

SB 6494-S - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 2ND SUB)

Creates the children's mental health work group 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.

Requires the state health care authority and the department of social and health services to report to the appropriate legislative committees on the status of access to behavioral health services for children from birth through age seventeen.

Requires the state health care authority to: (1) 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;

(2) For purposes of the pilot program, work in collaboration with faculty from the University of Washington working on the integration of mental health and medical care; and

(3) Require universal annual screening and provider payment for depression for children ages eleven through twenty-one as recommended by the bright futures guidelines of the American academy of pediatrics.

Requires the joint legislative audit and review committee to conduct an inventory of the mental health service models available to students in schools, school districts, and educational service districts.

Provides that this act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.