
HOUSE BILL 1800

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Eslick, Callan, Leavitt, Davis, Dent, Goodman, Ramos, Rule, Santos, Senn, Wylie, Tharinger, Stonier, and Frame

Prefiled 01/06/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Children, Youth & Families.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing access to behavioral health
2 services for minors; amending RCW 71.34.3871, 71.40.040, and
3 71.40.090; adding new sections to chapter 71.34 RCW; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71.34
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The authority shall dedicate at least one full-time employee to:

9 (1) Connecting families, behavioral health providers, educators,
10 and other stakeholders with current information about law and policy
11 related to behavioral health services for minors;

12 (2) Creating shareable content appropriate for communicating
13 policy and resources related to behavioral health services for
14 minors; and

15 (3) Designing and maintaining a communications plan related to
16 behavioral health services for minors involving social media and
17 other forms of direct outreach to providers, families, and youth.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71.34
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The authority shall convene stakeholders to design, further
2 define, and implement a parent portal. The stakeholders convened
3 under this section must include parents, caregivers, youth, and young
4 adults.

5 (2) As used in this section, "parent portal" means a method for
6 connecting families to their community's service and education
7 infrastructure related to behavioral health services for minors,
8 including services supported or provided by:

9 (a) A behavioral health provider as defined in RCW 71.24.025 that
10 provides services to minors;

11 (b) A licensed or certified behavioral health agency as defined
12 in RCW 71.24.025 that provides behavioral health services to minors;

13 (c) A long-term care facility as defined in RCW 43.190.020 in
14 which minors with behavioral health conditions reside;

15 (d) The child study and treatment center as identified in RCW
16 71.34.380;

17 (e) A facility or agency that receives state funding to provide
18 behavioral health treatment services to minors with a behavioral
19 health condition;

20 (f) The department of children, youth, and families;

21 (g) The office of the superintendent of public instruction; and

22 (h) The department.

23 (3) By November 1, 2022, the authority shall provide a report to
24 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature
25 detailing:

26 (a) The stakeholder engagement conducted under this section;

27 (b) The design and further definition of the parent portal; and

28 (c) Other relevant information about successfully implementing
29 the parent portal, including needed legislative changes or support.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 71.34.3871 and 2019 c 381 s 24 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
33 specific purpose, the authority must conduct ((an annual survey of a
34 sample group of)) stakeholder engagement efforts with parents, youth,
35 and behavioral health providers to measure the impacts of
36 implementing policies resulting from chapter 381, Laws of 2019 during
37 the first three years of implementation and sections 1 and 2 of this
38 act. The stakeholder engagement efforts required under this
39 subsection must include live events soliciting feedback from

1 stakeholders and alternative methods for stakeholders to submit
2 feedback. The first ((survey)) stakeholder engagement efforts must be
3 complete by ((July 1, 2020)) October 1, 2022, followed by subsequent
4 annual ((surveys)) stakeholder engagement efforts completed by July
5 1, ((2021)) 2023, and by July 1, ((2022)) 2024. The authority must
6 report on the results of the ((surveys)) stakeholder engagement
7 efforts annually to the governor and the legislature beginning
8 November 1, ((2020)) 2022. The final report is due November 1,
9 ((2022)) 2024, and must include any recommendations for statutory
10 changes identified as needed based on ((survey)) stakeholder
11 engagement efforts results.

12 (2) This section expires December 31, ((2022)) 2024.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 71.40.040 and 2021 c 202 s 4 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 The state office of behavioral health consumer advocacy shall
16 assure performance of the following activities, as authorized in
17 contract:

18 (1) Selection of a name for the contracting advocacy organization
19 to use for the advocacy program that it operates pursuant to contract
20 with the office. The name must be selected by the statewide advisory
21 council established in this section and must be separate and
22 distinguishable from that of the office;

23 (2) Certification of behavioral health consumer advocates by
24 October 1, 2022, and coordination of the activities of the behavioral
25 health consumer advocates throughout the state according to standards
26 adopted by the office;

27 (3) Provision of training regarding appropriate access by
28 behavioral health consumer advocates to behavioral health providers
29 or facilities according to standards adopted by the office;

