
SENATE BILL 5903

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Darneille, Warnick, Das, Nguyen, and O'Ban

Read first time 02/13/19. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to implementing policies related to children's
2 mental health as reviewed and recommended by the children's mental
3 health work group; amending RCW 28B.20.445, 28B.30.357, and
4 43.216.745; adding a new section to chapter 28A.310 RCW; adding a new
5 section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
6 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.20 RCW; adding new
7 sections to chapter 71.34 RCW; creating new sections; repealing 2018
8 c 175 s 12 (uncodified); providing a contingent effective date; and
9 providing expiration dates.

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

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
12 children's mental health work group established in chapter 96, Laws
13 of 2016 reported recommendations related to increasing access to
14 mental health services for children and youth and that many of those
15 recommendations were adopted by the 2017 and 2018 legislatures. The
16 legislature further finds that additional work is needed to improve
17 mental health support for children and families and that the
18 children's mental health work group was reestablished for this
19 purpose in chapter 175, Laws of 2018.

20 (2) The legislature finds that there is a workforce shortage of
21 behavioral health professionals and that increasing medicaid rates to

1 a level that is equal to medicare rates will increase the number of
2 providers who will serve children and families on medicaid. Further,
3 the legislature finds that there is a need to increase the cultural
4 and linguistic diversity among children's behavioral health
5 professionals and that hiring practices, professional training, and
6 high-quality translations of accreditation and licensing exams should
7 be implemented to incentivize this diversity in the workforce.

8 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to implement the
9 recommendations adopted by the children's mental health work group in
10 January 2019, in order to improve mental health care access for
11 children and their families.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) Each educational service district must provide to the school
15 districts in its region behavioral health coordination that, at a
16 minimum, includes:

17 (a) Providing support for school district development and
18 implementation of plans for recognition, initial screening, and
19 response to emotional or behavioral distress in students as required
20 under RCW 28A.320.127;

21 (b) Facilitating partnerships and coordination between school
22 districts, public schools, and existing regional and local systems of
23 behavioral health care services and supports in order to increase
24 student and family access to these services and supports;

25 (c) Assisting school districts and public schools in building
26 capacity to identify and support students in need of behavioral
27 health care services and to link students and families with
28 community-based behavioral health care services;

29 (d) Identifying, sharing, and integrating, to the extent
30 practicable, behavioral and physical health care service delivery
31 models;

32 (e) Providing medicaid billing related training, technical
33 assistance, and coordination between school districts; and

34 (f) Guidance in implementing best practices in response to, and
35 to recover from, the suicide or attempted suicide of a student.

36 (2) Funds appropriated pursuant to this section must be used
37 solely for the purposes outlined in this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
2 appropriated for this specific purpose, beginning July 1, 2019, the
3 health care authority shall collaborate with the University of
4 Washington department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Seattle
5 children's hospital, and the office of the superintendent of public
6 instruction, to develop a plan to implement a two-year pilot program
7 called the partnership access line for schools.

8 (2) The pilot program must be implemented by January 1, 2020, and
9 shall support two educational service districts selected by the
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction.

11 (3) Elements of the pilot program must include:

12 (a) Developing a general behavioral health support curriculum
13 appropriate for the roles of school staff;

14 (b) Delivering behavioral health trainings for school counselors,
15 social workers, psychologists, nurses, teachers, and administrators
16 with content designed specifically for these roles;

17 (c) Providing school staff who have participated in training
18 under this section access to telephone consultation with
19 psychologists and psychiatrists to support school staff in managing
20 children with challenging behaviors; and

21 (d) Providing timely crisis management appointments, delivered in
22 person or through interactive audio and video technology, between
23 partnership access line clinical staff and school staff when assessed
24 as clinically appropriate by the partnership access line and when
25 similar support is not immediately available in the local community.

26 (4) By December 1, 2022, the health care authority shall submit a
27 report to the governor and the legislature describing the services
28 delivered through the pilot program and recommending whether the
29 pilot program should continue or be made permanent.

