ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2834

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Walsh, Kagi, Fey, Kilduff, Stanford, and McBride; by request of Washington State Department of Commerce)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

- AN ACT Relating to implementing the homeless youth prevention and protection act of 2015; amending RCW 43.185C.010, 43.185C.180,
- 3 43.185C.250, 43.185C.260, 43.185C.280, 43.185C.285, 43.185C.295,
- 4 43.185C.320, 43.185C.325, and 43.185C.330; and reenacting and
- 5 amending RCW 13.50.010.
- 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.50.010 and 2015 c 265 s 2 and 2015 c 262 s 1 are 8 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 9 (1) For purposes of this chapter:
- 10 (a) "Good faith effort to pay" means a juvenile offender has
 11 either (i) paid the principal amount in full; (ii) made at least
 12 eighty percent of the value of full monthly payments within the
 13 period from disposition or deferred disposition until the time the
 14 amount of restitution owed is under review; or (iii) can show good
 15 cause why he or she paid an amount less than eighty percent of the
 16 value of full monthly payments;
- 17 (b) "Juvenile justice or care agency" means any of the following: 18 Police, diversion units, court, prosecuting attorney, 19 attorney, detention center, attorney general, legislative the children's oversight committee, the office of 20 the family and 21 children's ombuds, the department of social and health services and

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its contracting agencies, schools; persons or public or private agencies having children committed to their custody; and any placement oversight committee created under RCW 72.05.415;

- (c) "Official juvenile court file" means the legal file of the juvenile court containing the petition or information, motions, memorandums, briefs, findings of the court, and court orders;
- (d) "Records" means the official juvenile court file, the social file, and records of any other juvenile justice or care agency in the case;
- 10 (e) "Social file" means the juvenile court file containing the 11 records and reports of the probation counselor.
 - (2) Each petition or information filed with the court may include only one juvenile and each petition or information shall be filed under a separate docket number. The social file shall be filed separately from the official juvenile court file.
- 16 (3) It is the duty of any juvenile justice or care agency to 17 maintain accurate records. To this end:
 - (a) The agency may never knowingly record inaccurate information. Any information in records maintained by the department of social and health services relating to a petition filed pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW that is found by the court to be false or inaccurate shall be corrected or expunged from such records by the agency;
- 23 (b) An agency shall take reasonable steps to assure the security 24 of its records and prevent tampering with them; and
 - (c) An agency shall make reasonable efforts to insure the completeness of its records, including action taken by other agencies with respect to matters in its files.
 - (4) Each juvenile justice or care agency shall implement procedures consistent with the provisions of this chapter to facilitate inquiries concerning records.
 - (5) Any person who has reasonable cause to believe information concerning that person is included in the records of a juvenile justice or care agency and who has been denied access to those records by the agency may make a motion to the court for an order authorizing that person to inspect the juvenile justice or care agency record concerning that person. The court shall grant the motion to examine records unless it finds that in the interests of justice or in the best interests of the juvenile the records or parts of them should remain confidential.

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(6) A juvenile, or his or her parents, or any person who has reasonable cause to believe information concerning that person is included in the records of a juvenile justice or care agency may make a motion to the court challenging the accuracy of any information concerning the moving party in the record or challenging the continued possession of the record by the agency. If the court grants the motion, it shall order the record or information to be corrected or destroyed.

- (7) The person making a motion under subsection (5) or (6) of this section shall give reasonable notice of the motion to all parties to the original action and to any agency whose records will be affected by the motion.
- (8) The court may permit inspection of records by, or release of information to, any clinic, hospital, or agency which has the subject person under care or treatment. The court may also permit inspection by or release to individuals or agencies, including juvenile justice advisory committees of county law and justice councils, engaged in legitimate research for educational, scientific, or public purposes. Each person granted permission to inspect juvenile justice or care agency records for research purposes shall present a notarized statement to the court stating that the names of juveniles and parents will remain confidential.
- (9) The court shall release to the caseload forecast council the records needed for its research and data-gathering functions. Access to caseload forecast data may be permitted by the council for research purposes only if the anonymity of all persons mentioned in the records or information will be preserved.
- (10) Juvenile detention facilities shall release records to the caseload forecast council upon request. The commission shall not disclose the names of any juveniles or parents mentioned in the records without the named individual's written permission.
- (11) Requirements in this chapter relating to the court's authority to compel disclosure shall not apply to the legislative children's oversight committee or the office of the family and children's ombuds.
- (12) For the purpose of research only, the administrative office of the courts shall maintain an electronic research copy of all records in the judicial information system related to juveniles. Access to the research copy is restricted to the Washington state center for court research. The Washington state center for court

