
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3081

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Hinkle and Sommers; by request of Department of Social and Health Services)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying the financial responsibility of the
2 state and regional support networks for the costs associated with the
3 care of individuals in need of involuntary treatment under chapter
4 71.05 RCW; amending RCW 71.24.016, 71.24.330, and 71.05.560; and
5 creating a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature intends to address the
8 needs of people with a mental illness with a targeted, coordinated, and
9 comprehensive set of evidence-based practices that are effective in
10 serving individuals in their community and will reduce the need for
11 placements in state mental hospitals. The legislature further intends
12 to explicitly hold regional support networks accountable for serving
13 people with a mental illness within their geographic boundaries and for
14 not exceeding their allocation of state hospital beds. Within funds
15 appropriated by the legislature for this purpose, regional support
16 networks shall develop the means to serve the needs of people with a
17 mental illness within their geographic boundaries. Elements of the
18 program may include:

19 (a) Crisis triage;

- 1 (b) Evaluation and treatment and community hospital beds;
2 (c) Residential beds;
3 (d) Program for community treatment teams; and
4 (e) Out-patient services.

5 (2) The regional support network will have the flexibility, within
6 the funds appropriated by the legislature for this purpose, to design
7 the mix of services that will be most effective within their service
8 area of meeting the needs of people with a mental illness and avoiding
9 placement of such individuals at the state mental hospital.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 71.24.016 and 2001 c 323 s 4 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 It is the intent of the legislature that the community mental
13 health service delivery system focus on maintaining mentally ill
14 individuals in the community, and reserve the use of state hospital
15 beds for individuals who cannot be served safely in the community. The
16 program shall be evaluated and managed through a limited number of
17 performance measures designed to hold each regional support network
18 accountable for program success.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 71.24.330 and 2005 c 503 s 6 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 (1) Contracts between a regional support network and the department
22 shall include mechanisms for monitoring performance under the contract
23 and remedies for failure to substantially comply with the requirements
24 of the contract including, but not limited to, financial penalties,
25 termination of the contract, and reprocurement of the contract.

26 (2) The procurement process shall encourage the preservation of
27 infrastructure previously purchased by the community mental health
28 service delivery system, the maintenance of linkages between other
29 services and delivery systems, and maximization of the use of available
30 funds for services versus profits. The procurement process shall
31 provide that public funds appropriated by the legislature shall not be
32 used to promote or deter, encourage, or discourage employees from
33 exercising their rights under Title 29, chapter 7, subchapter II,
34 United States Code or chapter 41.56 RCW.

35 (3) In addition to the requirements of RCW 71.24.035, contracts
36 shall:

1 (a) Define administrative costs and ensure that the regional
2 support network does not exceed an administrative cost of ten percent
3 of available funds;

4 (b) Require effective collaboration with law enforcement, criminal
5 justice agencies, and the chemical dependency treatment system;

6 (c) Require substantial implementation of department adopted
7 integrated screening and assessment process and matrix of best
8 practices; (~~and~~)

9 (d) Maintain the decision-making independence of designated mental
10 health professionals; and

11 (e) Ensure that regional support networks do not exceed the state
12 hospital bed allocation established in their contract with the
13 department.

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 71.05.560 and 1998 c 297 s 24 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 The department shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to
17 effectuate the intent and purposes of this chapter, which shall include
18 but not be limited to evaluation of the quality of the program and
19 facilities operating pursuant to this chapter, evaluation of the
20 effectiveness and cost effectiveness of such programs and facilities,
21 implementation of a formula to allocate utilization of state hospital
22 beds among the regional support networks and hold the regional support
23 networks accountable for not over utilizing their allocation, and
24 procedures and standards for certification and other action relevant to
25 evaluation and treatment facilities.

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