E2SHB 2439 - S AMD **753**
By Senator O'Ban

ADOPTED 03/10/2016

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature understands that adverse childhood experiences, such as family mental health issues, substance abuse, serious economic hardship, and domestic violence, all increase the likelihood of developmental delays and later health and mental health problems. The legislature further understands that early intervention services for children and families at high risk for adverse childhood experience help build secure parent-child attachment and bonding, which allows young children to thrive and form strong relationships in the future. The legislature finds that early identification and intervention are critical for children exhibiting aggressive or depressive behaviors indicative of early mental health problems. The legislature intends to improve access to adequate, appropriate, and culturally responsive mental health services for children and youth. The legislature further intends to encourage the use of behavioral health therapies and other therapies that are empirically supported or evidence-based and only prescribe medications for children and youth as a last resort.

(2) The legislature finds that nearly half of Washington's children are enrolled in medicaid and have a higher incidence of serious health problems compared to children who have commercial insurance. The legislature recognizes that disparities also exist in the diagnosis and initiation of treatment services for children of color, with studies demonstrating that children of color are diagnosed and begin receiving early interventions at a later age. The legislature finds that within the current system of care, families face barriers to receiving a full range of services for children experiencing behavioral health problems. The legislature intends to identify what network adequacy requirements, if strengthened, would increase access, continuity, and coordination of behavioral health services for children and families. The legislature further intends

to encourage managed care plans and behavioral health organizations to contract with the same providers that serve children so families are not required to duplicate mental health screenings, and to recommend provider rates for mental health services to children and youth which will ensure an adequate network and access to quality based care.

(3) The legislature recognizes that early and accurate recognition of behavioral health issues coupled with appropriate and timely intervention enhances health outcomes while minimizing overall expenditures. The legislature intends to assure that annual depression screenings are done consistently with the highly vulnerable medicaid population and that children and families benefit from earlier access to services.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The children's mental health work group is established to identify barriers to accessing mental health services for children and families, and to advise the legislature on statewide mental health services for this population.

(2)(a) The work group shall include diverse, statewide representation from the public and nonprofit and for-profit entities. Its membership shall reflect regional, racial, and cultural diversity to adequately represent the needs of all children and families in the state.

(b) The work group shall consist of not more than twenty-five members, as follows:

(i) The president of the senate shall appoint one member and one alternative member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

(ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one member and one alternative member from each of the two largest caucuses in the house of representatives.

(iii) The governor shall appoint at least one representative from each of the following: The department of early learning, the department of social and health services, the health care authority, the department of health, and a representative of the governor.

(iv) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint one representative from the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

(v) The governor shall request participation by a representative of tribal governments.

(vi) The governor shall appoint one representative from each of the following: Behavioral health organizations, community mental health agencies, medicaid managed care organizations, pediatricians or primary care providers, providers that specialize in early childhood mental health, child health advocacy groups, early learning and child care providers, the managed health care plan for foster children, the evidence-based practice institute, parents or caregivers who have been a recipient of early childhood mental health services, and foster parents.

(c) The work group shall seek input and participation from stakeholders interested in the improvement of statewide mental health services for children and families.

(d) The work group shall choose two cochairs, one from among its legislative membership and one representative of a state agency. The representative from the health care authority shall convene the initial meeting of the work group.

(3) The children's mental health work group shall review the barriers that exist to identifying and treating mental health issues in children with a particular focus on birth to five and report to the appropriate committees of the legislature. At a minimum the work group must:

(a) Review and recommend developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate assessment tools and diagnostic approaches that managed care plans and behavioral health organizations should use as the mechanism to establish eligibility for services;

(b) Identify and review billing issues related to serving the parent or caregiver in a treatment dyad and the billing issues related to services that are appropriate for serving children, including children birth to five;

(c) Evaluate and identify barriers to billing and payment for behavioral health services provided within primary care settings in an effort to promote and increase the use of behavioral health professionals within primary care settings;

(d) Review workforce issues related to serving children and families, including issues specifically related to birth to five;

(e) Recommend strategies for increasing workforce diversity and the number of professionals qualified to provide children's mental health services;

(f) Review and make recommendations on the development and adoption of standards for training and endorsement of professionals

to become qualified to provide mental health services to children birth to five and their parents or caregivers;

(g) Analyze, in consultation with the department of early learning, the health care authority, and the department of social and health services, existing and potential mental health supports for child care providers to reduce expulsions of children in child care and preschool; and

(h) Identify outreach strategies that will successfully disseminate information to parents, providers, schools, and other individuals who work with children and youth on the mental health services offered through the health care plans, including referrals to parenting programs, community providers, and behavioral health organizations.

(4) Legislative members of the work group are reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

(5) The expenses of the work group must be paid jointly by the senate and the house of representatives. Work group expenditures are subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their successor committees.

(6) The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2016.

(7) Staff support for the committee must be provided by the house of representatives office of program research, the senate committee services, and the office of financial management.

(8) This section expires December 1, 2017.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW to read as follows:

To better assure and understand issues related to network adequacy and access to services, the authority and the department shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, on the status of access to behavioral health services for children birth through age seventeen using data collected pursuant to RCW 70.320.050. At a minimum, the

report must include the following components broken down by age, gender, and race and ethnicity:

(1) The percentage of discharges for patients ages six through seventeen who had a visit to the emergency room with a primary diagnosis of mental health or alcohol or other drug dependence during the measuring year and who had a follow-up visit with any provider with a corresponding primary diagnosis of mental health or alcohol or other drug dependence within thirty days of discharge;

(2) The percentage of health plan members with an identified mental health need who received mental health services during the reporting period; and

(3) The percentage of children served by behavioral health organizations, including the types of services provided.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1)(a) Subject to appropriation, health care authority shall expand the partnership access line service by selecting a rural inclusive region of the state to offer an additional level of child mental health care support services for primary care, to be referred to as the PAL plus pilot program.

