

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2639

As Reported by House Committee On: Health Care & Wellness

Title: An act relating to state purchasing of mental health and chemical dependency treatment services.

Brief Description: Concerning state purchasing of mental health and chemical dependency treatment services.

Sponsors: Representatives Moeller, Harris, Green, Cody, Morrell, Clibborn, Riccelli, Van De Wege, Bergquist and Freeman; by request of Governor Inslee.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 1/27/14, 2/3/14, 2/5/14 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Expands the scope of work and membership of the Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force.
- Directs the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) and the Health Care Authority to establish up to nine regional service areas.
- Establishes contract requirements for the purchase of behavioral health services for Medicaid and non-Medicaid clients and factors to consider in the purchasing process.
- Directs the Department to conduct a procurement process for behavioral health organizations.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Riccelli, Vice Chair; Clibborn, Green, Jinkins, Moeller, Morrell, Tharinger and Van De Wege.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Harris, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; DeBolt, G. Hunt, Manweller, Rodne, Ross and Short.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

Community Mental Health System.

The Department of Social and Health Services (Department) contracts with regional support networks to oversee the delivery of mental health services for adults and children who suffer from mental illness or severe emotional disturbance. A regional support network may be a county, group of counties, or a nonprofit or for-profit entity. Currently, 10 of the 11 regional support networks are county-based, except for one which is operated by a private entity.

Regional support networks are paid by the state on a capitation basis and funding is adjusted based on caseload. The regional support networks contract with local providers to provide an array of mental health services, monitor the activities of local providers, and oversee the distribution of funds under the state managed care plan.

Approximately 40 percent of the state's resources for community mental health services are supported by federal Medicaid funding. Receipt of these funds is conditioned upon compliance with federal requirements. In July 2013 the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified the Department that it characterizes Washington's system for purchasing mental health services through capitated contracts with local governmental entities as violating federal procurement principles. The CMS identified two options for Washington: (1) openly procure behavioral health services so that regional support networks and other commercial entities compete on the same basis; or (2) comply with federal procurement principles by shifting to a cost-based reimbursement system for regional support networks. The CMS has requested that the Department submit a corrective action plan.

Chemical Dependency Services.

The Department contracts with counties to provide outpatient chemical dependency prevention, treatment, and support services, either directly or by subcontracting with certified providers. The Department determines chemical dependency service priorities for those activities funded by the Department.

Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force.

In 2013 the Legislature established the Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force (Task Force) to examine the reform of the adult behavioral health system. Specifically, the Task Force must review the adult behavioral health system and make recommendations for reform related to:

- the delivery of services to adults with mental illness and chemical dependency disorders;
- the availability of effective means to promote recovery and prevent harm associated with mental illness;
- crisis services;

- best practices for cross-system collaboration between behavioral health treatment providers, medical care providers, long-term care service providers, entities providing health home services to high-risk Medicaid clients, law enforcement, and criminal justice agencies; and
- public safety practices involving persons with mental illness with forensic involvement.

The Task Force is comprised of two members of the House of Representatives, two members of the Senate, five members appointed by the Governor from various agencies, and a tribal representative. The Task Force begins on May 1, 2014, and must report its findings by January 1, 2015.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force.

Topics are added to the review that the Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force (Task Force) must conduct. Recommendations of the Task Force must include: (1) means to promote recovery and prevent harm associated with chemical dependency; and (2) public safety practices involving chemical dependency with forensic involvement. In addition to making recommendations for the way that services are delivered to adults with mental illness and chemical dependency disorders, the Task Force must consider the way that the services are purchased. Specifically, the Task Force must provide recommendations:

- by August 1, 2014, regarding the creation of common regional service areas for purchasing behavioral health and medical care services by the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) and the Health Care Authority (Authority);
- by September 1, 2014, regarding the design and requirements of future Medicaid behavioral health and health care delivery systems and purchasing; and
- by September 1, 2014, regarding state interactions with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services related to the purchasing of Medicaid mental health services.

The membership of the Task Force is expanded to include three members appointed by the Washington State Association of Counties. Chemical dependency advocates and chemical dependency experts working with drug courts are added to the list of stakeholders that the Task Force must consult. The date that the Task Force begins is moved from May 1, 2014, to April 1, 2014.

Regional Service Areas and Behavioral Health Organizations.

The term "regional support network" is changed to "behavioral health organization."

The Department and the Authority must jointly establish regional service areas by September 1, 2014. By July 1, 2014, the Washington State Association of Counties may propose the composition of up to nine regional service areas to the Department, the Authority, and the Task Force. The regional service areas must:

- include enough Medicaid lives to support full financial risk managed care contracting for services;
- include full counties that are contiguous with each other; and

- reflect medical and behavioral health services referral patterns and shared health care services, behavioral health service, and behavioral health crisis response resources.

