
SENATE BILL 6514

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Senators Long, Hargrove, Schow, Kohl and Winsley

Read first time 01/16/96. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to preservation services; amending RCW 74.14C.010,
2 74.14C.020, and 74.14C.030; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends this act to
5 accomplish the following: (1) Expand the availability and
6 effectiveness of preservation services through the use of
7 paraprofessional workers and community support systems, on a cost-
8 effective basis; (2) improve the quality of preservation services by
9 ensuring follow-up services; (3) increase the amount of time
10 preservation services are made available to a family; and (4) increase
11 the overall cost-effectiveness of the services.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.14C.010 and 1995 c 311 s 2 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

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

16 (1) "Department" means the department of social and health
17 services.

1 (2) "Community support systems" means the support that may be
2 provided through extended family members, friends, neighbors, religious
3 organizations, community programs, cultural and ethnic organizations,
4 or other support groups or organizations.

5 (3) "Family preservation services" means in-home or community-based
6 services drawing on the strengths of the family and its individual
7 members while addressing family needs to strengthen and keep the family
8 together where possible and may include:

9 (a) Respite care of children to provide temporary relief for
10 parents and other caregivers;

11 (b) Services designed to improve parenting skills with respect to
12 such matters as child development, family budgeting, coping with
13 stress, health, safety, and nutrition; and

14 (c) Services designed to promote the well-being of children and
15 families, increase the strength and stability of families, increase
16 parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities,
17 promote a safe, stable, and supportive family environment for children,
18 and otherwise enhance children's development.

19 Family preservation services shall have the characteristics
20 delineated in RCW 74.14C.020 (2) and (3).

21 (~~(3)~~) (4) "Imminent" means a decision has been made by the
22 department that, without intensive family preservation services, a
23 petition requesting the removal of a child from the family home will be
24 immediately filed under chapter 13.32A or 13.34 RCW, or that a
25 voluntary placement agreement will be immediately initiated.

26 (~~(4)~~) (5) "Intensive family preservation services" means
27 community-based services that are delivered primarily in the home, that
28 follow intensive service models with demonstrated effectiveness in
29 reducing or avoiding the need for unnecessary imminent out-of-home
30 placement, and that have all of the characteristics delineated in RCW
31 74.14C.020 (1) and (3).

32 (~~(5)~~) (6) "Out-of-home placement" means a placement in a foster
33 family home or group care facility licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15
34 RCW or placement in a home, other than that of the child's parent,
35 guardian, or legal custodian, not required to be licensed pursuant to
36 chapter 74.15 RCW.

37 (~~(6)~~) (7) "Paraprofessional worker" means any individual who is
38 trained and qualified to provide family skill building and community

1 support development who acts under the supervision of a preservation
2 services therapist.

3 (8) "Preservation services" means family preservation services and
4 intensive family preservation services that consider the individual
5 family's cultural values and needs.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.14C.020 and 1995 c 311 s 3 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) Intensive family preservation services shall have all of the
9 following characteristics:

10 (a) Services are provided by specially trained service providers
11 who have received at least forty hours of training from recognized
12 intensive in-home services experts. Service providers deliver the
13 services in the family's home, and other environments of the family,
14 such as their neighborhood or schools;

15 (b) Caseload size averages two families per service provider,
16 unless paraprofessional workers are utilized, in which case they may
17 average up to five families;

18 (c) The services to the family are provided by a single service
19 provider who may be assisted by paraprofessional workers, with backup
20 providers identified to provide assistance as necessary;

21 (d) Services are available to the family within twenty-four hours
22 following receipt of a referral to the program;

23 (e) Duration of service is limited to a maximum of ~~((forty))~~ ninety
24 days, unless the department ((authorizes an additional provision of
25 service through an exception to policy)) requires additional follow-up
26 on an individual case basis.