(b) For purposes of the PAL plus pilot program, the health care authority shall work in collaboration with faculty from the University of Washington working on the integration of mental health and medical care.

(2)(a) The PAL plus service is targeted to help children and families with medicaid coverage who have mental health concerns not already being served by the regional support network system or other local specialty care providers, and who instead receive treatment from their primary care providers. Services must be offered by regionally based and multipractice shared mental health service providers who deliver in person and over the telephone the following services upon primary care request:

(i) Evaluation and diagnostic support;

(ii) Individual patient care progress tracking;

(iii) Behavior management coaching; and

(iv) Other evidence supported psychosocial care supports which are delivered as an early and easily accessed intervention for families.

(b) The PAL team of child psychiatrists and psychologists shall provide mental health service providers with training and support, weekly care plan reviews and support on their caseloads, direct

patient evaluations for selected enhanced assessments, and must utilize a shared electronic reporting and tracking system to ensure that children not improving are identified as such and helped to receive additional services. The PAL team shall promote the appropriate use of cognitive behavioral therapies and other treatments which are empirically supported or evidence-based and encourage providers to use psychotropic medications as a last resort.

(3)(a) The health care authority shall monitor PAL plus service outcomes, including, but not limited to:

(i) Characteristics of the population being served;

(ii) Process measures of service utilization;

(iii) Behavioral health symptom rating scale outcomes of individuals and aggregate rating scale outcomes of populations of children served;

(iv) Claims data comparison of implementation versus nonimplementation regions;

(v) Service referral patterns to local specialty mental health care providers; and

(vi) Family and provider feedback.

(b) By December 31, 2017, the health care authority shall make a preliminary evaluation of the viability of a statewide PAL plus service program and report to the appropriate committees of the legislature, with a final evaluation report due by December 31, 2018. The final report must include recommendations on sustainability and leveraging funds through behavioral health and managed care organizations.

(4) This section expires December 31, 2019.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct an inventory of the mental health service models available to students in schools, school districts, and educational service districts and report its findings by October 31, 2016. The report must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

(2) The committee must perform the inventory using data that is already collected by schools, school districts, and educational service districts. The committee must not collect or review student-level data and must not include student-level data in the report.

(3) The inventory and report must include information on the following:

(a) How many students are served by mental health services funded with nonbasic education appropriations in each school, school district, or educational service district;

(b) How many of these students are participating in medicaid programs;

(c) How the mental health services are funded, including federal, state, local, and private sources;

(d) Information on who provides the mental health services, including district employees and contractors; and

(e) Any other available information related to student access and outcomes.

(4) The duties of this section must be carried out within existing appropriations.

(5) This section expires July 1, 2017.

Sec. 6. RCW 28A.310.500 and 2013 c 197 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Each educational service district shall develop and maintain the capacity to offer training for educators and other school district staff on youth suicide screening and referral, and on recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide. An educational service district may demonstrate capacity by employing staff with sufficient expertise to offer the training or by contracting with individuals or organizations to offer the training. Training may be offered on a fee-for-service basis, or at no cost to school districts or educators if funds are appropriated specifically for this purpose or made available through grants or other sources.

(2)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, Forefront at the University of Washington shall convene a one-day in-person training of student support staff from the educational service districts to deepen the staff's capacity to assist schools in their districts in responding to concerns about suicide. Educational service districts shall send staff members to the one-day in-person training within existing resources.

(b) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, after establishing these relationships with the

educational service districts, Forefront at the University of Washington must continue to meet with the educational service districts via videoconference on a monthly basis to answer questions that arise for the educational service districts, and to assess the feasibility of collaborating with the educational service districts to develop a multiyear, statewide rollout of a comprehensive school suicide prevention model involving regional trainings, on-site coaching, and cohorts of participating schools in each educational service district.

(c) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, Forefront at the University of Washington must work to develop public-private partnerships to support the rollout of a comprehensive school suicide prevention model across Washington's middle and high schools.

(d) The comprehensive school suicide prevention model must consist of:

(i) School-specific revisions to safe school plans required under RCW 28A.320.125, to include procedures for suicide prevention, intervention, assessment, referral, reentry, and intervention and recovery after a suicide attempt or death;

(ii) Developing, within the school, capacity to train staff, teachers, parents, and students in how to recognize and support a student who may be struggling with behavioral health issues;

(iii) Improved identification such as screening, and response systems such as family counseling, to support students who are at risk;

(iv) Enhanced community-based linkages of support; and

(v) School selection of appropriate curricula and programs to enhance student awareness of behavioral health issues to reduce stigma, and to promote resilience and coping skills.

(e) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, and by December 15, 2017, Forefront at the University of Washington shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, with the outcomes of the educational service district trainings, any public-private partnership developments, and recommendations on ways to work with the educational service districts or others to implement suicide prevention.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this act, with the exception of sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2016, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act, except for sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act, is null and void."

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On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "youth;" strike the remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.310.500; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; creating new sections; and providing expiration dates."

EFFECT: The amendment is identical to version of the bill that passed the floor of the Senate except that the null and void clause is amended to apply to every section of the bill except for sections 1, 2, and 3, instead of applying to every section of the bill except for section 6.

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