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SENATE BILL 6478

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Kline, and Delvin

Read first time 01/15/10. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to planning for the discontinuation of discharge of  
2 vulnerable populations from state institutions into homelessness;  
3 amending RCW 72.09.270, 43.63A.305, 13.40.210, 71.05.350, and  
4 71.24.045; adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW; adding a new  
5 section to chapter 43.20A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that an extremely  
8 high risk of homelessness exists for persons discharged from state  
9 institutions and persons under ongoing care or supervision of state  
10 agencies, including but not limited to youth aging out of the foster  
11 care system, any former dependent of the state under chapter 13.34 RCW,  
12 persons being released from psychiatric hospitalization, youth being  
13 released from children's long-term inpatient programs, adults receiving  
14 or denied ongoing mental health care from regional support networks,  
15 persons with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries  
16 denied or losing eligibility for services, former offenders being  
17 released from state correctional facilities, and former offenders under  
18 active supervision. Providing safe and viable options for housing to

1 these populations to avoid homelessness confers a valuable benefit on  
2 the public that is intended to reduce recidivism and public spending,  
3 and improve public health, safety, and welfare.

4 (2) It is the goal of this state to:

5 (a) Gather evidence to discover the true nature and extent of the  
6 problem of homelessness as it relates to persons discharged from state  
7 institutions and persons under ongoing care or supervision of state  
8 agencies; and

9 (b) Collect adequate and appropriate data related to the housing  
10 status of persons discharged from state institutions and persons under  
11 ongoing care or supervision of state agencies; and

12 (c) In compliance with a United States department of housing and  
13 urban development regulation for jurisdictions receiving federal  
14 emergency shelter grant dollars, develop a certification that the state  
15 has established a policy for the discharge of persons from publicly  
16 funded institutions or systems of care in order to prevent such  
17 discharge from rapidly resulting in homelessness for such persons; and

18 (d) Identify the strategies and resources necessary to ensure that  
19 all persons discharged from state institutions and persons under  
20 ongoing care or supervision of state agencies have access to decent,  
21 appropriate, and affordable housing in a healthy safe environment; and

22 (e) Identify the strategies and resources necessary to eliminate  
23 the occurrence of any state institution discharging persons into  
24 homelessness by 2015.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09 RCW  
26 to read as follows:

27 Not later than December 1, 2010, the department of corrections  
28 shall submit to the appropriate committees of the legislature a plan by  
29 which the department proposes to eliminate the discharge of offenders  
30 from the custody of the department into homelessness or a time-limited  
31 housing program that terminates in less than twelve months. The plan  
32 must specifically identify the resources necessary and actions required  
33 to eliminate the discharge of any offender into homelessness or a  
34 time-limited housing program that terminates in less than twelve months  
35 by 2015. Individuals with long-term disabilities, including but not  
36 limited to, mental illness that would qualify for regional support  
37 network services, co-occurring mental illness and chemical dependency,

1 developmental disabilities, or chronic physical disabilities, must be  
2 discharged to permanent housing. The plan must also include  
3 performance measures to gauge the effectiveness of the plan in  
4 increasing the percentage of released offenders who secure and retain  
5 stable housing and decreasing the percentage of released offenders who  
6 enter homelessness. The department must include stakeholders in the  
7 planning process. Existing department plans may be used to partially  
8 fulfill the planning requirement, but must be updated with  
9 implementation strategies to meet this new goal.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12 Not later than December 1, 2010, the department of social and  
13 health services shall submit to the legislature a plan by which the  
14 department proposes to eliminate the discharge into homelessness or a  
15 time-limited housing program that terminates in less than twelve months  
16 of youth aging out of the foster care system, youth being discharged  
17 from the juvenile justice system, chronically mentally ill persons  
18 being released from involuntary psychiatric commitment, and by which  
19 the department proposes to address the housing needs of chronically  
20 mentally ill persons receiving ongoing mental health care from regional  
21 support networks. The plan must specifically identify the resources  
22 necessary and actions required to eliminate the discharge of such youth  
23 and adults into homelessness or a time-limited housing program that  
24 terminates in less than twelve months by 2015. Individuals with long-  
25 term disabilities, including but not limited to, mental illness that  
26 would qualify for regional support network services, co-occurring mental  
27 illness and chemical dependency, developmental disabilities, or chronic  
28 physical disabilities, must be discharged to permanent housing. The  
29 plan must also include performance measures to gauge the effectiveness  
30 of the plan in increasing the percentage of released persons who secure  
31 and retain stable housing and decreasing the percentage of released  
32 persons who enter homelessness. The department must include  
33 stakeholders in the planning process. Existing department plans may be  
34 used to partially fulfill the planning requirement, but must be updated  
35 with implementation strategies to meet this new goal.

