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ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2453

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State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Dunshee, Cooke, L. Johnson and Cothern

Read first time 01/14/94. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1            AN ACT Relating to a mental health service delivery systems pilot  
2 project; and adding new sections to chapter 71.24 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that continuous and  
5 accelerating pressures for efficiency and effectiveness in health care  
6 service delivery, coupled with the need to redefine how government  
7 works, necessitates the development of new approaches to service  
8 delivery that are resource sensitive, accessible, and maintain an  
9 effective continuum of care. To that end, the mental health service  
10 delivery system is not exempted from the pressures and needs to  
11 demonstrate a flexible, effective, and efficient use of scarce  
12 resources that meets the needs of a changing health care environment.  
13 The legislature further finds that the current complex set of rules and  
14 regulations, audited and administered at multiple levels of the mental  
15 health system, focuses primarily on the process of providing mental  
16 health services and does little to address consumer and system  
17 outcomes.

18            The legislature further finds that the compliance with process  
19 standards and the duplicative administering and monitoring of the

1 standards reduce the amount of mental health services that are  
2 accessible to consumers. The legislature intends under sections 2  
3 through 4 of this act to allow for development of new streamlined  
4 approaches to community-based mental health service delivery infused  
5 with incentives that reward efficiency, improve productivity, enhance  
6 positive outcomes for the consumers and the service delivery system,  
7 and effect a high-quality continuum of care.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of social and health services  
9 shall establish a comprehensive and collaborative pilot project within  
10 two distinct regional support networks and with local mental health  
11 service providers aimed at creating innovative and streamlined  
12 community mental health service delivery systems, in order to carry out  
13 the purposes set forth in section 1 of this act and to capture the  
14 diversity of the community mental health service delivery system.

15 The pilot projects must accomplish the following:

16 (1) Identification, review, and cataloging of all rules,  
17 regulations, duplicative administrative and monitoring functions, and  
18 other requirements that currently lead to inefficiencies in the  
19 community mental health service delivery system and, if possible,  
20 eliminate the requirements;

21 (2) The systematic and incremental development of a single system  
22 of accountability for all state-appropriated funds used to provide  
23 mental health services. Assessment must be made regarding the  
24 feasibility of also including federal and local funds into the single  
25 system of accountability;

26 (3) The elimination of process regulations and related contract and  
27 reporting requirements. In place of the regulations and requirements,  
28 a set of specific mutually agreed upon, nationally recognized outcomes  
29 for mental health clients must be developed and used to measure the  
30 performance of mental health service providers;

31 (4) The involvement of mental health consumers and their  
32 representatives in the pilot projects. Mental health consumers and  
33 their representatives will be involved in the development of outcome  
34 standards for mental health clients and other related aspects of the  
35 pilot projects;

36 (5) Evaluation of the feasibility of contractual agreements between  
37 the department of social and health services and regional support  
38 networks and mental health service providers that link financial

1 incentives to the success or failure of mental health service providers  
2 and regional support networks to meet outcomes established for mental  
3 health service clients; and

4 (6) An independent evaluation component to measure the success of  
5 the projects.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The pilot projects established in section 2  
7 of this act must be fully implemented by July 1, 1995, with annual  
8 progress reports submitted to the appropriate committees of the  
9 legislature beginning November 1, 1994. In addition, the department of  
10 social and health services, the participating regional support  
11 networks, and the local mental health service providers shall report to  
12 the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature on the  
13 need for any changes in state statute, rule, policy, or procedure, and  
14 any change in federal statute, regulation, policy, or procedure to  
15 ensure the purposes specified in section 1 of this act are carried out.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** To carry out the purposes specified in  
17 section 1 of this act, the department of social and health services is  
18 encouraged to utilize its authority to immediately eliminate any  
19 unnecessary rules, regulations, standards, or contracts, to immediately  
20 eliminate duplication of audits or any other unnecessarily duplicated  
21 functions, and to seek any waivers of federal or state rules or  
22 regulations necessary to achieve the purpose of streamlining the mental  
23 health system and infusing it with incentives that reward efficiency,  
24 positive outcomes for clients, and quality services.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each  
26 added to chapter 71.24 RCW.

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