30 (5) This section expires December 30, 2022.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.415
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, school districts must
34 use one of the professional learning days funded under RCW
35 28A.150.415 to train school district staff in mental health first
36 aid, suicide prevention, social-emotional learning, trauma-informed
37 care, and antibullying strategies.

38 (2) Funds appropriated pursuant to this section must be used
39 solely for the purposes outlined in this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
4 provide mental health literacy and healthy relationships
5 instructional materials for school districts to use as guidelines for
6 student instruction in these subjects.

7 (2) Funds appropriated pursuant to this section must be used
8 solely for the purposes outlined in this section.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.20
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this specific
12 purpose, the University of Washington shall establish certificate
13 programs in evidence-based practices for behavioral health care
14 professionals as follows:

15 (1)(a) The University of Washington school of social work, in
16 collaboration with the University of Washington department of
17 psychiatry and behavioral sciences, shall establish a certificate
18 program in evidence-based practices that have been shown to be
19 effective in treating adolescents and young adults with mental health
20 disorders, including:

- 21 (i) Dialectical behavior therapy; and
- 22 (ii) The wellness recovery action plan.

23 (b) The certificate program must be designed for graduate
24 students pursuing a master of social work degree.

25 (2)(a) The University of Washington department of psychology, in
26 collaboration with the department of psychiatry and behavioral
27 sciences, school of social work, and continuum college, shall
28 establish a certificate program in evidence-based practices that have
29 been shown to be effective in treating adolescents and young adults
30 with mental health disorders, including:

- 31 (i) Evidence-based parenting interventions;
- 32 (ii) Evidence-based treatments for anxiety and mood disorders;
- 33 and
- 34 (iii) Trauma-focused cognitive behavior therapy.

35 (b) The certificate program must be designed for licensed
36 behavioral health care professionals who wish to receive additional
37 education in evidence-based practices.

1 (3) Participants in the certificate programs under this section
2 are eligible to apply for the health professional loan repayment and
3 scholarship program under chapter 28B.115 RCW.

4 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.20.445 and 2018 c 175 s 11 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, the child and adolescent psychiatry residency
8 program at the University of Washington shall offer ~~((one))~~ two
9 additional twenty-four month residency positions that ~~((is))~~ are
10 approved by the accreditation council for graduate medical education
11 to ~~((one))~~ two residents specializing in child and adolescent
12 psychiatry. The ~~((residency))~~ residencies must each include a minimum
13 of twelve months of training in settings where children's mental
14 health services are provided under the supervision of experienced
15 psychiatric consultants and must be located west of the crest of the
16 Cascade mountains.

17 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28B.30.357 and 2017 c 202 s 9 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
20 specific purpose, Washington State University shall offer ~~((one))~~ two
21 twenty-four month residency positions that ~~((is))~~ are approved by the
22 accreditation council for graduate medical education to ~~((one))~~ two
23 residents specializing in child and adolescent psychiatry. The
24 ~~((residency))~~ residencies must each include a minimum of twelve
25 months of training in settings where children's mental health
26 services are provided under the supervision of experienced
27 psychiatric consultants and must be located east of the crest of the
28 Cascade mountains.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) The health care authority shall
30 collaborate with the University of Washington and a professional
31 association of licensed community behavioral health agencies to
32 develop a statewide plan to implement evidence-based coordinated
33 specialty care programs that provide early identification and
34 intervention for psychosis in licensed and certified community
35 behavioral health agencies. The health care authority must submit the
36 statewide plan to the governor and the legislature by March 1, 2020.
37 The statewide plan must include:

1 (a) Analysis of existing benefit packages, payment rates, and
2 resource gaps, including needs for nonmedicaid resources;

3 (b) Development of a discrete benefit package and case rate for
4 coordinated specialty care;

5 (c) Identification of costs for statewide start-up, training, and
6 community outreach;

7 (d) Determination of the number of coordinated specialty care
8 teams needed in each regional service area; and

9 (e) A timeline for statewide implementation.