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 72.09.270 and 2008 c 231 s 48 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) The department of corrections shall develop an individual  
4 reentry plan as defined in RCW 72.09.015 for every offender who is  
5 committed to the jurisdiction of the department except:

6       (a) Offenders who are sentenced to life without the possibility of  
7 release or sentenced to death under chapter 10.95 RCW; and

8       (b) Offenders who are subject to the provisions of 8 U.S.C. Sec.  
9 1227.

10       (2) The individual reentry plan may be one document, or may be a  
11 series of individual plans that combine to meet the requirements of  
12 this section.

13       (3) In developing individual reentry plans, the department shall  
14 assess all offenders using standardized and comprehensive tools to  
15 identify the criminogenic risks, programmatic needs, and educational  
16 and vocational skill levels for each offender. The assessment tool  
17 should take into account demographic biases, such as culture, age, and  
18 gender, as well as the needs of the offender, including any learning  
19 disabilities, substance abuse or mental health issues, and social or  
20 behavior deficits.

21       (4)(a) The initial assessment shall be conducted as early as  
22 sentencing, but, whenever possible, no later than forty-five days of  
23 being sentenced to the jurisdiction of the department of corrections.

24       (b) The offender's individual reentry plan shall be developed as  
25 soon as possible after the initial assessment is conducted, but,  
26 whenever possible, no later than sixty days after completion of the  
27 assessment, and shall be periodically reviewed and updated as  
28 appropriate.

29       (5) The individual reentry plan shall, at a minimum, include:

30       (a) A plan to maintain contact with the inmate's children and  
31 family, if appropriate. The plan should determine whether parenting  
32 classes, or other services, are appropriate to facilitate successful  
33 reunification with the offender's children and family;

34       (b) An individualized portfolio for each offender that includes the  
35 offender's education achievements, certifications, employment, work  
36 experience, skills, and any training received prior to and during  
37 incarceration; and

1 (c) A plan for the offender during the period of incarceration  
2 through reentry into the community that addresses the needs of the  
3 offender including education, employment, substance abuse treatment,  
4 mental health treatment, family reunification, and other areas which  
5 are needed to facilitate a successful reintegration into the community.

6 (6)(a) Prior to discharge of any offender, the department shall:

7 (i) Evaluate the offender's needs and, to the extent possible,  
8 connect the offender with existing services and resources that meet  
9 those needs; (~~and~~)

10 (ii) Connect the offender with a community justice center and/or  
11 community transition coordination network in the area in which the  
12 offender will be residing once released from the correctional system if  
13 one exists; and

14 (iii) Record the housing status, including an address, of the  
15 confirmed housing situation arranged for the offender pending the  
16 offender's release from custody.

17 (b) If the department recommends partial confinement in an  
18 offender's individual reentry plan, the department shall maximize the  
19 period of partial confinement for the offender as allowed pursuant to  
20 RCW 9.94A.728 to facilitate the offender's transition to the community.

21 (7) The department shall establish mechanisms for sharing  
22 information from individual reentry plans to those persons involved  
23 with the offender's treatment, programming, and reentry, when deemed  
24 appropriate. When feasible, this information shall be shared  
25 electronically.

26 (8)(a) In determining the county of discharge for an offender  
27 released to community custody, the department may not approve a  
28 residence location that is not in the offender's county of origin  
29 unless it is determined by the department that the offender's return to  
30 his or her county of origin would be inappropriate considering any  
31 court-ordered condition of the offender's sentence, victim safety  
32 concerns, negative influences on the offender in the community, or the  
33 location of family or other sponsoring persons or organizations that  
34 will support the offender.

35 (b) If the offender is not returned to his or her county of origin,  
36 the department shall provide the law and justice council of the county  
37 in which the offender is placed with a written explanation.

1 (c) For purposes of this section, the offender's county of origin  
2 means the county of the offender's first felony conviction in  
3 Washington.

4 (9) Nothing in this section creates a vested right in programming,  
5 education, or other services.

6 (10) The department shall record housing status as a data element:

7 (a) For the duration of an offender's supervision; and

8 (b) When otherwise obtaining and entering data on the offender's  
9 status.

