
SENATE BILL 5099

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Fairley

Read first time 01/11/95. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to community public health and safety networks; and
2 amending RCW 70.190.005, 70.190.070, and 70.190.080.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.190.005 and 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 301 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that a primary goal of public involvement in
7 the lives of children has been to strengthen the family unit.

8 However, the legislature recognizes that traditional two-parent
9 families with one parent routinely at home are now in the minority. In
10 addition, extended family and natural community supports have eroded
11 drastically. The legislature recognizes that public policy assumptions
12 must be altered to account for this new social reality. Public effort
13 must be redirected to expand, support, strengthen, and help reconstruct
14 family and community networks to assist in meeting the needs of
15 children.

16 The legislature finds that a broad variety of services for children
17 and families has been independently designed over the years and that
18 the coordination and cost-effectiveness of these services will be
19 enhanced through the adoption of an approach that allows communities to

1 prioritize and coordinate services to meet their local needs. The
2 legislature further finds that the most successful programs for
3 reaching and working with at-risk families and children treat
4 individuals' problems in the context of the family, offer a broad
5 spectrum of services, are flexible in the use of program resources, and
6 use staff who are trained in crossing traditional program categories in
7 order to broker services necessary to fully meet a family's needs.

8 The legislature further finds that eligibility criteria,
9 expenditure restrictions, and reporting requirements of state and
10 federal categorical programs often create barriers toward the effective
11 use of resources for addressing the multiple problems of at-risk
12 families and children.

13 The purposes of this chapter are (1) to modify public policy and
14 programs to empower communities to support and respond to the needs of
15 (~~individual families and~~) children and youth at risk and (2) to
16 improve the responsiveness of services for children and (~~families~~)
17 youth at risk by facilitating greater coordination and flexibility in
18 the use of funds by state and local service agencies.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.190.070 and 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 304 are each amended
20 to read as follows:

21 The community public health and safety networks shall:

22 (1) Review state and local public health data and analysis relating
23 to risk factors, protective factors, and at-risk children and youth;

24 (2) Prioritize the risk factors and protective factors to reduce
25 the likelihood of their children and youth being at risk. The
26 priorities shall be based upon public health data and assessment and
27 policy development standards provided by the department of health under
28 RCW 43.70.555;

29 (3) Develop long-term comprehensive plans to reduce the rate of at-
30 risk children and youth; set definitive, measurable goals, based upon
31 the department of health standards; and project their desired outcomes;

32 (4) Distribute funds to local programs that reflect the locally
33 established priorities and as provided in RCW 70.190.140. Except as
34 otherwise authorized in this chapter, local programs shall be directed
35 at at-risk children and youth as the primary recipients of services;

36 (5) Comply with outcome-based standards;

37 (6) Cooperate with the department of health and local boards of
38 health to provide data and determine outcomes; and

1 (7) Coordinate its efforts with anti-drug use efforts and
2 organizations and maintain a high priority for combatting drug use by
3 at-risk youth.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.190.080 and 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 305 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The community network's plan may include a program to provide
7 postsecondary scholarships to at-risk students who: (a) Are community
8 role models under criteria established by the community network; (b)
9 successfully complete high school; and (c) maintain at least a 2.5
10 grade point average throughout high school. Funding for the
11 scholarships may include public and private sources.

12 (2) The community network's plan may also include funding of
13 community-based home visitor programs which are designed to reduce the
14 incidence of child abuse and neglect (~~(with [within])~~) within the
15 network. Parents shall sign a voluntary authorization for services,
16 which may be withdrawn at any time. The program may provide parents
17 with education and support either in parents' homes or in other
18 locations comfortable for parents, beginning with the birth of their
19 first baby. The program may make the following services available to
20 the families:

21 (a) Visits for all expectant or new parents, either at the parent's
22 home or another location with which the parent is comfortable;

23 (b) Screening before or soon after the birth of a child to assess
24 the family's strengths and goals and define areas of concern in
25 consultation with the family;

26 (c) Parenting education and skills development;

27 (d) Parenting and family support information and referral;

28 (e) Parent support groups; and

29 (f) Service coordination for individual families, and assistance
30 with accessing services, provided in a manner that ensures that
31 individual families have only one individual or agency to which they
32 look for service coordination. Where appropriate for a family, service
33 coordination may be conducted through interdisciplinary or interagency
34 teams.

35 These programs are intended to be voluntary for the parents
36 involved.

37 (3) The community network may include funding of:

1 (a) At-risk youth job placement and training programs. The
2 programs shall:

3 (i) Identify and recruit at-risk youth for local job opportunities;
4 (ii) Provide skills and needs assessments for each youth recruited;
5 (iii) Provide career and occupational counseling to each youth
6 recruited;

7 (iv) Identify businesses willing to provide employment and training
8 opportunities for at-risk youth;

9 (v) Match each youth recruited with a business that meets his or
10 her skills and training needs;

11 (vi) Provide employment and training opportunities that prepare the
12 individual for demand occupations; and

13 (vii) Include, to the extent possible, collaboration of business,
14 labor, education and training, community organizations, and local
15 government;

16 (b) Employment assistance, including job development, school-to-
17 work placement, employment readiness training, basic skills,
18 apprenticeships, job mentoring, and private sector and community
19 service employment for at-risk youth;

20 (c) Education assistance, including tutoring, mentoring,
21 interactions with role models, entrepreneurial education and projects,
22 violence prevention training, safe school strategies, and employment
23 reentry assistance services for at-risk children and youth;

24 (d) Peer-to-peer, group, and individual counseling, including
25 crisis intervention, for at-risk youth and their parents;

26 (e) Youth coalitions that provide opportunities for at-risk
27 children and youth to develop leadership skills and gain appropriate
28 respect, recognition, and rewards for their positive contribution to
29 their community;

30 (f) Technical assistance to applicants to increase their
31 organizational capacity and to improve the likelihood of a successful
32 application; and

33 (g) Technical assistance and training resources to successful
34 applicants.

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