASO) Region [TBD: \$]
- d. **Benefit to Community:**
- i. Ensures transportation resources are adequately reimbursed for involuntary detentions.
 - ii. Ensures transportation resources for involuntary detentions remain available and accessible on an on-going basis.
 - iii. Ensures resources and staff time spent locating an available bed for an involuntary detention result in transport to the treating facility.
 - iv. Ensures individuals are getting to a treatment facility for medically necessary services in a timely and efficient manner, rather than continuing to decompensate in the community.