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The Honorable MARSHA J. PECHMAN

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE**

CASSIE CORDELL TRUEBLOOD, next friend  
of A.B., an incapacitated person, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT  
OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, et al.,

Defendants.

NO. 2:14-cv-01178-MJP

DECLARATION OF VICTORIA  
ROBERTS IN SUPPORT OF  
DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE TO  
MOTION FOR TEMPORARY  
RESTRAINING ORDER

I, Victoria Roberts, am over the age of 18 years of age, competent to testify to the matters below, and declare based upon personal knowledge:

1. I am deputy assistant secretary for the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). I am an authorized representative of the Department of Social and Health Services.

2. As deputy assistant secretary, I am responsible for the operation of the three state hospitals. I am also directly responsible for operational issues that cross the divisions and state hospitals, strategic planning, performance management, quality assurance, and risk management. These responsibilities include oversight of state hospital policies, procedures and practices to ensure that they are aligned with DSHS policies and applicable state and

1 federal laws pertaining to health care facilities. Prior to joining the Department of Social and  
2 Health Services, I served as the associate superintendent of the Stafford Creek Corrections  
3 Center and as the Community Protection Administrator for the Department of Corrections,  
4 where I worked for 27 years. After 35 years of working in both correctional and mental  
5 health facilities it is my experience that the therapeutic nature of any facility is much more the  
6 function of the staff than the physical environment of the facility. I have seen facilities that  
7 appear modern, light, and inviting but due to the caustic nature of the staff and their "poor  
8 bedside manner" have very poor outcomes. On the other hand I have seen facilities that  
9 appear harsh and sterile have great outcomes due to the ability of the staff to engage with the  
10 patients and instill hope and recovery regardless of the physical environment.  
11

12           3. Defendants continue to assure the Court that the YCCRP is a temporary  
13 measure. The facility will be used only until the state hospitals can reabsorb that capacity.  
14 The contract for YCCRP runs through June 2017 with the option to extend for one year. The  
15 design plan for 60 bed expansion at WSH is underway.  
16


17           4. The state hospitals review their wards and facilities on a continual basis for anti-  
18 ligature precautions. The age, construction and architecture of these facilities require constant  
19 review and updating to ensure anti-ligature precautions are sufficient for all patients. This is an  
20 on-going process for any facility, state hospitals included. To assist in this continual  
21 monitoring, staff is deployed within each ward, creating an environment where each patient is  
22 essentially under close observation.  
23

24           5. The Center for Forensic Services at WSH and the Forensic Services Unit at  
25 ESH have the same levels of security that you would encounter in jails or medium security  
26

1 prisons in WA State. Both have hardened perimeters with secure windows and secure sally  
2 ports for vehicles and for individuals that are controlled and monitored by security staff.  
3 Everyone entering or leaving the facility must pass through the sally port and is subject to  
4 search to ensure that contraband is not being brought into the facility. Both facilities also  
5 employ secure fencing to minimize the opportunity for patients to escape from the hospitals.  
6 Internally, in contrast to the wards that serve a stable and much more static NGRI patients and  
7 appear much more like an Residential Treatment Facility, the admission/competency  
8 restoration wards have very sparse institutional furniture that is weighted so that it cannot be  
9 used as a weapon and correctional type tables that are bolted to the floor with attached seats  
10 that are not moveable. The nursing stations are enclosed with shatterproof glass to protect  
11 against patients throwing objects or coming into the nursing station. There is little to no  
12 adornment on the walls of these wards and the floors are primarily covered with vinyl  
13 flooring.  
14  
15

16 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of  
17 Washington that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.  
18

19 Signed this 18 day of March 2016, at Olympia, Washington.

20  
21   
22 VICTORIA ROBERTS  
23 Deputy Assistant Secretary  
24 Behavioral Health Administration  
25 Department of Social and Health Services  
26

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

*Beverly Cox*, states and declares as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States of America and over the age of 18 years and I am competent to testify to the matters set forth herein. I hereby certify that on this 19 day of March 2016, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

David Carlson: [davide@dr-wa.org](mailto:davide@dr-wa.org)

Emily Cooper: [emilyc@dr-wa.org](mailto:emilyc@dr-wa.org)

Margaret Chen: [mchen@aclu-wa.org](mailto:mchen@aclu-wa.org)

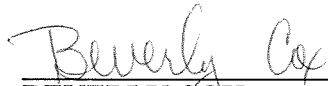
Anita Khandelwal: [anitak@defender.org](mailto:anitak@defender.org)

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Sean Gillespie: [Sean.Gillespie@CGILaw.com](mailto:Sean.Gillespie@CGILaw.com)

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 19 day of March 2016, at Olympia, Washington.



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