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**HOUSE BILL 1874**

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**State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Frame, Eslick, Davis, Bergquist, and Doglio

AN ACT Relating to implementing policies related to expanding adolescent behavioral health care access as reviewed and recommended by the children's mental health work group; amending RCW 71.34.020, 71.34.500, 71.34.510, 71.34.520, 71.34.530, 71.34.700, 71.34.700, 71.34.710, 71.34.710, and 74.13.280; adding new sections to chapter 71.34 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.020 and 2018 c 201 s 5002 are each amended to read as follows:

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Alcoholism" means a disease, characterized by a dependency on alcoholic beverages, loss of control over the amount and circumstances of use, symptoms of tolerance, physiological or psychological withdrawal, or both, if use is reduced or discontinued, and impairment of health or disruption of social or economic functioning.

(2) "Approved substance use disorder treatment program" means a program for minors with substance use disorders provided by a treatment program licensed or certified by the department of health as meeting standards adopted under chapter 71.24 RCW.

(3) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.

(4) "Chemical dependency" means:

(a) Alcoholism;

(b) Drug addiction; or

(c) Dependence on alcohol and one or more other psychoactive chemicals, as the context requires.

(5) "Chemical dependency professional" means a person certified as a chemical dependency professional by the department of health under chapter 18.205 RCW, or a person certified as a chemical dependency professional trainee under RCW 18.205.095 working under the direct supervision of a certified chemical dependency professional.

(6) "Child psychiatrist" means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon in this state, who has had graduate training in child psychiatry in a program approved by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association, and who is board eligible or board certified in child psychiatry.

(7) "Children's mental health specialist" means:

(a) A mental health professional who has completed a minimum of one hundred actual hours, not quarter or semester hours, of specialized training devoted to the study of child development and the treatment of children; and

(b) A mental health professional who has the equivalent of one year of full-time experience in the treatment of children under the supervision of a children's mental health specialist.

(8) "Commitment" means a determination by a judge or court commissioner, made after a commitment hearing, that the minor is in need of inpatient diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment or that the minor is in need of less restrictive alternative treatment.

(9) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(10) "Designated crisis responder" means a person designated by a behavioral health organization to perform the duties specified in this chapter.

(11) "Director" means the director of the authority.

(12) "Drug addiction" means a disease, characterized by a dependency on psychoactive chemicals, loss of control over the amount and circumstances of use, symptoms of tolerance, physiological or psychological withdrawal, or both, if use is reduced or discontinued, and impairment of health or disruption of social or economic functioning.

(13) "Evaluation and treatment facility" means a public or private facility or unit that is licensed or certified by the department of health to provide emergency, inpatient, residential, or outpatient mental health evaluation and treatment services for minors. A physically separate and separately-operated portion of a state hospital may be designated as an evaluation and treatment facility for minors. A facility which is part of or operated by the state or federal agency does not require licensure or certification. No correctional institution or facility, juvenile court detention facility, or jail may be an evaluation and treatment facility within the meaning of this chapter.

(14) "Evaluation and treatment program" means the total system of services and facilities coordinated and approved by a county or combination of counties for the evaluation and treatment of minors under this chapter.

(15) "Gravely disabled minor" means a minor who, as a result of a mental disorder, or as a result of the use of alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals, is in danger of serious physical harm resulting from a failure to provide for his or her essential human needs of health or safety, or manifests severe deterioration in routine functioning evidenced by repeated and escalating loss of cognitive or volitional control over his or her actions and is not receiving such care as is essential for his or her health or safety.

(16) "Inpatient treatment" means twenty-four-hour-per-day mental health care provided within a general hospital, psychiatric hospital, residential treatment facility licensed or certified by the department of health as an evaluation and treatment facility for minors, secure detoxification facility for minors, or approved substance use disorder treatment program for minors.

(17) "Intoxicated minor" means a minor whose mental or physical functioning is substantially impaired as a result of the use of alcohol or other psychoactive chemicals.

(18) "Less restrictive alternative" or "less restrictive setting" means outpatient treatment provided to a minor who is not residing in a facility providing inpatient treatment as defined in this chapter.

(19) "Likelihood of serious harm" means either: (a) A substantial risk that physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon his or her own person, as evidenced by threats or attempts to commit suicide or inflict physical harm on oneself; (b) a substantial risk that physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon another, as evidenced by behavior which has caused such harm or which places another person or persons in reasonable fear of sustaining such harm; or (c) a substantial risk that physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon the property of others, as evidenced by behavior which has caused substantial loss or damage to the property of others.