10 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.63A.305 and 2009 c 148 s 1 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 (1) The independent youth housing program is created in the  
13 department to provide housing stipends to eligible youth to be used for  
14 independent housing. In developing a plan for the design,  
15 implementation, and operation of the independent youth housing program,  
16 the department shall:

17 (a) Adopt policies, requirements, and procedures necessary to  
18 administer the program;

19 (b) Contract with one or more eligible organizations described  
20 under RCW 43.185A.040 to provide services and conduct administrative  
21 activities as described in subsection (3) of this section;

22 (c) Establish eligibility criteria for youth to participate in the  
23 independent youth housing program, giving priority to youth who have  
24 been dependents of the state for at least one year;

25 (d) Refer interested youth to the designated subcontractor  
26 organization administering the program in the area in which the youth  
27 intends to reside;

28 (e) Develop a method for determining the amount of the housing  
29 stipend, first and last month's rent, and security deposit, where  
30 applicable, to be dedicated to participating youth. The method for  
31 determining a housing stipend must take into account a youth's age, the  
32 youth's total income from all sources, the fair market rent for the  
33 area in which the youth lives or intends to live, and a variety of  
34 possible living situations for the youth. The amount of housing  
35 stipends must be adjusted, by a method and formula established by the  
36 department, to promote the successful transition for youth to complete  
37 housing self-sufficiency over time;

1 (f) Ensure that the independent youth housing program is integrated  
2 and aligned with other state rental assistance and case management  
3 programs operated by the department, as well as case management and  
4 supportive services programs, including the independent living program,  
5 the transitional living program, and other related programs offered by  
6 the department of social and health services; and

7 (g) Consult with the department of social and health services and  
8 other stakeholders involved with dependent youth, homeless youth, and  
9 homeless young adults, as appropriate.

10 (2) The department of social and health services shall collaborate  
11 with the department in implementing and operating the independent youth  
12 housing program including, but not limited to, the following:

13 (a) Refer potential eligible youth to the department before the  
14 youth's eighteenth birthday, if feasible, to include an indication, if  
15 known, of where the youth plans to reside after aging out of foster  
16 care;

17 (b) Provide information to all youth aged fifteen or older, who are  
18 dependents of the state under chapter 13.34 RCW, about the independent  
19 youth housing program, encouraging dependents nearing their eighteenth  
20 birthday to consider applying for enrollment in the program;

21 (c) Encourage organizations participating in the independent living  
22 program and the transitional living program to collaborate with  
23 independent youth housing program providers whenever possible to  
24 capitalize on resources and provide the greatest amount and variety of  
25 services to eligible youth;

26 (d) Annually provide to the department data reflecting changes in  
27 the percentage of youth aging out of the state dependency system each  
28 year who are eligible for state assistance, as well as any other data  
29 and performance measures that may assist the department to measure  
30 program success, including but not limited to the number of youth aging  
31 out of the state dependency system who do not have stable affordable  
32 housing, as defined in RCW 43.185B.010, upon discharge; and

33 (e) Annually, beginning by December 31, 2007, provide to the  
34 appropriate committees of the legislature and the interagency council  
35 on homelessness as described under RCW 43.185C.170 recommendations of  
36 strategies to reach the goals described in RCW 43.63A.311(2)(g).

37 (3) Under the independent youth housing program, subcontractor  
38 organizations shall:

1 (a) Use moneys awarded to the organizations for housing stipends,  
2 security deposits, first and last month's rent stipends, case  
3 management program costs, and administrative costs. When subcontractor  
4 organizations determine that it is necessary to assist participating  
5 youth in accessing and maintaining independent housing, subcontractor  
6 organizations may also use moneys awarded to pay for professional  
7 mental health services and tuition costs for court-ordered classes and  
8 programs;

9 (i) Administrative costs for each subcontractor organization may  
10 not exceed twelve percent of the estimated total annual grant amount to  
11 the subcontractor organization;

12 (ii) All housing stipends, security deposits, and first and last  
13 month's rent stipends must be payable only to a landlord or housing  
14 manager of any type of independent housing;

15 (b) Enroll eligible youth who are referred by the department and  
16 who choose to reside in their assigned service area;

17 (c) Enter eligible youth program participants into the homeless  
18 client management information system as described in RCW 43.185C.180;

19 (d) Monitor participating youth's housing status;

20 (e) Evaluate participating youth's eligibility and compliance with  
21 department policies and procedures at least twice a year;