27 (2) Family preservation services shall have all of the following
28 characteristics:

29 (a) Services are delivered primarily in the family home or
30 community;

31 (b) Services are committed to reinforcing the strengths of the
32 family and its members and empowering the family to solve problems and
33 become self-sufficient;

34 (c) Services are committed to providing support to families through
35 community organizations including but not limited to school, church,
36 cultural, ethnic, neighborhood, and business;

37 (d) Services are available to the family within forty-eight hours
38 of referral unless an exception is noted in the file;

1 (e) Duration of service is limited to a maximum of (~~ninety days~~)
2 six months, unless the department (~~authorizes an additional provision~~
3 ~~of service through an exception to policy~~) requires additional follow-
4 up on an individual case basis; and

5 (f) Caseload size no more than ten families per service provider,
6 which can be adjusted (~~according to exceptions defined~~) when
7 paraprofessional workers are used or required by the department.

8 (3) Preservation services shall include the following
9 characteristics:

10 (a) Services protect the child and strengthen the family;

11 (b) Service providers have the authority and discretion to spend
12 funds, up to a maximum amount specified by the department, to help
13 families obtain necessary food, shelter, or clothing, or to purchase
14 other goods or services that will enhance the effectiveness of
15 intervention;

16 (c) Services are available to the family twenty-four hours a day
17 and seven days a week;

18 (d) Services enhance parenting skills, family and personal self-
19 sufficiency, functioning of the family, and reduce stress on families;
20 and

21 (e) Services help families locate and use additional assistance
22 including, but not limited to, the development and maintenance of
23 community support systems, counseling and treatment services, housing,
24 child care, education, job training, emergency cash grants, state and
25 federally funded public assistance, and other basic support services.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.14C.030 and 1995 c 311 s 4 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 (1) The department shall be the lead administrative agency for
29 preservation services and may receive funding from any source for the
30 implementation or expansion of such services. The department shall:

31 (a) Provide coordination and planning with the advice of the
32 community networks for the implementation and expansion of preservation
33 services; (~~and~~)

34 (b) Monitor and evaluate such services to determine whether the
35 programs meet measurable standards specified by this chapter and the
36 department;

1 (c) Require the use of paraprofessional workers in all preservation
2 services contracts, and when the services are delivered by the
3 department; and

4 (d) Require follow-up services to be provided, on an individual
5 case basis, for a period of up to one year after the initial delivery
6 of preservation services.

7 (2) In carrying out the requirements of this section, the
8 department shall consult with qualified agencies that have demonstrated
9 expertise and experience in preservation services.

10 (3) The department may provide preservation services directly and
11 shall, within available funds, enter into outcome-based, competitive
12 contracts with social service agencies to provide preservation
13 services, provided that such agencies meet measurable standards
14 specified by this chapter and by the department. The standards shall
15 include, but not be limited to, satisfactory performance in the
16 following areas:

17 (a) The number of families appropriately connected to community
18 resources;

19 (b) Avoidance of new referrals accepted by the department for child
20 protective services or family reconciliation services within one year
21 of the most recent case closure by the department;

22 (c) Consumer satisfaction;

23 (d) For reunification cases, reduction in the length of stay in
24 out-of-home placement; and

25 (e) Reduction in the level of risk factors specified by the
26 department.

27 (4)(a) The department shall not provide intensive family
28 preservation services unless it is demonstrated that provision of such
29 services prevent out-of-home placement in at least seventy percent of
30 the cases served for a period of at least ~~((six months))~~ one year
31 following termination of services. The department's caseworkers may
32 only provide preservation services if there is no other qualified
33 entity willing or able to do so.

34 (b) Contractors shall demonstrate that provision of intensive
35 family preservation services prevent out-of-home placement in at least
36 seventy percent of the cases served for a period of ~~((no less than six~~
37 ~~months))~~ at least one year following termination of services. The
38 department may increase the period of time based on additional research
39 and data. If the contractor fails to meet the seventy percent

1 requirement the department may: (I) Review the conditions that may
2 have contributed to the failure to meet the standard and renew the
3 contract if the department determines: (A) The contractor is making
4 progress to meet the standard; or (B) conditions unrelated to the
5 provision of services, including case mix and severity of cases,
6 contributed to the failure; or (ii) reopen the contract for other bids.
7 (c) The department shall cooperate with any person who has a
8 contract under this section in providing data necessary to determine
9 the amount of reduction in foster care. For the purposes of this
10 subsection "prevent out-of-home placement" means that a child who has
11 been a recipient of intensive family preservation services has not been
12 placed outside of the home, other than for a single, temporary period
13 of time not exceeding fourteen days.

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