
HOUSE BILL 1858

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Roberts, Parker, Kagi, Dickerson, Goodman, Lytton, Jacks, Probst, Walsh, Carlyle, Kenney, and Ormsby

Read first time 02/07/11. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the department of social and health services'
2 authority with regard to semi-secure and secure crisis residential
3 centers and HOPE centers; and amending RCW 74.13.032, 74.15.220, and
4 74.15.255.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.032 and 2009 c 520 s 53 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) The department shall establish, through performance-based
9 contracts with private or public vendors, regional crisis residential
10 centers with semi-secure facilities. These facilities shall be
11 structured group care facilities licensed under rules adopted by the
12 department and shall have an average of at least four adult staff
13 members and in no event less than three adult staff members to every
14 eight children.

15 (2) Within available funds appropriated for this purpose, the
16 department shall establish, through performance-based contracts with
17 private or public vendors, regional crisis residential centers with
18 secure facilities. These facilities shall be facilities licensed under

1 rules adopted by the department. These centers may also include semi-
2 secure facilities and to such extent shall be subject to subsection (1)
3 of this section.

4 (3) The department shall, in addition to the facilities established
5 under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, establish additional
6 crisis residential centers pursuant to performance-based contracts with
7 licensed private group care facilities.

8 (4) The department is authorized to establish facilities that
9 include any combination of secure or semi-secure crisis residential
10 centers as defined in RCW 13.32A.030, or HOPE centers pursuant to RCW
11 74.15.220.

12 (5) The staff at the facilities established under this section
13 shall be trained so that they may effectively counsel juveniles
14 admitted to the centers, provide treatment, supervision, and structure
15 to the juveniles that recognize the need for support and the varying
16 circumstances that cause children to leave their families, and carry
17 out the responsibilities stated in RCW 13.32A.090. The
18 responsibilities stated in RCW 13.32A.090 may, in any of the centers,
19 be carried out by the department.

20 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The secure facilities located within crisis residential
21 centers shall be operated to conform with the definition in RCW
22 13.32A.030. The facilities shall have an average of no less than one
23 adult staff member to every ten children. The staffing ratio shall
24 continue to ensure the safety of the children.

25 ~~((+6))~~ (7) If a secure crisis residential center is located in or
26 adjacent to a secure juvenile detention facility, the center shall be
27 operated in a manner that prevents in-person contact between the
28 residents of the center and the persons held in such facility.

29 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.15.220 and 1999 c 267 s 12 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 The secretary shall establish HOPE centers that provide no more
32 than seventy-five beds across the state and may establish HOPE centers
33 by contract, within funds appropriated by the legislature specifically
34 for this purpose. HOPE centers shall be operated in a manner to
35 reasonably assure that street youth placed there will not run away.
36 Street youth may leave a HOPE center during the course of the day to
37 attend school or other necessary appointments, but the street youth

1 must be accompanied by an administrator or an administrator's designee.
2 The street youth must provide the administration with specific
3 information regarding his or her destination and expected time of
4 return to the HOPE center. Any street youth who runs away from a HOPE
5 center shall not be readmitted unless specifically authorized by the
6 street youth's placement and liaison specialist, and the placement and
7 liaison specialist shall document with specific factual findings an
8 appropriate basis for readmitting any street youth to a HOPE center.
9 HOPE centers are required to have the following:

10 (1) A license issued by the secretary;

11 (2) A professional with a master's degree in counseling, social
12 work, or related field and at least one year of experience working with
13 street youth or a bachelor of arts degree in social work or a related
14 field and five years of experience working with street youth. This
15 professional staff person may be contractual or a part-time employee,
16 but must be available to work with street youth in a HOPE center at a
17 ratio of one to every fifteen youth staying in a HOPE center. This
18 professional shall be known as a placement and liaison specialist.
19 Preference shall be given to those professionals cross-credentialed in
20 mental health and chemical dependency. The placement and liaison
21 specialist shall:

22 (a) Conduct an assessment of the street youth that includes a
23 determination of the street youth's legal status regarding residential
24 placement;

25 (b) Facilitate the street youth's return to his or her legally
26 authorized residence at the earliest possible date or initiate
27 processes to arrange legally authorized appropriate placement. Any
28 street youth who may meet the definition of dependent child under RCW
29 13.34.030 must be referred to the department. The department shall
30 determine whether a dependency petition should be filed under chapter
31 13.34 RCW. A shelter care hearing must be held within seventy-two
32 hours to authorize out-of-home placement for any youth the department
33 determines is appropriate for out-of-home placement under chapter 13.34
34 RCW. All of the provisions of chapter 13.32A RCW must be followed for
35 children in need of services or at-risk youth;