22 (f) Assist participating youth to develop or update an independent  
23 living plan focused on obtaining and retaining independent housing or  
24 collaborate with a case manager with whom the youth is already involved  
25 to ensure that the youth has an independent living plan;

26 (g) Educate participating youth on tenant rights and  
27 responsibilities;

28 (h) Provide support to participating youth in the form of general  
29 case management and information and referral services, when necessary,  
30 or collaborate with a case manager with whom the youth is already  
31 involved to ensure that the youth is receiving the case management and  
32 information and referral services needed;

33 (i) Connect participating youth, when possible, with individual  
34 development account programs, other financial literacy programs, and  
35 other programs that are designed to help young people acquire economic  
36 independence and self-sufficiency, or collaborate with a case manager  
37 with whom the youth is already involved to ensure that the youth is



1 receiving information and referrals to these programs, when  
2 appropriate;

3 (j) Submit expenditure and performance reports, including  
4 information related to the performance measures in RCW 43.63A.311, to  
5 the department on a time schedule determined by the department; and

6 (k) Provide recommendations to the department regarding program  
7 improvements and strategies that might assist the state to reach its  
8 goals as described in RCW 43.63A.311(2)(g).

9 **Sec. 6.** RCW 13.40.210 and 2009 c 187 s 1 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 (1)(a) The secretary shall set a release date for each juvenile  
12 committed to its custody. The release date shall be within the  
13 prescribed range to which a juvenile has been committed under RCW  
14 13.40.0357 or 13.40.030 except as provided in RCW 13.40.320 concerning  
15 offenders the department determines are eligible for the juvenile  
16 offender basic training camp program. Such dates shall be determined  
17 prior to the expiration of sixty percent of a juvenile's minimum term  
18 of confinement included within the prescribed range to which the  
19 juvenile has been committed. The secretary shall release any juvenile  
20 committed to the custody of the department within four calendar days  
21 prior to the juvenile's release date or on the release date set under  
22 this chapter. Days spent in the custody of the department shall be  
23 tolled by any period of time during which a juvenile has absented  
24 himself or herself from the department's supervision without the prior  
25 approval of the secretary or the secretary's designee.

26 (b) Prior to release, the department shall record details,  
27 including an address, of the confirmed housing situation arranged for  
28 the juvenile pending the juvenile's release from custody.

29 (2) The secretary shall monitor the average daily population of the  
30 state's juvenile residential facilities. When the secretary concludes  
31 that in-residence population of residential facilities exceeds one  
32 hundred five percent of the rated bed capacity specified in statute, or  
33 in absence of such specification, as specified by the department in  
34 rule, the secretary may recommend reductions to the governor. On  
35 certification by the governor that the recommended reductions are  
36 necessary, the secretary has authority to administratively release a  
37 sufficient number of offenders to reduce in-residence population to one

1 hundred percent of rated bed capacity. The secretary shall release  
2 those offenders who have served the greatest proportion of their  
3 sentence. However, the secretary may deny release in a particular case  
4 at the request of an offender, or if the secretary finds that there is  
5 no responsible custodian, as determined by the department, to whom to  
6 release the offender, or if the release of the offender would pose a  
7 clear danger to society. The department shall notify the committing  
8 court of the release at the time of release if any such early releases  
9 have occurred as a result of excessive in-residence population. In no  
10 event shall an offender adjudicated of a violent offense be granted  
11 release under the provisions of this subsection.

12 (3)(a) Following the release of any juvenile under subsection (1)  
13 of this section, the secretary may require the juvenile to comply with  
14 a program of parole to be administered by the department in his or her  
15 community which shall last no longer than eighteen months, except that  
16 in the case of a juvenile sentenced for rape in the first or second  
17 degree, rape of a child in the first or second degree, child  
18 molestation in the first degree, or indecent liberties with forcible  
19 compulsion, the period of parole shall be twenty-four months and, in  
20 the discretion of the secretary, may be up to thirty-six months when  
21 the secretary finds that an additional period of parole is necessary  
22 and appropriate in the interests of public safety or to meet the  
23 ongoing needs of the juvenile. A parole program is mandatory for  
24 offenders released under subsection (2) of this section and for  
25 offenders who receive a juvenile residential commitment sentence of  
26 theft of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, or  
27 taking a motor vehicle without permission 1. The decision to place an  
28 offender on parole shall be based on an assessment by the department of  
29 the offender's risk for reoffending upon release. The department shall  
30 prioritize available parole resources to provide supervision and  
31 services to offenders at moderate to high risk for reoffending.