(20) "Medical necessity" for inpatient care means a requested service which is reasonably calculated to: (a) Diagnose, correct, cure, or alleviate a mental disorder or substance use disorder; or (b) prevent the progression of a substance use disorder that endangers life or causes suffering and pain, or results in illness or infirmity or threatens to cause or aggravate a handicap, or causes physical deformity or malfunction, and there is no adequate less restrictive alternative available.

(21) "Mental disorder" means any organic, mental, or emotional impairment that has substantial adverse effects on an individual's cognitive or volitional functions. The presence of alcohol abuse, drug abuse, juvenile criminal history, antisocial behavior, or intellectual disabilities alone is insufficient to justify a finding of "mental disorder" within the meaning of this section.

(22) "Mental health professional" means a psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant working with a supervising psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse, ((~~or~~)) social worker, ((~~and such other~~)) a provider from a licensed community mental health agency under the direction of a licensed mental health professional((~~s~~)) as ((~~may be~~)) defined by rules adopted by the secretary of the department of health under this chapter, or a licensed mental health counselor associate under chapter 18.225 RCW working under the direct supervision of a licensed mental health professional.

(23) "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen years.

(24) "Outpatient treatment" means any of the nonresidential services mandated under chapter 71.24 RCW and provided by licensed or certified service providers as identified by RCW 71.24.025.

(25) "Parent" means:

(a) A biological or adoptive parent who has legal custody of the child, including either parent if custody is shared under a joint custody agreement; or

(b) A person or agency judicially appointed as legal guardian or custodian of the child.

(26) "Private agency" means any person, partnership, corporation, or association that is not a public agency, whether or not financed in whole or in part by public funds, that constitutes an evaluation and treatment facility or private institution, or hospital, or approved substance use disorder treatment program, that is conducted for, or includes a distinct unit, floor, or ward conducted for, the care and treatment of persons with mental illness, substance use disorders, or both mental illness and substance use disorders.

(27) "Physician assistant" means a person licensed as a physician assistant under chapter 18.57A or 18.71A RCW.

(28) "Professional person in charge" or "professional person" means a physician, other mental health professional, or other person empowered by an evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program with authority to make admission and discharge decisions on behalf of that facility.

(29) "Psychiatric nurse" means a registered nurse who has experience in the direct treatment of persons who have a mental illness or who are emotionally disturbed, such experience gained under the supervision of a mental health professional.

(30) "Psychiatrist" means a person having a license as a physician in this state who has completed residency training in psychiatry in a program approved by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association, and is board eligible or board certified in psychiatry.

(31) "Psychologist" means a person licensed as a psychologist under chapter 18.83 RCW.

(32) "Public agency" means any evaluation and treatment facility or institution, or hospital, or approved substance use disorder treatment program that is conducted for, or includes a distinct unit, floor, or ward conducted for, the care and treatment of persons with mental illness, substance use disorders, or both mental illness and substance use disorders if the agency is operated directly by federal, state, county, or municipal government, or a combination of such governments.

(33) "Responsible other" means the minor, the minor's parent or estate, or any other person legally responsible for support of the minor.

(34) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or secretary's designee.

(35) "Secure detoxification facility" means a facility operated by either a public or private agency or by the program of an agency that:

(a) Provides for intoxicated minors:

(i) Evaluation and assessment, provided by certified chemical dependency professionals;

(ii) Acute or subacute detoxification services; and

(iii) Discharge assistance provided by certified chemical dependency professionals, including facilitating transitions to appropriate voluntary or involuntary inpatient services or to less restrictive alternatives as appropriate for the minor;

(b) Includes security measures sufficient to protect the patients, staff, and community; and

(c) Is licensed or certified as such by the department of health.

(36) "Social worker" means a person with a master's or further advanced degree from a social work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010.

(37) "Start of initial detention" means the time of arrival of the minor at the first evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program offering inpatient treatment if the minor is being involuntarily detained at the time. With regard to voluntary patients, "start of initial detention" means the time at which the minor gives notice of intent to leave under the provisions of this chapter.

(38) "Substance use disorder" means a cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that an individual continues using the substance despite significant substance-related problems. The diagnosis of a substance use disorder is based on a pathological pattern of behaviors related to the use of the substances.

