

**What You Need to Know:
Changes in Mental Health Crisis Services in Pierce County**

On July 1, 2009, OptumHealth began managing public mental health care services for individuals living in Pierce County. Today, we are excited to announce that we will have a number of new mental health service providers. This will bring some changes to the current system of Crisis Services.

If you, or someone you know is in crisis, call the Crisis Line at 1-800-576-7764

Starting September 14th: Individuals who are involuntarily committed will go to a temporary 18-bed Evaluation and Treatment unit at Western State Hospital, or to other E&T beds, instead of to the Pierce County E&T at Puget Sound Hospital.

Starting September 24th: The Pierce County Residential Facility at Puget Sound Hospital will no longer accept voluntary admissions. Individuals in need of hospitalization will instead receive it at other community facilities.

Starting September 29th at 5:00 PM: The Pierce County Crisis Triage Facility will close. E&T and crisis respite beds will be available at a number of different locations including Western State Hospital, Comprehensive Mental Health Center, Greater Lakes Community Mental Health, and other E&Ts in nearby counties.

Starting October 1: A new Mobile Outreach Crisis Team, operated by MultiCare Good Samaritan, will begin operations. The Crisis Team will go to people who need assistance, help find community resources, or provide a next-day appointments. **If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the Crisis Line at 1-800-576-7764.**

Later this year: Two new providers – Telecare and Recovery Innovations, will open new Evaluation and Treatment and Crisis Triage facilities

While we understand that change is difficult, we're making these changes to help take the crisis system in a new direction. Our new providers are committed to creating environments where crisis can be viewed as a learning opportunity, and to believing that even in the most difficult times, individuals can gain insight and learn new tools.

We ask you to review this information and to pass it on to others in the community. *It is critical that during this time, every person who is in need of mental health crisis services knows where to get the help they need.*

If you have questions about the transition of services or for more information, please call 253-292-4200 or 866-673-6256 or visit www.optumhealthpiercecns.com.