32 (b) The secretary shall, for the period of parole, facilitate the  
33 juvenile's reintegration into his or her community and to further this  
34 goal shall require the juvenile to refrain from possessing a firearm or  
35 using a deadly weapon and refrain from committing new offenses and may  
36 require the juvenile to: (i) Undergo available medical, psychiatric,  
37 drug and alcohol, sex offender, mental health, and other offense-  
38 related treatment services; (ii) report as directed to a parole officer

1 and/or designee; (iii) pursue a course of study, vocational training,  
2 or employment; (iv) notify the parole officer of the current address  
3 where he or she resides; (v) be present at a particular address during  
4 specified hours; (vi) remain within prescribed geographical boundaries;  
5 (vii) submit to electronic monitoring; (viii) refrain from using  
6 illegal drugs and alcohol, and submit to random urinalysis when  
7 requested by the assigned parole officer; (ix) refrain from contact  
8 with specific individuals or a specified class of individuals; (x) meet  
9 other conditions determined by the parole officer to further enhance  
10 the juvenile's reintegration into the community; (xi) pay any court-  
11 ordered fines or restitution; and (xii) perform community restitution.  
12 Community restitution for the purpose of this section means compulsory  
13 service, without compensation, performed for the benefit of the  
14 community by the offender. Community restitution may be performed  
15 through public or private organizations or through work crews.

16 (c) The secretary may further require up to twenty-five percent of  
17 the highest risk juvenile offenders who are placed on parole to  
18 participate in an intensive supervision program. Offenders  
19 participating in an intensive supervision program shall be required to  
20 comply with all terms and conditions listed in (b) of this subsection  
21 and shall also be required to comply with the following additional  
22 terms and conditions: (i) Obey all laws and refrain from any conduct  
23 that threatens public safety; (ii) report at least once a week to an  
24 assigned community case manager; and (iii) meet all other requirements  
25 imposed by the community case manager related to participating in the  
26 intensive supervision program. As a part of the intensive supervision  
27 program, the secretary may require day reporting.

28 (d) For the duration of the parol period, the department shall  
29 record housing status as a data element when otherwise obtaining and  
30 entering data on the juvenile's status. After termination of the  
31 parole period, the juvenile shall be discharged from the department's  
32 supervision.

33 (4)(a) The department may also modify parole for violation thereof.  
34 If, after affording a juvenile all of the due process rights to which  
35 he or she would be entitled if the juvenile were an adult, the  
36 secretary finds that a juvenile has violated a condition of his or her  
37 parole, the secretary shall order one of the following which is  
38 reasonably likely to effectuate the purpose of the parole and to

1 protect the public: (i) Continued supervision under the same  
2 conditions previously imposed; (ii) intensified supervision with  
3 increased reporting requirements; (iii) additional conditions of  
4 supervision authorized by this chapter; (iv) except as provided in  
5 (a)(v) and (vi) of this subsection, imposition of a period of  
6 confinement not to exceed thirty days in a facility operated by or  
7 pursuant to a contract with the state of Washington or any city or  
8 county for a portion of each day or for a certain number of days each  
9 week with the balance of the days or weeks spent under supervision; (v)  
10 the secretary may order any of the conditions or may return the  
11 offender to confinement for the remainder of the sentence range if the  
12 offense for which the offender was sentenced is rape in the first or  
13 second degree, rape of a child in the first or second degree, child  
14 molestation in the first degree, indecent liberties with forcible  
15 compulsion, or a sex offense that is also a serious violent offense as  
16 defined by RCW 9.94A.030; and (vi) the secretary may order any of the  
17 conditions or may return the offender to confinement for the remainder  
18 of the sentence range if the youth has completed the basic training  
19 camp program as described in RCW 13.40.320.

20 (b) The secretary may modify parole and order any of the conditions  
21 or may return the offender to confinement for up to twenty-four weeks  
22 if the offender was sentenced for a sex offense as defined under RCW  
23 9A.44.130 and is known to have violated the terms of parole.  
24 Confinement beyond thirty days is intended to only be used for a small  
25 and limited number of sex offenders. It shall only be used when other  
26 graduated sanctions or interventions have not been effective or the  
27 behavior is so egregious it warrants the use of the higher level  
28 intervention and the violation: (i) Is a known pattern of behavior  
29 consistent with a previous sex offense that puts the youth at high risk  
30 for reoffending sexually; (ii) consists of sexual behavior that is  
31 determined to be predatory as defined in RCW 71.09.020; or (iii)  
32 requires a review under chapter 71.09 RCW, due to a recent overt act.  
33 The total number of days of confinement for violations of parole  
34 conditions during the parole period shall not exceed the number of days  
35 provided by the maximum sentence imposed by the disposition for the  
36 underlying offense pursuant to RCW 13.40.0357. The department shall  
37 not aggregate multiple parole violations that occur prior to the parole  
38 revocation hearing and impose consecutive twenty-four week periods of

1 confinement for each parole violation. The department is authorized to  
2 engage in rule making pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, to implement this  
3 subsection, including narrowly defining the behaviors that could lead  
4 to this higher level intervention.