When counties form a behavioral health organization, it must be consistent with the boundaries of a regional service area.

Contracting for Behavioral Health Services.

The Department must initiate a procurement process for behavioral health organizations. Under the process, counties within a regional service area must form an interlocal agreement and respond to a request for qualifications. If the counties are unable to substantially meet the requirements of the request for qualifications, then the Department must use a procurement process with other entities. If the county does not participate as a regional support network, then a private entity serving as the regional support network may respond to the request for qualifications. If the private entity is in a regional service area with multiple counties, then the multiple counties shall respond to the request for qualifications and the private entity may also apply for the whole regional service area. If they both meet the request for qualifications, they must follow the Department procurement process.

The Department must adopt criteria to distinguish between: (1) persons with mild mental illness and those with moderate or severe mental illness; and (2) persons with mild chemical dependency and those with moderate or severe chemical dependency. Behavioral health organizations must enroll clients within their regional service areas who have: (1) moderate or severe mental illness; and (2) moderate or severe chemical dependency. Medicaid managed care contracts must include services for persons with mild chemical dependency by April 1, 2016.

The term "behavioral health services" is defined to include both community mental health services and chemical dependency services. The Department and the Authority contracts to provide behavioral health services, whether for persons eligible for Medicaid or not, must include specific provisions related to:

- adherence to intent statements for programs providing community mental health services, children's mental health services, and chemical dependency;
- standards for quality of services, including the increased use of services that are evidence-based, research-based, or promising practices;
- accountability for client outcomes and performance measures;
- the maintenance of appropriate provider networks to provide adequate access to contract services and to protect the behavioral health system infrastructure and capacity;
- reimbursement methods to incentivize improved performance regarding client outcomes, integration of behavioral health and primary care services, and improved care coordination for persons with complex needs;
- financial integrity standards;
- the maintenance of decision-making independence of designated mental health professionals; and
- prohibiting the use of public funds to discourage employees from asserting collective bargaining rights.

The process for purchasing behavioral health services must give significant weight to several factors, including:

- commitment and experience serving low-income populations;
- commitment and experience serving persons with severe mental illness or chemical dependency;
- commitment to and experience in partnering with local criminal justice systems, housing services, and other critical support services necessary to meet outcome measures;
- recognition that meeting both physical and behavioral health needs is a shared responsibility of contracted behavioral health organizations, managed health care systems, service providers, the state, and communities;
- consideration of past and current performance and participation in other public behavioral health programs; and
- the ability to meet Department requirements.

When purchasing behavioral health services and medical care services, the Department and the Authority must use common regional service areas.

Specific requirements that regional mental health programs prioritize certain populations and provide enumerated services are replaced with a general requirement that behavioral health organizations provide medically necessary services to Medicaid enrollees according to state and federal requirements and to non-Medicaid enrollees according to state priorities.

The Department's auditing procedures for behavioral health organizations must be designed in such a way that they assure compliance with contractual agreements. The Department's duty to certify regional support networks is eliminated.

In addition to using resources for behavioral health organizations, the Department may use resources to incentivize improved performance regarding client outcomes, integration of behavioral health and primary care services, and improvement of care coordination for persons with complex needs.

Elements are added to the list of services covered by behavioral health organization programs, including peer support counseling, community support services, resource management services, and supported housing and supported employment services.

Contracting for Chemical Dependency Services.

Any behavioral health organization contract for behavioral health services or programs to treat persons with alcohol or drug use disorders must provide medically necessary services to Medicaid enrollees according to state and federal requirements and to non-Medicaid enrollees according to state priorities.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The substitute bill changes the term "regional support network" to "behavioral health organization."

The substitute bill directs the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) to adopt criteria to distinguish between: (1) persons with mild mental illness and those with moderate or severe mental illness; and (2) persons with mild chemical dependency and those with moderate or severe chemical dependency. Behavioral health organizations must enroll clients within their regional service areas who have moderate or severe mental illness and moderate or severe chemical dependency. Medicaid managed care contracts must include services for persons with mild chemical dependency by April 1, 2016.

The substitute bill delays the beginning of the Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force Task Force (Task Force) until April 1, 2014. Chemical dependency advocates and chemical dependency experts working with drug courts are added to the stakeholder list. Recommendations of the Task Force must include: (1) means to promote recovery and prevent harm associated with chemical dependency; and (2) public safety practices involving chemical dependency with forensic involvement.