36 (c) Interface with other relevant resources and system
37 representatives to secure long-term residential placement and other
38 needed services for the street youth;

1 (d) Be assigned immediately to each youth and meet with the youth
2 within eight hours of the youth receiving HOPE center services;

3 (e) Facilitate a physical examination of any street youth who has
4 not seen a physician within one year prior to residence at a HOPE
5 center and facilitate evaluation by a county-designated mental health
6 professional, a chemical dependency specialist, or both if appropriate;
7 and

8 (f) Arrange an educational assessment to measure the street youth's
9 competency level in reading, writing, and basic mathematics, and that
10 will measure learning disabilities or special needs;

11 (3) Staff trained in development needs of street youth as
12 determined by the secretary, including an administrator who is a
13 professional with a master's degree in counseling, social work, or a
14 related field and at least one year of experience working with street
15 youth, or a bachelor of arts degree in social work or a related field
16 and five years of experience working with street youth, who must work
17 with the placement and liaison specialist to provide appropriate
18 services on site;

19 (4) A data collection system that measures outcomes for the
20 population served, and enables research and evaluation that can be used
21 for future program development and service delivery. Data collection
22 systems must have confidentiality rules and protocols developed by the
23 secretary;

24 (5) Notification requirements that meet the notification
25 requirements of chapter 13.32A RCW. The youth's arrival date and time
26 must be logged at intake by HOPE center staff. The staff must
27 immediately notify law enforcement and dependency caseworkers if a
28 street youth runs away from a HOPE center. A child may be transferred
29 to a secure facility as defined in RCW 13.32A.030 whenever the staff
30 reasonably believes that a street youth is likely to leave the HOPE
31 center and not return after full consideration of the factors set forth
32 in RCW 13.32A.130(2)(a) (i) and (ii). The street youth's temporary
33 placement in the HOPE center must be authorized by the court or the
34 secretary if the youth is a dependent of the state under chapter 13.34
35 RCW or the department is responsible for the youth under chapter 13.32A
36 RCW, or by the youth's parent or legal custodian, until such time as
37 the parent can retrieve the youth who is returning to home;

1 (6) HOPE centers must identify to the department any street youth
2 it serves who is not returning promptly to home. The department then
3 must contact the missing children's clearinghouse identified in chapter
4 13.60 RCW and either report the youth's location or report that the
5 youth is the subject of a dependency action and the parent should
6 receive notice from the department;

7 (7) Services that provide counseling and education to the street
8 youth; and

9 (8) The department shall (~~only~~) award contracts for the operation
10 of HOPE center beds and responsible living skills programs in
11 departmental regions(~~(a) With operating secure crisis residential~~
12 ~~centers; or (b) in which the secretary finds significant progress is~~
13 ~~made toward opening a secure crisis residential center)). The
14 department shall adopt rules to allow the licensing of colocated
15 facilities that include any combination of secure or semi-secure crisis
16 residential centers as defined in RCW 13.32A.030, or HOPE centers as
17 defined in RCW 74.15.020.~~

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.15.255 and 2010 c 289 s 10 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) Within available funds appropriated for this purpose, the
21 department shall contract for a continuum of short-term stabilization
22 services pursuant to RCW 13.32A.030 and 74.15.220. The department
23 shall collaborate with service providers in a manner that allows secure
24 and semi-secure crisis residential centers and HOPE centers to be
25 located in a geographically representative manner. To achieve
26 efficiencies and increase utilization, the department shall allow the
27 colocation of these centers. The department is authorized to adopt
28 rules regarding the flexible payment structures, center specific
29 licensing waivers, or other appropriate methods to increase utilization
30 and provide flexibility, while continuing to meet the statutory goals
31 of the programs.

32 (2) The department shall require that to be licensed or continue to
33 be licensed as a secure or semi-secure crisis residential center or
34 HOPE center that the center has on staff, or otherwise has access to,
35 a person who has been trained to work with the needs of sexually
36 exploited children. For purposes of this (~~section~~) subsection,

1 "sexually exploited child" means that person as defined in RCW
2 13.32A.030(17).

--- END ---