



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
PO Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330

December 17, 2014

TO: County Alcohol and Drug Coordinators
Outpatient Treatment Providers

FROM: Michael Langer, Office Chief
Office of Behavioral Health and Prevention

SUBJECT: Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Engagement & Retention Toolkit

As a partner in Governor Jay Inslee's [Results Washington](#), the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) is committed to working with Counties and providers to improve outpatient substance use disorder treatment retention in support of the [Results Washington Goal Area number four, Healthy and Safe Communities](#) (attached). Research indicates that remaining in treatment for at least 90 days has a direct correlation with positive outcomes, including a reduction in substance use and criminal justice involvement. Longer involvement in treatment also increases the likelihood of employment, increased earnings and housing stability. By June 30, 2015 the Division's goal is to increase the percent of clients retained in outpatient substance use disorder treatment for at least 90 days from 62 percent to 70.7 percent in adults and from 65 percent to 76.2 percent in adolescents..

One effort by DBHR in support of this goal has been to partner with University of Washington's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI) to create an interactive toolkit of strategies that can be used to improve engagement and retention in the outpatient setting.

For a link to the online toolkit, please visit: <http://adai.uw.edu/retentiontoolkit>

Please help to ensure that this resource is distributed to all staff, clinical and nonclinical, who work in outpatient substance use disorder treatment. If you would like more information or assistance contact your DBHR Program Manager or Jason Bean-Mortinson, Behavioral Health Treatment Manager, at beanmjc@dshs.wa.gov.

cc: DBHR Staff