

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 6404

As Passed House - Amended:

March 11, 2008

Title: An act relating to community-based behavioral health services.

Brief Description: Modifying the process for designating regional support networks.

Sponsors: By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove and Pridemore; by request of Department of Social and Health Services).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 2/21/08, 2/25/08 [DPA].

Floor Activity:

Passed House - Amended: 3/6/08, 82-11.

Senate Refused to Concur.

Passed House - Amended: 3/11/08, 89-6.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill (As Amended by House)

- Establishes a process to replace a Regional Support Network that voluntarily terminates its contract or refuses to sign a contract with the Department of Social and Health Services to act as a Regional Support Network.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Hinkle, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Barlow, Moeller, Pedersen and Schual-Berke.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Condotta, DeBolt, Green and Seaquist.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

If a Regional Support Network (RSN) fails to meet state minimum standards or refuses to exercise their statutory and contractual responsibilities, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is required to assume the responsibilities of the RSN. Currently, only a county or group of counties, or a private nonprofit entity are authorized to serve as a RSN. If a RSN fails to meet state minimum standards or refuses to exercise their statutory and contractual responsibilities, the DSHS will assume the responsibilities of the RSN until a new entity is designated as the RSN.

Summary of Amended Bill:

A RSN may be a county, group of counties, or a nonprofit or for-profit entity. If a RSN fails to meet state minimum standards, refuses to exercise their statutory and contractual responsibilities, or notifies the DSHS it will no longer serve as a RSN, the DSHS will assume the responsibilities of the RSN until a new entity is designated as the RSN through a competitive procurement process. A RSN that voluntarily terminates its contract to act as a RSN is prohibited from responding to a procurement or serving as a RSN for five years. An entity selected through the procurement process to act as the RSN is not required to contract for services with any county-owned or operated facility.

Contracts between a RSN and the DSHS will include a provision that either party must provide 180 days advance notice of any issue that might cause either party to cancel a contract or refuse to sign a mandatory amendment to a contract related to the operation of a regional support network. Either party must provide 90 days advance written notice of a decision to terminate, refuse to renew or sign a contract to serve as a regional support network.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed, except for section 5, relating to regional support networks that voluntarily refuse to continue serving as an RSN, which applies retroactively to July 1, 2007.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This legislation is necessary to ensure a stable mental health delivery system is maintained.

(Opposed) Pierce County should not be barred from serving as a RSN for five years.

Persons Testifying: (In support) John Masterson, Washington Community Mental Health Council; and Doug Porter, Department of Social and Health Services.

(Opposed) Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner and the Washington State Association of Counties; and David Dula, Pierce County.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.