
HOUSE BILL 2581

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Ladenburg, and Tharinger

Read first time 01/18/12. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to services for people with developmental
2 disabilities; and adding new sections to chapter 71A.20 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.20 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The department:

7 (1) May, within sixty days of admission to a residential
8 habilitation center, ensure that each resident's individual
9 habilitation plan includes a plan for discharge to the community;

10 (2) Shall use a person-centered approach in developing the
11 discharge plan to assess the resident's needs and identify services the
12 resident requires to successfully transition to the community,
13 including:

14 (a) Engaging families and guardians of residents by offering
15 family-to-family mentoring provided by family members who themselves
16 experienced moving a family member with developmental disabilities from
17 an institution to the community. The department shall contract with
18 the developmental disabilities council to provide mentoring services;

1 (b) Employees of the residential habilitation centers and the
2 department providing transition planning for residents. To strengthen
3 continuity of care for residents leaving residential habilitation
4 centers, the department shall provide opportunities for residential
5 habilitation center employees to obtain employment in state-operated
6 living alternatives;

7 (c) Providing choice of community living options and providers,
8 consistent with federal requirements, including offering to place, with
9 the consent of the resident or his or her guardian, each resident of
10 the residential habilitation center on the appropriate home and
11 community-based waiver, as authorized under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396n, and
12 provide continued access to the services that meet his or her assessed
13 needs;

14 (d) Providing residents and their families or guardians
15 opportunities to visit state-operated living alternatives and supported
16 living options in the community;

17 (e) Offering residents leaving a residential habilitation center a
18 "right to return" to a residential habilitation center during the first
19 year following their move;

20 (f) Addressing services in addition to those that will be provided
21 by residential services providers that are necessary to address the
22 resident's assessed needs, including:

23 (i) Medical services;

24 (ii) Nursing services;

25 (iii) Dental care;

26 (iv) Behavioral and mental health supports;

27 (v) Habilitation services;

28 (vi) Employment or other day support; and

29 (vii) Transportation or other supports needed to assist family and
30 friends in maintaining regular contact with the resident;

31 (3) Shall assure that, prior to discharge from a residential
32 habilitation center, clients continue to be eligible for services for
33 which they have an assessed need;

34 (4) Shall maximize federal funding for transitioning clients
35 through the roads to community living grant;

36 (5) Shall limit the ability of a state-operated living alternative
37 to reject clients;

1 (6) Shall use any savings achieved through efficiencies to extend
2 services, including state-staffed crisis stabilization and respite
3 services, to people with developmental disabilities currently receiving
4 limited or no services; and

5 (7)(a) Shall employ the quality assurance process currently in use
6 by the department to monitor the adjustment of each resident who leaves
7 a residential habilitation center; and

8 (b) Convene a work group to review findings from the quality
9 assurance for people moving process and provide feedback on the
10 transition process. The work group shall include representatives of
11 the developmental disabilities council, disability rights Washington,
12 University of Washington center for human development and disability,
13 providers, and families and advocates of persons with disabilities.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.20 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 Beginning November 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, the department
17 shall submit information to the appropriate committees of the
18 legislature regarding persons who have transitioned from residential
19 habilitation centers to the community, for the first two years
20 following each person's new placement, including:

21 (1) Progress toward meeting the requirements of this act;

22 (2) Client and guardian satisfaction with services;

23 (3) Stability of placement and provider turnover, including
24 information on returns to a residential habilitation center under
25 section 1(2)(e) of this act;

26 (4) Safety and health outcomes;

27 (5) Types of services received by clients transitioned to the
28 community; and

29 (6) Continued accessibility of former residents to family.

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