The substitute bill directs the Department to initiate a procurement process for behavioral health organizations. Under the process counties within a regional service area must form an interlocal agreement and respond to a request for qualifications. If the county does not participate as a regional support network, then a private entity serving as the regional support network may respond to the request for qualifications. If the private entity is in a regional service area with multiple counties, then the multiple counties shall respond to the request for qualifications and the private entity may also apply for the whole regional service area. If they both meet the request for qualifications, they must follow the Department's procurement process.

The substitute bill removes substantive provisions regarding the use of funds for programs to serve people with mental illness from a legislative intent section and into a separate section.

The substitute bill adds references to contract performance provisions.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary fiscal note available. New fiscal note requested on February 5, 2014.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after the adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed, except for section 1, relating to the Adult Behavioral System Task Force, which contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately; and sections 3 and 6 through 43, relating to standards for mental health and chemical dependency programs, which take effect April 1, 2016.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) One in four adults experience mental illness in a given year, and one in 17 suffer from serious mental illness such as bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. Almost half of homeless adults suffer from both mental illness and substance abuse issues. In the chemical

dependency system, 43 percent have had a felony or gross misdemeanor in the last year, 60 percent are unemployed, 28 percent are homeless, and 50 percent have a co-occurring mental health disorder.

This bill changes the way that services are provided in order to get better outcomes. This bill addresses meaningful outcomes for clients; evidence-based practices; provider incentives to coordinate and integrate care at the clinical level; and the critical relationship between the mental health system, chemical dependency system, housing, the social service system, and the social service system.

Services need to be provided more efficiently, and that can be done by moving to an integrated managed care model. There need to be enough resources to plan together across systems and consolidate resources to assure continuity of care. Research and data shows that the integration of health services improves patient care, moves people into recovery more quickly, and saves money in the health care system and other systems like jails and juvenile justice. Recent correspondence from the federal government has prompted conversations about integration and aligning the procurement and planning of services. Washington must design a system that can serve those with very complex needs and provide linkages to other services necessary to succeed. It makes sense that the regional service areas for medical and behavioral health be aligned and it will help with efforts toward integration. This will bring a consistent, statewide benefits package supported by an actuarially established rate. This bill supports the careful integration of mental health, chemical dependency, and physical health because clients in these systems often present with very complex needs, such as co-occurring disorders. This bill supports collaboration with citizen stakeholders.

Counties support integrating mental health and chemical dependency services. It is helpful to have county membership on the task force to identify ways to improve the delivery of services and addressing the critical support services, such as housing. Counties have large portions of their budgets going toward the criminal justice system, and they have a vested interest in treating these people rather than incarcerating them.

There should be some flexibility in the consolidation of regional support networks. There needs to be a good look at the Medicaid chemical dependency rates to make sure that they are supportive of the needed workforce and the appropriate service delivery. The floor level list of services in current law should be maintained and not deleted.

(With concerns) Maintaining separate mental health and chemical dependency systems and collaboration is a balancing act. The mental health and chemical dependency disciplines each have unique aspects and education requirements. The Legislature needs to recognize that mental health and chemical dependency are unique and that the funding should be used as intended. The chemical dependency system has good outcomes that are very cost-effective. Chemical dependency clients who get treatment become functional. Appropriate services help people become employable, active in the community, and successful parents.

There need to be assurances in the bill that the chemical dependency system will be protected because it addresses chemical dependency as a primary disease. Funding needs to be applied for chemical dependency. There should be language in the bill to better protect access to appropriate care for patients and the survival of the chemical dependency treatment system.

(In support with concerns) When people do not get the medical care, mental health care, and chemical dependency care that they need, they shift costs to local fire departments, emergency medical services, law enforcement, jails, and hospital emergency rooms. The Task Force should be amended to look at both mental health and chemical dependency. The Task Force should look at whether or not to fully integrate physical and behavioral health or split up chemical dependency funding for the non-persistent, severely mentally ill between the regional support networks and the Apple Health plans. There should be a review of the perverse incentives that divert persons with mental illness to hospital emergency departments instead of a detoxification facility or a triage facility or crisis stabilization unit.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Moeller, prime sponsor; Andi Smith, Office of the Governor; Jane Beyer, Department of Social and Health Services; Ann Christian, Washington Community Mental Health Council; Seth Dawson, National Alliance on Mental Illness; Lindsey Grad, Services Employees International Union #1199 of Washington; and Abby Murphy, Washington State Association of Counties.

(With concerns) Marcia Roi, Clark College Addiction Counseling, Education Department; Linda Grant, Washington Association of Alcoholism and Addiction Programs; and Irene Slagle.

(In support with concerns) Ken Stark, Snohomish County.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.