10 (2) This section expires June 30, 2020.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) Subject to amounts appropriated for
12 this specific purpose, the University of Washington shall convene a
13 work group of educators and researchers to develop a statewide
14 multitiered system of school supports that includes academic, social-
15 emotional, and behavioral supports. The work group must include
16 representatives of: Public K-12 schools; school districts;
17 educational service districts; the office of the superintendent of
18 public instruction; the department of children, youth, and families;
19 and public universities. The University of Washington must submit the
20 findings and recommendations of the work group to the governor and
21 the legislature by November 1, 2020.

22 (2) This section expires December 31, 2020.

23 **Sec. 11.** RCW 43.216.745 and 2017 c 202 s 5 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) (a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
26 this specific purpose, the department shall establish a child care
27 consultation program linking child care providers with evidence-
28 based, trauma-informed, and best practice resources regarding caring
29 for infants and young children who present behavioral concerns or
30 symptoms of trauma. The department may contract with an entity with
31 expertise in child development and early learning programs in order
32 to operate the child care consultation program.

33 ~~((2))~~ (b) In establishing and operating the program, the
34 department or contracted entity shall: ~~((a))~~ (i) Assist child care
35 providers in recognizing the signs and symptoms of trauma in
36 children; ~~((b))~~ (ii) provide support and guidance to child care
37 staff; ~~((c))~~ (iii) consult and coordinate with parents, other
38 caregivers, and experts or practitioners involved with the care and

1 well-being of the young children; and ~~((d))~~ (iv) provide referrals
2 for children who need additional services.

3 (2)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
4 this specific purpose, the department shall develop an infant and
5 early childhood mental health consultation model for children ages
6 birth to five and provide the model to the governor and the
7 legislature by November 1, 2019.

8 (b) In the development of the model, the department must consult
9 with public and private partners, including tribal representatives,
10 to ensure the model meets community needs in a culturally competent
11 manner.

12 (c) The model must include:

13 (i) A workforce development plan that addresses initial training
14 and ongoing professional development for infant and early childhood
15 mental health consultants in accordance with nationally recognized
16 competencies in the field;

17 (ii) Consultation standards that are informed by current evidence
18 in the field, trauma-informed, and culturally competent;

19 (iii) A program evaluation protocol for outcome measurement; and

20 (iv) A plan for a data tracking system for consultation
21 activities.

22 (d) The department must phase in service delivery by providing
23 the model in at least two regions by July 1, 2020, followed by full
24 statewide implementation by December 31, 2023.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. A new section is added to chapter 71.34
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
28 specific purpose, the health care authority must provide an online
29 training for behavioral health providers regarding state law and best
30 practices when providing behavioral health services to children,
31 youth, and families. The training must be free for providers and must
32 include information related to parent-initiated treatment, minor-
33 initiated treatment, and other treatment services provided under this
34 chapter.

35 NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. A new section is added to chapter 71.34
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
38 specific purpose, the authority must conduct an annual survey of a

1 sample group of parents, youth, and behavioral health providers to
2 measure the impacts of implementing policies resulting from the
3 enactment of chapter . . . (House Bill No. . . . (H-1175.4/19)), Laws
4 of 2019 (including any later amendments or substitutes) during the
5 first three years of implementation. The first survey must be
6 complete by July 1, 2020, followed by subsequent annual surveys
7 completed by July 1, 2021, and by July 1, 2022. The authority must
8 report on the results of the surveys annually to the governor and the
9 legislature beginning November 1, 2020. The final report is due
10 November 1, 2022, and must include any recommendations for statutory
11 changes identified as needed based on survey results.

12 (2) This section expires December 31, 2022.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Section 13 of this act takes effect only
14 if chapter . . . (House Bill No. . . . (H-1175.4/19)), Laws of 2019
15 (including any later amendments or substitutes) is enacted by the
16 effective date of this section.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** 2018 c 175 s 12 (uncodified) is repealed.

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