



Serving patients, families and communities better by modernizing and reforming Washington's mental health care system.

Washington's mental health system is in disarray. Western State Hospital (WSH) has lost its national accreditation. Nearly every community sees the need for better services and understands that investments in mental health are also investments to prevent homelessness.

Currently, there is not enough bed space available and too frequently, patients do not receive the services they need. Patients have been unable to get care in the environment most likely to lead to successful treatment.

The MCC budget adds significant resources and targets them to where they do the most good.

- **\$250 million in additional resources over four years**
- **300 additional beds for long-term care patients at community facilities**
- **96 beds for crisis walk-in centers.**
- **96 more psychiatric beds at community hospitals.**

We seek to transform Washington's mental health system so that it better serves patients in the communities in which they live. By transitioning to a regionally based system under a managed care network, we will be able to more effectively target state resources and improve the quality of care.

Our budget requires the development of a financial risk model to ensure financial incentives align for the most effective and appropriate care. We provide for a support system for the mentally ill to live in their own communities, which enables patients to be closer to networks of family and friends. By increasing beds at crisis walk-in centers located throughout the state, we help the mentally ill avoid jail where mental illness is likely to be exacerbated. We also help avoid housing the mentally ill in ER departments, which are expensive and not designed for the task.

WSH would focus its efforts on where it can be most effective—with the state's most challenging patients—forensic/criminal patients and hard-to-serve civil patients.

The MCC budget would add funding for community placement beds that can help divert patients from state psychiatric hospitals and speed the discharge of patients from them. It also increases funding for competency restoration beds to reduce waiting periods for court-ordered services. Improving the patient-care environment and targeting institutional focus may also lead to safer and more satisfying working conditions for staff.