
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1124

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Darneille, Morell, Tokuda, Campbell, Hunt, Kagi, Miloscia, Ballasiotes, Veloria, Linville, Dickerson, Edwards, Kenney, O'Brien, Keiser, Edmonds, Schual-Berke, Jackley, Lovick, Santos, McIntire and Haigh)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to mental health services for children;
2 amending RCW 71.36.005 and 71.36.030; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 71.36 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 71.36.005 and 1991 c 326 s 11 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The legislature intends to encourage the development of
8 community-based interagency collaborative efforts to plan for and
9 provide mental health services to children in a manner that
10 coordinates existing categorical children's mental health programs
11 and funding, is sensitive to the unique cultural circumstances of
12 children of color, eliminates duplicative case management, and to
13 the greatest extent possible, blends categorical funding to offer
14 more service options to each child.

15 The legislature finds that reduction of risk, prevention of
16 onset, and early intervention in childhood are important
17 strategies to promote healthy development since many adult mental
18 disorders begin in childhood. Mental health is linked to general

1 health and classroom performance, and to avoiding involvement with
2 the juvenile justice system. Untreated mental illness results in
3 more severe symptoms for the individual and more costs to
4 society's human services and law enforcement systems.

5 The legislature intends that the children's mental health
6 service delivery system in Washington state be operated in an
7 effective and efficient manner with measurable outcomes and that
8 to the degree possible all children in need of mental health
9 services will have access to quality, professional services in a
10 timely manner.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 71.36.030 and 1991 c 326 s 14 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) On or before January 1, 1992, each regional support
14 network, or county authority in counties that have not established
15 a regional support network, shall initiate a local planning effort
16 to develop a children's mental health services delivery system.

17 (2) Representatives of the following agencies or organizations
18 and the following individuals shall participate in the local
19 planning effort:

20 (a) Representatives of the department of social and health
21 services in the following program areas: Children and family
22 services, medical care, mental health, juvenile rehabilitation,
23 alcohol and substance abuse, and developmental disabilities;

24 (b) The juvenile courts;

25 (c) The public health department or health district;

26 (d) The school districts;

27 (e) The educational service district serving schools in the
28 county;

29 (f) Head start or early childhood education and assistance
30 programs;

31 (g) Community action agencies; and

32 (h) Children's services providers, including minority mental
33 health providers.

34 (3) Parents of children in need of mental health services and
35 parents of children of color shall be invited to participate in
36 the local planning effort.

1 (4) The following information shall be developed through the
2 local planning effort and submitted to the secretary:

3 (a) A supplement to the county's January 1, 1991, children's
4 mental health services report prepared pursuant to RCW 71.24.049
5 to include the following data:

6 (i) The number of children in need of mental health services in
7 the county or counties covered by the local planning effort,
8 including children in school and children receiving services
9 through the department of social and health services division of
10 children and family services, division of developmental
11 disabilities, division of alcohol and substance abuse, and
12 division of juvenile rehabilitation, grouped by severity of their
13 mental illness;

14 (ii) The number of such children that are underserved or
15 unserved and the types of services needed by such children; and

16 (iii) The supply of children's mental health specialists in the
17 county or counties covered by the local planning effort.

18 (b) A children's mental health services delivery plan that
19 includes a description of the following:

20 (i) Children that will be served, giving consideration to
21 children who are at significant risk of experiencing mental
22 illness, as well as those already experiencing mental illness;

23 (ii) How appropriate services needed by children served through
24 the plan will be identified and provided, including prevention and
25 identification services;

26 (iii) How a lead case manager for each child will be
27 identified;

28 (iv) How funding for existing services will be coordinated to
29 create more flexibility in meeting children's needs. Such funding
30 shall include the services and programs inventoried pursuant to
31 RCW 71.36.020(1);

32 (v) How the children's mental health delivery system will
33 incorporate the elements of the early periodic screening,
34 diagnosis, and treatment services plan developed pursuant to RCW
35 71.36.020(2); and

36 (vi) How the children's mental health delivery system will
37 coordinate with the regional support network information system
38 developed pursuant to RCW 71.24.035(5)(g).

1 (5) In developing the children's mental health services
2 delivery plan, every effort shall be made to reduce duplication in
3 service delivery and promote complementary services among all
4 entities that provide children's services related to mental
5 health.

6 (6) The children's mental health services delivery plan shall
7 address the needs of children of color through at least the
8 following mechanisms:

9 (a) Outreach initiatives, services, and modes of service
10 delivery that meet the unique needs of children of color; and

11 (b) Services to children of color that are culturally relevant
12 and acceptable, as well as linguistically accessible.

13 (7) The regional support networks shall biennially update the
14 information in the children's mental health services delivery plan
15 described in subsection (4) of this section. The updates shall
16 include a progress assessment based on the goals of the previous
17 plan. The revised plans shall be submitted to the secretary, who
18 shall compile the information in the individual plans into a
19 statewide report to be submitted to the relevant committees of the
20 legislature by July 1, 2002, and biennially thereafter.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 71.36
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct
24 a comprehensive review of the provisions of this chapter. The
25 review shall be submitted to the appropriate committees of the
26 legislature by July 1, 2002. The review shall include:

27 (1) An evaluation of both the inventory of services and early
28 periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment plan described in RCW
29 71.36.020. The evaluation of the inventory of services shall
30 include an assessment of the completeness of the inventory;
31 recommendations for the need to establish performance measures for
32 the children's mental health services delivery system;
33 recommendations for modifying the current statutory requirements
34 related to the inventory; and recommendations for the
35 dissemination and uses of the inventory. The evaluation of the
36 early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment plan shall

1 include an assessment of the completeness of the plan; an
2 evaluation of the implementation of the plan; and an assessment of
3 modifications needed to assure that federal funding is maximized;
4 and

5 (2) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of
6 the children's mental health services delivery plan described in
7 RCW 71.36.030. The evaluation shall include an assessment of the
8 overall needs of children with mental illness and the continuum of
9 resources available to them. The evaluation also shall include
10 recommendations for modifications to the children's mental health
11 services delivery system and the funding necessary to meet the
12 needs of these children by the year 2006.

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