5 (c) If the department finds that any juvenile in a program of  
6 parole has possessed a firearm or used a deadly weapon during the  
7 program of parole, the department shall modify the parole under (a) of  
8 this subsection and confine the juvenile for at least thirty days.  
9 Confinement shall be in a facility operated by or pursuant to a  
10 contract with the state or any county.

11 (5) A parole officer of the department of social and health  
12 services shall have the power to arrest a juvenile under his or her  
13 supervision on the same grounds as a law enforcement officer would be  
14 authorized to arrest the person.

15 (6) If so requested and approved under chapter 13.06 RCW, the  
16 secretary shall permit a county or group of counties to perform  
17 functions under subsections (3) through (5) of this section.

18 **Sec. 7.** RCW 71.05.350 and 1997 c 112 s 29 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

20 No indigent patient shall be conditionally released or discharged  
21 from involuntary treatment without suitable clothing, and the  
22 superintendent of a state hospital shall furnish the same, together  
23 with such sum of money as he or she deems necessary for the immediate  
24 welfare of the patient. Such sum of money shall be the same as the  
25 amount required by RCW 72.02.100 to be provided to persons in need  
26 being released from correctional institutions. As funds are available,  
27 the secretary may provide payment to indigent persons conditionally  
28 released pursuant to this chapter consistent with the optional  
29 provisions of RCW 72.02.100 and 72.02.110, and may adopt rules and  
30 regulations to do so. The department must also record the housing  
31 status, including an address, of indigent patients when they are  
32 discharged from a state hospital.

33 **Sec. 8.** RCW 71.24.045 and 2006 c 333 s 105 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 The regional support network shall:

1 (1) Contract as needed with licensed service providers. The  
2 regional support network may, in the absence of a licensed service  
3 provider entity, become a licensed service provider entity pursuant to  
4 minimum standards required for licensing by the department for the  
5 purpose of providing services not available from licensed service  
6 providers;

7 (2) Operate as a licensed service provider if it deems that doing  
8 so is more efficient and cost effective than contracting for services.  
9 When doing so, the regional support network shall comply with rules  
10 promulgated by the secretary that shall provide measurements to  
11 determine when a regional support network provided service is more  
12 efficient and cost effective;

13 (3) Monitor and perform biennial fiscal audits of licensed service  
14 providers who have contracted with the regional support network to  
15 provide services required by this chapter. The monitoring and audits  
16 shall be performed by means of a formal process which insures that the  
17 licensed service providers and professionals designated in this  
18 subsection meet the terms of their contracts;

19 (4) Assure that the special needs of minorities, the elderly,  
20 (~~disabled~~) persons with disabilities, children, and low-income  
21 persons are met within the priorities established in this chapter;

22 (5)(a) Maintain patient tracking information in a central location  
23 as required for resource management services and the department's  
24 information system;

25 (b) Within the patient tracking system, track the housing status of  
26 patients receiving care from regional support networks whenever there  
27 is a change in housing status, or at a minimum, once a year;

28 (6) Collaborate to ensure that policies do not result in an adverse  
29 shift of (~~mentally ill~~) persons with mental illnesses into state and  
30 local correctional facilities;

31 (7) Work with the department to expedite the enrollment or re-  
32 enrollment of eligible persons leaving state or local correctional  
33 facilities and institutions for mental diseases;

34 (8) If a regional support network is not operated by the county,  
35 work closely with the county designated mental health professional or  
36 county designated crisis responder to maximize appropriate placement of  
37 persons into community services; and

1           (9) Coordinate services for individuals who have received services  
2 through the community mental health system and who become patients at  
3 a state mental hospital to ensure they are transitioned into the  
4 community in accordance with mutually agreed upon discharge plans and  
5 upon determination by the medical director of the state mental hospital  
6 that they no longer need intensive inpatient care.

--- END ---