
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2397

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Dickerson, Williams, Moeller, Hasegawa, Darneille, Morrell, Wallace, Flannigan, Green, Miloscia and B. Sullivan)

READ FIRST TIME 01/27/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a pilot program to facilitate
2 delivery of evidence-based practice mental health treatment to
3 children; and adding a new section to chapter 71.24 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) To the extent funding is appropriated in the operating budget,
8 the mental health division of the health and recovery services
9 administration, in collaboration with the children's administration,
10 within the department shall establish a pilot program to support
11 collaborative local efforts to select, implement, and ensure quality
12 evidence-based mental health services provided to children by December
13 2006.

14 (a) The program sites shall be selected through a request for
15 proposal process which shall begin by July 2006. The pilot program
16 shall consist of four sites, with at least one site located in eastern
17 Washington.

18 (b) The request for proposal shall include the specific criteria
19 listed in subsection (2) of this section, in order to qualify for the

1 pilot program. The request for proposal shall include a list of
2 examples of specific evidence-based mental health service options from
3 which pilot program sites may choose as the mental health service or
4 services they will deliver.

5 (2) Any county, or group of counties, may submit a proposal to be
6 selected as a pilot site. In order to be considered for a pilot site,
7 the proposal shall demonstrate how the site will meet the following
8 criteria. The proposal shall:

9 (a) Designate the lead agency for the program. The lead agency is
10 not required to be a state agency or a regional support network. The
11 lead agency may be any public or private agency capable of meeting the
12 requirements of this section;

13 (b) Describe how the lead agency shall work with community partners
14 to implement the pilot program activities described in this section.
15 The proposal shall specifically identify the community partners with
16 whom the agency will be collaborating and the role of the partners.
17 The community partners must include, at a minimum, representatives of
18 the local mental health, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems,
19 as well as representatives of families of children in need of mental
20 health services. Community partners may, but are not required to,
21 include representatives from other child-serving systems such as health
22 care and education;

23 (c) Identify the areas of potential need based upon input from the
24 community partners;

25 (d) Identify the evidence-based mental health service or services
26 that will be implemented in the area served by the pilot program based
27 upon community needs and resources. The service or services to be
28 provided must be selected from a list of evidence-based service options
29 developed by the department, in consultation with a broadly
30 representative group of individuals with expertise in children's mental
31 health services. After evidence-based services have been established,
32 the department may consider expanding the list of service options to
33 include promising practices. The department shall consult with a
34 broadly representative group of individuals with expertise in
35 children's mental health services to develop the list of promising
36 practices. In choosing promising practices, the department shall
37 strongly consider those practices that have shown promise in treating
38 children of color;

1 (e) Identify the resources within the community that might support
2 training for the implementation of the selected evidence-based service
3 or services; and

4 (f) Identify resources within the community that are able to
5 support quality assurance activities to monitor fidelity to the
6 evidence-based service or services that are implemented, and track
7 outcomes for children receiving those services.

8 (3) The department shall utilize one or more agencies or programs
9 outside of the department to provide support and assistance in
10 initiating, implementing, and monitoring the pilot program. The
11 department shall select agencies or programs to provide assistance that
12 have experience with evidence-based mental health practices for
13 children to provide support and assistance in all phases of the pilot
14 program, including initiating, implementing, and monitoring the pilot
15 program. Support and assistance shall include provider training
16 related to the evidence-based practices chosen by the pilot program
17 sites, and quality assurance to ensure adherence to evidence-based
18 practice.

19 (4) Beginning in July 2007, the Washington state institute for
20 public policy shall conduct a study of the pilot program measuring
21 improvements in the delivery of mental health services to children.
22 The study shall include, at a minimum, an assessment of the outcomes
23 and cost-effectiveness of the evidence-based practices implemented
24 through the program, including consideration of outcomes related to
25 hospital utilization, residential or out-of-home placements,
26 utilization of child welfare services, school attendance, and
27 involvement in the juvenile justice system. The institute shall issue
28 a report containing its preliminary findings to the legislature by
29 December 1, 2007, and a final report by December 1, 2008.

30 (5) Implementation of this program is subject to the availability
31 of funds.

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