(39) "Adolescent" means a minor thirteen years of age or older.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.500 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 261 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) ((~~A minor thirteen years or older~~)) An adolescent may admit himself or herself to an evaluation and treatment facility for inpatient mental health treatment or an approved substance use disorder treatment program for inpatient substance use disorder treatment without parental consent. The admission shall occur only if the professional person in charge of the facility concurs with the need for inpatient treatment. Parental authorization, or authorization from a person who may consent on behalf of the minor pursuant to RCW 7.70.065, is required for inpatient treatment of a minor under the age of thirteen.

(2) When, in the judgment of the professional person in charge of an evaluation and treatment facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program, there is reason to believe that a minor is in need of inpatient treatment because of a mental disorder or substance use disorder, and the facility provides the type of evaluation and treatment needed by the minor, and it is not feasible to treat the minor in any less restrictive setting or the minor's home, the minor may be admitted to the facility.

(3) Written renewal of voluntary consent must be obtained from the applicant no less than once every twelve months. The minor's need for continued inpatient treatments shall be reviewed and documented no less than every one hundred eighty days.

(4) A parent of an adolescent may admit his or her child to an evaluation and treatment facility for inpatient mental health treatment or an approved substance use disorder treatment program for inpatient substance use disorder treatment without the consent of the adolescent. The admission shall occur only if the professional person in charge of the facility concurs with the need for inpatient treatment.

(a) The evaluation and treatment facility for inpatient mental health treatment or approved substance use disorder treatment program for inpatient substance use disorder treatment shall convene a treatment review at least every thirty days after an adolescent's admission under this subsection that includes the adolescent, parent or guardian, and treatment team to determine whether continued care under this subsection is necessary.

(b) The evaluation and treatment facility providing treatment under this subsection shall provide notification of the adolescent's admission to an independent reviewer at the authority within twenty-four hours of the adolescent's admission under this section to determine whether the level of treatment provided is medically necessary. At least every forty-five days after the adolescent's admission to inpatient treatment under this section, the authority shall conduct an additional review to determine whether the current level of treatment is medically necessary.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.510 and 1998 c 296 s 15 are each amended to read as follows:

The administrator of the treatment facility shall provide notice to the parents, legal guardian, or kinship caregiver as defined in RCW 74.13.600 of ((~~a minor~~)) an adolescent when the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is voluntarily admitted to inpatient treatment under RCW 71.34.500. The notice shall be in the form most likely to reach the parent, legal guardian, or kinship caregiver as defined in RCW 74.13.600 within twenty-four hours of the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's voluntary admission and shall advise the parent, legal guardian, or kinship caregiver as defined in RCW 74.13.600: (1) That the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent has been admitted to inpatient treatment; (2) of the location and telephone number of the facility providing such treatment; (3) of the name of a professional person on the staff of the facility providing treatment who is designated to discuss the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's need for inpatient treatment with the parent, legal guardian, or kinship caregiver as defined in RCW 74.13.600; and (4) of the medical necessity for admission.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.520 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 262 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Any ((~~minor thirteen years or older~~)) adolescent voluntarily admitted to an evaluation and treatment facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program under RCW 71.34.500 may give notice of intent to leave at any time. The notice need not follow any specific form so long as it is written and the intent of the minor can be discerned.

(2) The staff member receiving the notice shall date it immediately, record its existence in the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's clinical record, and send copies of it to the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's attorney, if any, the designated crisis responders, and the parent.

(3) The professional person shall discharge the ((~~minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) adolescent from the facility by the second judicial day following receipt of the minor's notice of intent to leave.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.530 and 2006 c 93 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Any ((~~minor thirteen years or older~~)) adolescent may request and receive outpatient treatment without the consent of the minor's parent. Parental authorization, or authorization from a person who may consent on behalf of the minor pursuant to RCW 7.70.065, is required for outpatient treatment of a minor under the age of thirteen.

(2) A parent of an adolescent may request and receive medically necessary outpatient mental health treatment or outpatient substance use disorder treatment from an approved substance use disorder treatment program for his or her adolescent child without the consent of the adolescent for the following:

(a) Up to twelve outpatient sessions; or

(b) A three-month period of outpatient treatment.

