

HOT TOPICS IN MENTAL HEALTH & LAW: CIVIL COMMITMENT

“Policy Perspectives on Washington’s Continuum of Care for Severe Mental Illness”

Presented by Manka Dhingra, JD

May 13, 2025

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH, POLICY & THE LAW

The Center for Mental Health, Policy, and the Law (CMHPL) is housed within the University of Washington (UW) Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the UW School of Medicine.

The CMHPL's mission is to address the most urgent issues arising at the interface of mental health and the law, in order to help justice-involved people with mental illness lead full and productive lives.

Learn more on our website: <https://cmhpl.psychiatry.uw.edu/>

HOT TOPICS IN MENTAL HEALTH & LAW: CIVIL COMMITMENT

November 12, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

"Civil Commitment 101: Overview of History and Current Practices"

Shadoe Jones, JD

December 13, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

"Civil Commitment Through the Ethics Lens: How We Got Here"

Philip Candilis, MD

January 7, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

"Designated Crisis Responders and the Involuntary Treatment Act in Washington State"

Dawn Macready-Santos, LICSW and Laura Pippin, MSP

February 4, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

"Lived Experiences with Civil Commitment"

Carolynn Ponzoha, Karen Schilde, Laura Van Tosh

Learn more and register: bit.ly/cmhpl

March 4, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

"An Academic-State-Community Partnership to Create a CBT Continuum of Care for Involuntary Committees in Washington State"

Sarah Kopelovich, PhD, ABPP

April 1, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

"Navigating Juvenile Involuntary Commitment in Washington State"

Shawgi Silver, MD, MPHS

May 13, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

"Policy Perspectives on Washington's Continuum of Care for Severe Mental Illness"

Manka Dhingra, JD

June 10, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

"A Panel Discussion on the Civil Commitment Hot Topics Series"

Manka Dhingra, Shadoe Jones, Sarah Kopelovich, Dawn Macready-Santos, Laura Pippin, Shawgi Silver, Laura Van Tosh



CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH, POLICY & THE LAW
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

RECORDINGS & CONTINUING EDUCATION

- > The recording and presentation slides will be made available on our website within 1 week. We will email attendees with the link.
- > Continuing education is only available for attendees who attend the live Zoom session, not for those who watch the recording.
- > Certificates of attendance will be available for attendees who indicated interest. You will receive an email from cmhpl@uw.edu with additional details.
- > Continuing Medical Education is available:
 - UW faculty and staff ONLY: You received an email from cmhpl@uw.edu with instructions and will need to sign-in via text by 2:00 p.m. PT.
 - For non-UW learners, we will track attendance via Zoom. You do not need to log in or update your name on Zoom, as attendance is tracked with your unique Zoom link.

DISCLOSURES

Today's speaker, Manka Dhingra, has no financial relationships with an ineligible company relevant to this presentation to disclose.

None of the planners have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.


QUESTIONS

To submit a question, please click the Q&A icon on Zoom.



Reminder: The series will conclude with a panel discussion and Q&A on June 10, 2025. Submit your questions: bit.ly/final-panel

FINAL LOGISTICS

- > The opinions expressed herein are the views of the speakers, and do not reflect an official position of the CMHPL or the UW. No official support or endorsement of the opinions described in this presentation from the CMHPL or the UW is intended or should be inferred.
- > Automated captions are available. In the meeting controls toolbar, click the Show Captions icon. 
- > Please complete the evaluation poll at the end of this session.

Manka Dhingra, JD

Manka Dhingra, JD, is deputy majority leader of the Washington State Senate. She brings two decades of experience as a prosecutor and behavioral health expert to her role as chair of the Senate Law & Justice Committee. During her time in the Senate, Dhingra chaired the Senate Behavioral Health Subcommittee and helped pass legislation and funding to transform the Washington state behavioral health system, reorienting it around prevention as well as improving crisis response. She is one of the state's key proponents of expanding the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and continues to strive to ensure Washingtonians with behavioral health needs get the treatment they need and deserve. As a senior deputy prosecuting attorney, she created and chaired the Therapeutic Alternative Unit, where she oversaw the Regional Mental Health Court and Regional Veterans Court, helped develop the 40-hour Crisis Intervention training at the Criminal Justice Training Center, and trained law enforcement in de-escalation and alternative to incarceration.





What does the Legislature do?

POLICY PERSPECTIVES ON WASHINGTON'S CONTINUUM OF
CARE FOR SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Understand current Washington state civil commitment laws. What is working, what isn't and why?
- ▶ Understand the vision for crisis care in Washington state utilizing 988, civil commitment and forensic services.

VISION

- ▶ Treatment on demand
- ▶ Early intervention
- ▶ Health care parity
- ▶ Affordability
- ▶ Holistic approach to access
- ▶ De-stigmatization
- ▶ Cultural competency
- ▶ Integration

2016 Children's Mental Health Work Group

- ▶ Identifying barriers to accessing mental health services for children and families
- ▶ Requiring all behavioral health services to be integrated into Medicaid Managed Care Organizations by 2020
- ▶ Creating efficiency by reducing paperwork
- ▶ Depression screenings for new moms
- ▶ Partnership Access Line expanded to include support for healthcare providers who care for pregnant women and new moms
- ▶ Development of strategies for home visiting
- ▶ Additional residency in child psychiatry at UW

Cont.


- ▶ Increased rate for CLIP beds
- ▶ Expands Family-Initiated Treatment
- ▶ School-based BH and suicide prevention
- ▶ Post Inpatient Housing Program for Young Adults (Bridge Program)

988

- ▶ 2021
- ▶ CRIS Committee
- ▶ Native and Strong line
- ▶ Youth line
- ▶ Technology platforms
- ▶ Someone to call, someone to come, a place to go
- ▶ Comprehensive regional plans for crisis response

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

- ▶ Regional clubhouses across the state
- ▶ Long-term inpatient beds; intensive BH treatment facilities
- ▶ UW Teaching Hospital – integrated curriculum to the next generation of health providers
- ▶ UW 24/7 telepsychiatry and substance abuse disorder service center to provide services across the state
- ▶ Crisis walk-in center
- ▶ 23-hour crisis centers
- ▶ New forensic hospital
- ▶ Recovery residences
- ▶ Lake Burien Residential Treatment Facility – youth with complex needs

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- ▶ Assisted outpatient treatment
 - ▶ Involuntary Treatment Act
 - ▶ Partial hospitalization
 - ▶ Forensic mental health
 - ▶ Removing barriers to SUD treatment
 - ▶ Improving tribal BH systems
 - ▶ MH Advance Directives

WORKFORCE

- ▶ Co-occurring disorder specialist (new certified health profession)
- ▶ Certified peer specialists
- ▶ Occupational therapists
- ▶ BH support specialists
- ▶ MH counselor compact
- ▶ Washington Health Corps Behavioral Health Scholarship Program

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE CIVIL COMMITMENT HOT TOPICS SERIES

June 10, 2025, 12:00–1:00 p.m. PT

A panel of speakers from the earlier sessions will wrap up the series, representing lived experience with civil commitment, clinicians, researchers, and policymakers. The session will offer a chance to continue the conversation on the perspectives and themes discussed. This panel will also provide an opportunity to address questions raised during the course of the series.

Submit your questions: bit.ly/final-panel

FEEDBACK

Post-event surveys are critical, and your feedback helps us to improve and develop future events.

