
HOUSE BILL 2912

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Green, Appleton, Woods, Cody, Moeller, Haigh, Conway, Lantz, Hudgins, Roberts, McCoy, Kenney, Morrell, P. Sullivan, Hasegawa, Kilmer, Simpson and Ormsby

Read first time 01/16/2006. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to home visits by mental health professionals;
2 adding new sections to chapter 71.05 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that designated mental
5 health professionals go out into the community to evaluate people for
6 potential detention under the state's involuntary treatment act. Also,
7 other mental health professionals do crisis outreach work in
8 communities throughout Washington state. The presence of a second
9 mental health professional on outreach to a person's private home or
10 other private location will enhance safety, will provide for a second
11 mental health expert to help evaluate the person's needs, and will
12 advance the legislature's interest in quality mental health care
13 services.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 If a designated mental health professional or other mental health
17 crisis outreach worker visits a client in the client's private home or

1 in any other nonpublic setting, he or she shall be accompanied by
2 another designated mental health professional or other mental health
3 crisis outreach worker.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Any mental health professional who engages in home visits to
7 clients shall be provided by their employer with a wireless telephone
8 or comparable device for the purpose of emergency communication.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 Any mental health professional that is dispatched on a crisis
12 outreach visit shall have prompt access to existing case files, if any
13 exist, on the client they are being sent to evaluate.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 Annually, all community mental health employees who work directly
17 with clients shall be provided with training on safety and violence
18 prevention. The curriculum for the training shall be developed
19 collaboratively among the department of social and health services,
20 contracted mental health providers, and employee organizations that
21 represent community mental health workers.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act shall be known as the Marty Smith
23 Law.

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