(3) Following the treatment periods under subsection (2) of this section, an adolescent must provide his or her consent to request and receive further outpatient treatment.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.700 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 267 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) If ((~~a minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) an adolescent is brought to an evaluation and treatment facility or hospital emergency room for immediate mental health services, the professional person in charge of the facility shall evaluate the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's mental condition, determine whether the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent suffers from a mental disorder, and whether the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is in need of immediate inpatient treatment.

(2) If ((~~a minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) an adolescent is brought to a secure detoxification facility with available space, or a hospital emergency room for immediate substance use disorder treatment, the professional person in charge of the facility shall evaluate the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's condition, determine whether the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent suffers from a substance use disorder, and whether the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is in need of immediate inpatient treatment.

(3) If it is determined under subsection (1) or (2) of this section that the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent suffers from a mental disorder or substance use disorder, inpatient treatment is required, the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is unwilling to consent to voluntary admission, and the professional person believes that the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent meets the criteria for initial detention set forth herein, the facility may detain or arrange for the detention of the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent for up to twelve hours in order to enable a designated crisis responder to evaluate the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent and commence initial detention proceedings under the provisions of this chapter.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.700 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 268 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) If ((~~a minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) an adolescent is brought to an evaluation and treatment facility or hospital emergency room for immediate mental health services, the professional person in charge of the facility shall evaluate the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's mental condition, determine whether the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent suffers from a mental disorder, and whether the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is in need of immediate inpatient treatment.

(2) If ((~~a minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) an adolescent is brought to a secure detoxification facility or a hospital emergency room for immediate substance use disorder treatment, the professional person in charge of the facility shall evaluate the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's condition, determine whether the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent suffers from a substance use disorder, and whether the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is in need of immediate inpatient treatment.

(3) If it is determined under subsection (1) or (2) of this section that the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent suffers from a mental disorder or substance use disorder, inpatient treatment is required, the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is unwilling to consent to voluntary admission, and the professional person believes that the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent meets the criteria for initial detention set forth herein, the facility may detain or arrange for the detention of the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent for up to twelve hours in order to enable a designated crisis responder to evaluate the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent and commence initial detention proceedings under the provisions of this chapter.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.710 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 269 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a)(i) When a designated crisis responder receives information that ((~~a minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) an adolescent as a result of a mental disorder presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, has investigated the specific facts alleged and of the credibility of the person or persons providing the information, and has determined that voluntary admission for inpatient treatment is not possible, the designated crisis responder may take the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent, or cause the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent to be taken, into custody and transported to an evaluation and treatment facility providing inpatient treatment.

(ii) When a designated crisis responder receives information that ((~~a minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) an adolescent as a result of a substance use disorder presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, has investigated the specific facts alleged and of the credibility of the person or persons providing the information, and has determined that voluntary admission for inpatient treatment is not possible, the designated crisis responder may take the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent, or cause the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent to be taken, into custody and transported to a secure detoxification facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program, if a secure detoxification facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program is available and has adequate space for the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent.

(b) If the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is not taken into custody for evaluation and treatment, the parent who has custody of the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent may seek review of that decision made by the designated crisis responder in court. The parent shall file notice with the court and provide a copy of the designated crisis responder's report or notes.

(2) Within twelve hours of the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's arrival at the evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program, the designated crisis responder shall serve on the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent a copy of the petition for initial detention, notice of initial detention, and statement of rights. The designated crisis responder shall file with the court on the next judicial day following the initial detention the original petition for initial detention, notice of initial detention, and statement of rights along with an affidavit of service. The designated crisis responder shall commence service of the petition for initial detention and notice of the initial detention on the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's parent and the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's attorney as soon as possible following the initial detention.

(3) At the time of initial detention, the designated crisis responder shall advise the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent both orally and in writing that if admitted to the evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program for inpatient treatment, a commitment hearing shall be held within seventy-two hours of the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's provisional acceptance to determine whether probable cause exists to commit the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent for further treatment.

The ((~~minor~~)) adolescent shall be advised that he or she has a right to communicate immediately with an attorney and that he or she has a right to have an attorney appointed to represent him or her before and at the hearing if the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is indigent.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, whenever the designated crisis responder petitions for detention of ((~~a minor~~)) an adolescent under this chapter, an evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program providing seventy-two hour evaluation and treatment must immediately accept on a provisional basis the petition and the person. Within twenty-four hours of the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's arrival, the facility must evaluate the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's condition and either admit or release the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent in accordance with this chapter.