30 (4) Establishment of a toll-free telephone number, website, and
31 other appropriate technology to facilitate access to contracting
32 advocacy organization services for patients, residents, and clients
33 of behavioral health providers or facilities;

34 (5) Establishment of a statewide uniform reporting system to
35 collect and analyze data relating to complaints and conditions
36 provided by behavioral health providers or facilities for the purpose
37 of identifying and resolving significant problems, with permission to
38 submit the data to all appropriate state agencies on a regular basis;

1 (6) Establishment of procedures consistent with the standards
2 adopted by the office to protect the confidentiality of the office's
3 records, including the records of patients, residents, clients,
4 providers, and complainants;

5 (7) Establishment of a statewide advisory council, a majority of
6 which must be composed of people with lived experience, that shall
7 include:

8 (a) Individuals with a history of mental illness including one or
9 more members from the black community, the indigenous community, or a
10 community of color;

11 (b) Individuals with a history of substance use disorder
12 including one or more members from the black community, the
13 indigenous community, or a community of color;

14 (c) Family members of individuals with behavioral health needs
15 including one or more members from the black community, the
16 indigenous community, or a community of color;

17 (d) One or more representatives of an organization representing
18 consumers of behavioral health services;

19 (e) Representatives of behavioral health providers and
20 facilities, including representatives of facilities offering
21 inpatient and residential behavioral health services;

22 (f) One or more certified peer specialists;

23 (g) One or more medical clinicians serving individuals with
24 behavioral health needs;

25 (h) One or more nonmedical providers serving individuals with
26 behavioral health needs;

27 (i) One representative from a behavioral health administrative
28 services organization;

29 (j) One parent or caregiver of a child who received behavioral
30 health services;

31 (k) Other community representatives, as determined by the office;
32 and

33 ~~((k))~~ (l) One representative from a labor union representing
34 workers who work in settings serving individuals with behavioral
35 health conditions;

36 (8) Monitoring the development of and recommend improvements in
37 the implementation of federal, state, and local laws, rules,
38 regulations, and policies with respect to the provision of behavioral
39 health services in the state and advocate for consumers;

1 (9) Development and delivery of educational programs and
2 information statewide to patients, residents, and clients of
3 behavioral health providers or facilities, and their families on
4 topics including, but not limited to, the execution of mental health
5 advance directives, wellness recovery action plans, crisis services
6 and contacts, peer services and supports, family advocacy and rights,
7 family-initiated treatment and other behavioral health service
8 options for minors, and involuntary treatment; and

9 (10) Reporting to the office, the legislature, and all
10 appropriate public agencies regarding the quality of services,
11 complaints, problems for individuals receiving services from
12 behavioral health providers or facilities, and any recommendations
13 for improved services for behavioral health consumers.

14 **Sec. 5.** RCW 71.40.090 and 2021 c 202 s 9 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 The contracting advocacy organization shall develop and submit,
17 for approval by the office, a process to train and certify all
18 behavioral health consumer advocates, whether paid or volunteer,
19 authorized by this chapter as follows:

20 (1) Certified behavioral health consumer advocates must have
21 training or experience in the following areas:

22 (a) Behavioral health and other related social services programs,
23 including behavioral health services for minors;

24 (b) The legal system, including differences in state or federal
25 law between voluntary and involuntary patients, residents, or
26 clients;

27 (c) Advocacy and supporting self-advocacy;

28 (d) Dispute or problem resolution techniques, including
29 investigation, mediation, and negotiation; and

30 (e) All applicable patient, resident, and client rights
31 established by either state or federal law.

32 (2) A certified behavioral health consumer advocate may not have
33 been employed by any behavioral health provider or facility within
34 the previous twelve months, except as a certified peer specialist or
35 where prior to July 25, 2021, the person has been employed by a
36 regional behavioral health consumer advocate.

37 (3) No certified behavioral health consumer advocate or any
38 member of a certified behavioral health consumer advocate's family
39 may have, or have had, within the previous twelve months, any

1 significant ownership or financial interest in the provision of
2 behavioral health services.

--- **END** ---