
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1456

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Green, Hinkle, Appleton, Cody, Moeller, Strow, Crouse, Curtis, Seaquist, Jarrett, Hasegawa, Walsh, P. Sullivan, Buri, Simpson, O'Brien, Lantz, Hunt, McDonald, Sells, Schual-Berke, Linville, Kessler, Hankins, Haler, Skinner, Campbell, Morrell, Darneille, Armstrong, Dunshee, Fromhold, Kagi, Williams, Conway, Barlow, Grant, Priest, Dunn, Hunter, Hurst, Ericks, Pearson, Anderson, Clibborn, Pettigrew, Flannigan, Lovick, Dickerson, Kenney, Ormsby, Haigh, Wood, Rolfes, Santos and McDermott)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/07.

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 designated mental health professionals and other mental health workers
8 do crisis intervention work intended to stabilize a person in crisis
9 and provide immediate treatment and intervention in communities
10 throughout Washington state. In many cases, the presence of a second
11 trained individual on outreach to a person's private home or other
12 private location will enhance safety for consumers, families, and
13 mental health professionals and will advance the legislature's interest
14 in quality mental health care services.

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

17 No designated mental health professional or crisis intervention
18 worker shall be required to respond to a private home or other private

1 location to stabilize or treat a person in crisis, or to evaluate a
2 person for potential detention under the state's involuntary treatment
3 act, unless a second trained individual, determined by the clinical
4 team supervisor, on-call supervisor, or individual professional acting
5 alone based on a risk assessment for potential violence, accompanies
6 them. The second individual may be a law enforcement officer, a mental
7 health professional, a mental health paraprofessional who has received
8 training under section 5 of this act, or other first responder, such as
9 fire or ambulance personnel. No retaliation may be taken against a
10 worker who, following consultation with the clinical team, refuses to
11 go on a home visit alone.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Each provider of designated mental health
13 professional or crisis outreach services shall maintain a written
14 policy that, at a minimum, describes the organization's plan for
15 training, staff back-up, information sharing, and communication for
16 crisis outreach staff who respond to private homes or nonpublic
17 settings.

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

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

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

25 Any mental health professional who is dispatched on a crisis visit,
26 as described in section 2 of this act, shall have prompt access to
27 information about any history of dangerousness or potential
28 dangerousness on the client they are being sent to evaluate that is
29 documented in crisis plans or commitment records and is available
30 without unduly delaying a crisis response.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 71.05 RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 Annually, all community mental health employees who work directly
34 with clients shall be provided with training on safety and violence

1 prevention topics described in RCW 49.19.030. The curriculum for the
2 training shall be developed collaboratively among the department of
3 social and health services, contracted mental health providers, and
4 employee organizations that represent community mental health workers.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act may be known and cited as the Marty
6 Smith law.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
8 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
9 June 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
10 void.

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