(5) A designated crisis responder may not petition for detention of ((~~a minor~~)) an adolescent to a secure detoxification facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program unless there is a secure detoxification facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program available and that has adequate space for the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent.

(6) If ((~~a minor~~)) an adolescent is not approved for admission by the inpatient evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program, the facility shall make such recommendations and referrals for further care and treatment of the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent as necessary.

**Sec.**  RCW 71.34.710 and 2016 sp.s. c 29 s 270 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a)(i) When a designated crisis responder receives information that ((~~a minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) an adolescent as a result of a mental disorder presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, has investigated the specific facts alleged and of the credibility of the person or persons providing the information, and has determined that voluntary admission for inpatient treatment is not possible, the designated crisis responder may take the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent, or cause the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent to be taken, into custody and transported to an evaluation and treatment facility providing inpatient treatment.

(ii) When a designated crisis responder receives information that ((~~a minor, thirteen years or older,~~)) an adolescent as a result of a substance use disorder presents a likelihood of serious harm or is gravely disabled, has investigated the specific facts alleged and of the credibility of the person or persons providing the information, and has determined that voluntary admission for inpatient treatment is not possible, the designated crisis responder may take the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent, or cause the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent to be taken, into custody and transported to a secure detoxification facility or approved substance use disorder treatment program.

(b) If the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is not taken into custody for evaluation and treatment, the parent who has custody of the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent may seek review of that decision made by the designated crisis responder in court. The parent shall file notice with the court and provide a copy of the designated crisis responder's report or notes.

(2) Within twelve hours of the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's arrival at the evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program, the designated crisis responder shall serve on the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent a copy of the petition for initial detention, notice of initial detention, and statement of rights. The designated crisis responder shall file with the court on the next judicial day following the initial detention the original petition for initial detention, notice of initial detention, and statement of rights along with an affidavit of service. The designated crisis responder shall commence service of the petition for initial detention and notice of the initial detention on the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's parent and the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's attorney as soon as possible following the initial detention.

(3) At the time of initial detention, the designated crisis responder shall advise the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent both orally and in writing that if admitted to the evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program for inpatient treatment, a commitment hearing shall be held within seventy-two hours of the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's provisional acceptance to determine whether probable cause exists to commit the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent for further treatment.

The ((~~minor~~)) adolescent shall be advised that he or she has a right to communicate immediately with an attorney and that he or she has a right to have an attorney appointed to represent him or her before and at the hearing if the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent is indigent.

(4) Whenever the designated crisis responder petitions for detention of ((~~a minor~~)) an adolescent under this chapter, an evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program providing seventy-two hour evaluation and treatment must immediately accept on a provisional basis the petition and the person. Within twenty-four hours of the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's arrival, the facility must evaluate the ((~~minor's~~)) adolescent's condition and either admit or release the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent in accordance with this chapter.

(5) If ((~~a minor~~)) an adolescent is not approved for admission by the inpatient evaluation and treatment facility, secure detoxification facility, or approved substance use disorder treatment program, the facility shall make such recommendations and referrals for further care and treatment of the ((~~minor~~)) adolescent as necessary.

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

(1) A mental health professional providing treatment to an adolescent may provide treatment information pursuant to subsection (2) of this section without the consent of the adolescent to a parent or legal guardian who is involved in the treatment of the adolescent when the mental health professional determines that sharing this information would not be detrimental to the adolescent.

(2) The treatment information that a mental health professional can disclose pursuant to subsection (1) of this section includes the following:

(a) Diagnosis;

(b) Treatment plan and progress in treatment;

(c) Recommended medications, including risks, benefits, side effects, typical efficacy, dose, and schedule;

(d) Psychoeducation about the adolescent's mental health or substance use condition;

(e) Referrals to community resources;

(f) Coaching on parenting or behavioral management strategies; and

(g) Crisis prevention planning and safety planning.

(3) In the event a mental health professional discloses treatment information of an adolescent pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the mental health professional must provide notice of this disclosure to the adolescent and the adolescent must have an opportunity to express any concerns about this disclosure to the mental health professional before disclosure of the treatment information. The mental health professional shall document any objections to disclosure in the adolescent's medical record if the mental health professional discloses treatment information over the objection of the adolescent.

(4) If the mental health professional determines that disclosure of information pursuant to subsection (1) of this section would be detrimental to the adolescent and declines to disclose such information, the mental health professional shall document the reasons for the lack of disclosure in the adolescent's medical record.

