
HOUSE BILL 1860

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Davis, Eslick, Callan, Jacobsen, Macri, Santos, Shewmake, Orwall, Tharinger, Simmons, Chopp, Bergquist, and Valdez

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1 AN ACT Relating to preventing homelessness among persons
2 discharging from inpatient behavioral health settings; amending RCW
3 70.320.020; adding a new section to chapter 71.24 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that social
7 determinants of health, particularly housing, are highly correlated
8 with long-term recovery from behavioral health conditions. Seeking
9 inpatient treatment for a mental health or substance use challenge is
10 an act of valor. Upon discharge from care, these individuals deserve
11 a safe, stable place from which to launch their recovery. It is far
12 easier and more cost-effective to help maintain a person's recovery
13 after treatment than to discharge them into homelessness and begin
14 the process anew amid another crisis. Sometimes, there may not be
15 another chance.

16 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to seize the
17 incredible opportunity presented by a person seeking inpatient
18 behavioral health care by ensuring that these courageous individuals
19 are discharged to appropriate housing.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.320.020 and 2021 c 267 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The authority and the department shall base contract
4 performance measures developed under RCW 70.320.030 on the following
5 outcomes when contracting with service contracting entities:
6 Improvements in client health status and wellness; increases in
7 client participation in meaningful activities; reductions in client
8 involvement with criminal justice systems; reductions in avoidable
9 costs in hospitals, emergency rooms, crisis services, and jails and
10 prisons; increases in stable housing in the community; improvements
11 in client satisfaction with quality of life; and reductions in
12 population-level health disparities.

13 (2) The performance measures must demonstrate the manner in which
14 the following principles are achieved within each of the outcomes
15 under subsection (1) of this section:

16 (a) Maximization of the use of evidence-based practices will be
17 given priority over the use of research-based and promising
18 practices, and research-based practices will be given priority over
19 the use of promising practices. The agencies will develop strategies
20 to identify programs that are effective with ethnically diverse
21 clients and to consult with tribal governments, experts within
22 ethnically diverse communities and community organizations that serve
23 diverse communities;

24 (b) The maximization of the client's independence, recovery, and
25 employment;

26 (c) The maximization of the client's participation in treatment
27 decisions; and

28 (d) The collaboration between consumer-based support programs in
29 providing services to the client.

30 (3) In developing performance measures under RCW 70.320.030, the
31 authority and the department shall consider expected outcomes
32 relevant to the general populations that each agency serves. The
33 authority and the department may adapt the outcomes to account for
34 the unique needs and characteristics of discrete subcategories of
35 populations receiving services, including ethnically diverse
36 communities.

37 (4) The authority and the department shall coordinate the
38 establishment of the expected outcomes and the performance measures
39 between each agency as well as each program to identify expected
40 outcomes and performance measures that are common to the clients

1 enrolled in multiple programs and to eliminate conflicting standards
2 among the agencies and programs.

3 (5) (a) The authority and the department shall establish timelines
4 and mechanisms for service contracting entities to report data
5 related to performance measures and outcomes, including phased
6 implementation of public reporting of outcome and performance
7 measures in a form that allows for comparison of performance measures
8 and levels of improvement between geographic regions of Washington.

9 (b) The authority and the department may not release any public
10 reports of client outcomes unless the data has been deidentified and
11 aggregated in such a way that the identity of individual clients
12 cannot be determined through directly identifiable data or the
13 combination of multiple data elements.

14 (6) (a) The performance measures coordinating committee must
15 establish: (i) A performance measure to be integrated into the
16 statewide common measure set which tracks effective integration
17 practices of behavioral health services in primary care settings;
18 ~~((and))~~ (ii) performance measures which track rates of criminal
19 justice system involvement among public health system clients with an
20 identified behavioral health need including, but not limited to,
21 rates of arrest and incarceration; and (iii) performance measures
22 which track rates of homelessness and housing instability among
23 medical assistance clients who have exited inpatient behavioral
24 health settings within the previous 12 months. The authority must set
25 improvement targets related to these measures.

26 (b) The performance measures coordinating committee must report
27 to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature
28 regarding the implementation of this subsection by July 1, 2022.

29 (c) For purposes of establishing performance measures as
30 specified in (a)(ii) of this subsection, the performance measures
31 coordinating committee shall convene a work group of stakeholders
32 including the authority, medicaid managed care organizations, the
33 department of corrections, and others with expertise in criminal
34 justice and behavioral health. The work group shall review current
35 performance measures that have been adopted in other states or
36 nationally to inform this effort.

37 (7) The authority must report to the governor and appropriate
38 committees of the legislature ~~((by))~~:

39 (a) By October 1, 2022, regarding options and recommendations for
40 integrating value-based purchasing terms and a performance

1 improvement project into managed health care contracts relating to
2 the criminal justice outcomes specified under subsection (1) of this
3 section;

4 (b) By October 1, 2023, regarding options and recommendations for
5 integrating value-based purchasing terms and a performance
6 improvement project into managed health care contracts related to
7 increasing stable housing in the community outcomes specified under
8 subsection (1) of this section.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 71.24
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 By October 1, 2022, the authority shall require that any contract
12 with a managed care organization include a requirement to provide
13 housing-related care coordination services to enrollees who are being
14 discharged from inpatient behavioral health settings. Housing-related
15 care coordination services include services provided to enrollees
16 prior to discharge and upon discharge from an inpatient behavioral
17 health setting that ensure that the enrollee is discharged to an
18 appropriate housing situation for the enrollee's needs, including
19 meeting with the enrollee to understand what is important to the
20 enrollee in a living situation, identifying any and all housing
21 assistance programs for which the enrollee may be eligible and
22 proactively assisting the enrollee with applying for appropriate
23 housing assistance programs, locating developmentally appropriate
24 housing options for transition-aged youth under 25 years old,
25 assuring that the enrollee has a safe and realistic immediate
26 transition plan if there is a gap between inpatient discharge and
27 entry into housing, and, when appropriate, preparing persons in the
28 enrollee's housing setting to be able to assist the enrollee in
29 meeting the enrollee's physical and behavioral health needs.

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