
HOUSE BILL 1580

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Callan, Harris, Senn, Eslick, Dent, Ortiz-Self, Simmons, Leavitt, Ryu, Berry, Taylor, Walen, Bateman, Bronoske, Goodman, Ormsby, Schmidt, Orwall, Gregerson, Thai, Doglio, Lekanoff, Ramel, Rule, Reed, Pollet, Timmons, and Macri

Read first time 01/25/23. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a system to support children in
2 crisis; adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; providing an
3 expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The governor must maintain a children and youth multisystem
8 care coordinator to serve as a state lead on addressing complex cases
9 of children in crisis. The children and youth multisystem care
10 coordinator must:

11 (a) Help direct the appropriate use of state and other resources
12 to a child in crisis, and that child's family, if appropriate; and

13 (b) Have access to flexible funds to support:

14 (i) The safe discharge of children in crisis from hospitals; and

15 (ii) Long-term, appropriate placement for children in crisis who
16 are dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW.

17 (2) The children and youth multisystem care coordinator created
18 under this section, in coordination with the department of children,
19 youth, and families, the health care authority, the office of
20 financial management, and the department of social and health
21 services, shall develop and implement a rapid care team for the

1 purpose of supporting and identifying appropriate services and living
2 arrangements for a child in crisis, and that child's family, if
3 appropriate. The rapid care team created under this section must be
4 implemented as soon as possible, but no later than January 1, 2024.

5 (3) In creating the rapid care team required under this section,
6 the children and youth multisystem care coordinator created under
7 this section shall develop and implement a system for:

8 (a) Identifying children in crisis who should be served by the
9 rapid care team;

10 (b) Initiating the rapid care team in a timely manner that
11 reduces the time a child in crisis spends in a hospital without a
12 medical need;

13 (c) Locating services and connecting youth and families with the
14 appropriate services to allow the child in crisis to safely discharge
15 from a hospital;

16 (d) Screening referrals for a child in crisis;

17 (e) Accepting referrals from the department of children, youth,
18 and families for a child in crisis; and

19 (f) Determining when it would be appropriate for the department
20 of children, youth, and families to provide services to a child in
21 crisis as the:

22 (i) Youth meets the definition of a "child who is a candidate for
23 foster care" under RCW 74.13.020;

24 (ii) Youth meets the definition of "dependent child" under RCW
25 13.34.030(6)(a) based on the child being abandoned; or

26 (iii) Family should be offered a voluntary placement agreement.

27 (4) The rapid care team under this section may provide assistance
28 and support to a child in crisis, or the family of a child in crisis.

29 (5) The following individuals may refer a child in crisis to the
30 rapid care team:

31 (a) A child in crisis themselves;

32 (b) A family member of the child in crisis;

33 (c) An advocate for the child in crisis;

34 (d) An educator;

35 (e) A law enforcement officer;

36 (f) An employee of the department of children, youth, and
37 families;

38 (g) An employee of the department of social and health services;

39 (h) An employee of the health care authority;

1 (i) A service provider contracting with the department of
2 children, youth, and families;

3 (j) A service provider contracting with the department of social
4 and health services;

5 (k) A behavioral health service provider;

6 (l) A person providing health care services to the child in
7 crisis; or

8 (m) A hospital employee.

9 (6) By November 1, 2023, the governor shall provide an initial
10 report to the legislature describing the process of developing and
11 implementing the rapid care team created under this section, and must
12 include a projection of when the rapid care team process will be
13 implemented. By November 1, 2024, the governor shall provide a final
14 report to the legislature including data and recommendations related
15 to the rapid care team created in this section. The report required
16 under this subsection must be submitted in compliance with RCW
17 43.01.036. The report required under this subsection must include the
18 following:

19 (a) The number of children in crisis referred to the rapid care
20 team and the types of people making referrals to the rapid care team;

21 (b) The demographic data of the children in crisis served by the
22 rapid care team;

23 (c) The types of services and living arrangements identified by
24 the rapid care team;

25 (d) The availability of the services and living arrangements
26 identified as needed for the children in crisis served by the rapid
27 care team;

28 (e) Any barriers that are preventing children in crisis from
29 safely exiting the hospital setting when there is not a medical need
30 for that hospital stay;

31 (f) Any barriers that are preventing children in crisis who are
32 dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW from maintaining an appropriate and
33 stable placement;

34 (g) Recommendations for earlier intervention to prevent children
35 from becoming children in crisis; and

36 (h) Recommendations for systemic changes that could replace the
37 rapid care team in addressing complex cases involving a child in
38 crisis.

39 (7) The following definitions apply to this section:

40 (a) "Child in crisis" means a person under age 18 who is:

1 (i) At risk of remaining in a hospital without medical necessity,
2 without the ability to return to the care of a parent, and not
3 dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW;

4 (ii) Staying in a hospital without medical necessity and who is
5 unable to return to the care of a parent but is not dependent under
6 chapter 13.34 RCW; or

7 (iii) Dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW, experiencing placement
8 instability, and referred to the rapid care team by the department of
9 children, youth, and families.

10 (b) "Rapid care team" means a team, whose work is managed and
11 directed by the children and youth multisystem care coordinator
12 created under this section, working to quickly identify the
13 appropriate services and living arrangements for a child in crisis. A
14 rapid care team must include:

15 (i) One designee from the health care authority;

16 (ii) One designee from the department of social and health
17 services;

18 (iii) One designee from the office of financial management;

19 (iv) One designee from the developmental disabilities
20 administration of the department of social and health services;

21 (v) One designee from the department of children, youth, and
22 families; and

23 (vi) Any other entities or individuals that the children and
24 youth multisystem care coordinator deems appropriate to support a
25 child in crisis.

26 (8) This section expires June 30, 2025.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
29 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
30 effect immediately.

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