(5) An adolescent, parent, or legal guardian is allowed to authorize release of mental health treatment records to a current treatment provider or to a potential treatment provider for the purpose of facilitating referrals for additional mental health treatment services. A mental health treatment provider shall release records following direction from a parent or legal guardian pursuant to this subsection, unless the treatment provider believes that the release of information would be detrimental to the adolescent.

(a) The family shall make efforts to jointly agree on the release of information to treatment providers pursuant to this subsection.

(b) If the mental health professional declines to allow release of information pursuant to this subsection, the provider shall document reasons for not releasing the information in the medical record.

(c) Treatment records may not be released pursuant to this subsection for conversion therapy as defined in RCW 18.130.020.

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

A mental health professional providing inpatient or outpatient mental health treatment is not liable for an action regarding the following:

(1) Releasing information to a parent without an adolescent's consent pursuant to section 10 of this act if it is determined by the professional that release of the information would not be detrimental to the adolescent; or

(2) Declining to release information to a parent or legal guardian pursuant to section 10 of this act if it is determined by the professional that release of the information would be detrimental to the adolescent.

**Sec.**  RCW 74.13.280 and 2018 c 284 s 45 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in RCW 70.02.220, whenever a child is placed in out-of-home care by the department or with an agency, the department or agency shall share information known to the department or agency about the child and the child's family with the care provider and shall consult with the care provider regarding the child's case plan. If the child is dependent pursuant to a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW, the department or agency shall keep the care provider informed regarding the dates and location of dependency review and permanency planning hearings pertaining to the child.

(2) Information about the child and the child's family shall include information known to the department or agency as to whether the child is a sexually reactive child, has exhibited high-risk behaviors, or is physically assaultive or physically aggressive, as defined in this section.

(3) Information about the child shall also include information known to the department or agency that the child:

(a) Has received a medical diagnosis of fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effect;

(b) Has been diagnosed by a qualified mental health professional as having a mental health disorder;

(c) Has witnessed a death or substantial physical violence in the past or recent past; or

(d) Was a victim of sexual or severe physical abuse in the recent past.

(4) Any person who receives information about a child or a child's family pursuant to this section shall keep the information confidential and shall not further disclose or disseminate the information except as authorized by law. Care providers shall agree in writing to keep the information that they receive confidential and shall affirm that the information will not be further disclosed or disseminated, except as authorized by law.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the department or an agency to disclose client information or to maintain client confidentiality as provided by law.

(6) ((~~As used in~~)) The department may share the following mental health treatment records with a care provider, even if the child does not consent to releasing those records, if the department has initiated treatment pursuant to RCW 71.34.600:

(a) Diagnosis;

(b) Treatment plan and progress in treatment;

(c) Recommended medications, including risks, benefits, side effects, typical efficacy, dose, and schedule;

(d) Psychoeducation about the child's mental health or substance use disorder condition;

(e) Referrals to community resources;

(f) Coaching on parenting or behavioral management strategies; and

(g) Crisis prevention planning and safety planning.

(7) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Sexually reactive child" means a child who exhibits sexual behavior problems including, but not limited to, sexual behaviors that are developmentally inappropriate for their age or are harmful to the child or others.

(b) "High-risk behavior" means an observed or reported and documented history of one or more of the following:

(i) Suicide attempts or suicidal behavior or ideation;

(ii) Self-mutilation or similar self-destructive behavior;

(iii) Fire-setting or a developmentally inappropriate fascination with fire;

(iv) Animal torture;

(v) Property destruction; or

(vi) Substance or alcohol abuse.

(c) "Physically assaultive or physically aggressive" means a child who exhibits one or more of the following behaviors that are developmentally inappropriate and harmful to the child or to others:

(i) Observed assaultive behavior;

(ii) Reported and documented history of the child willfully assaulting or inflicting bodily harm; or

(iii) Attempting to assault or inflict bodily harm on other children or adults under circumstances where the child has the apparent ability or capability to carry out the attempted assaults including threats to use a weapon.

(d) "Care provider" means a person with whom a child is placed in out-of-home care, or a designated official for a group care facility licensed by the department.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act may be known and cited as the adolescent behavioral health care access act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 6 and 8 of this act expire July 1, 2026.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 7 and 9 of this act take effect July 1, 2026.

**--- END ---**