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- research shall maintain the confidentiality of all confidential records and shall preserve the anonymity of all persons identified in the research copy. The research copy may not be subject to any records retention schedule and must include records destroyed or removed from the judicial information system pursuant to RCW 13.50.270 and 13.50.100(3).
- 7 (13) The court shall release to the Washington state office of public defense records needed to implement the agency's oversight, 8 technical assistance, and other functions as required by RCW 9 2.70.020. Access to the records used as a basis for oversight, 10 11 technical assistance, or other agency functions is restricted to the 12 Washington state office of public defense. The Washington state office of public defense shall maintain the confidentiality of all 13 confidential information included in the records. 14

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- (14) The court shall release to the Washington state office of civil legal aid records needed to implement the agency's oversight, technical assistance, and other functions as required by RCW 2.53.045. Access to the records used as a basis for oversight, technical assistance, or other agency functions is restricted to the Washington state office of civil legal aid. The Washington state office of civil legal aid aid. The Washington state office of civil legal aid shall maintain the confidentiality of all confidential information included in the records, and shall, as soon as possible, destroy any retained notes or records obtained under this section that are not necessary for its functions related to RCW 2.53.045.
- 26 (15) For the purpose of providing for the service needs of youth who are in foster care, the department of social and health services 27 may disclose to the department of commerce, and its contractors, 28 those confidential child welfare records that pertain to or may 29 assist with meeting the service needs of youth admitted to crisis 30 31 residential centers or HOPE centers under contract to the office of 32 homeless youth prevention and protection. Records disclosed under this subsection retain their confidentiality, and may not be further 33 disclosed except as permitted by law. 34
- 35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.185C.010 and 2015 c 69 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:
- The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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- 1 (1) "Administrator" means the individual who has the daily 2 administrative responsibility of a crisis residential center.
 - (2) "Child in need of services petition" means a petition filed in juvenile court by a parent, child, or the department of social and health services seeking adjudication of placement of the child.
 - (3) "Community action agency" means a nonprofit private or public organization established under the economic opportunity act of 1964.
 - (4) "Crisis residential center" means a secure or semi-secure facility established pursuant to chapter 74.13 RCW.
 - (5) "Department" means the department of commerce.

- (6) "Director" means the director of the department of commerce.
- (7) "Home security fund account" means the state treasury account receiving the state's portion of income from revenue from the sources established by RCW 36.22.179, RCW 36.22.1791, and all other sources directed to the homeless housing and assistance program.
- (8) "Homeless housing grant program" means the vehicle by which competitive grants are awarded by the department, utilizing moneys from the home security fund account, to local governments for programs directly related to housing homeless individuals and families, addressing the root causes of homelessness, preventing homelessness, collecting data on homeless individuals, and other efforts directly related to housing homeless persons.
- 23 (9) "Homeless housing plan" means the ten-year plan developed by 24 the county or other local government to address housing for homeless 25 persons.
 - (10) "Homeless housing program" means the program authorized under this chapter as administered by the department at the state level and by the local government or its designated subcontractor at the local level.
 - (11) "Homeless housing strategic plan" means the ten-year plan developed by the department, in consultation with the interagency council on homelessness and the affordable housing advisory board.
 - (12) "Homeless person" means an individual living outside or in a building not meant for human habitation or which they have no legal right to occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program which may include a transitional and supportive housing program if habitation time limits exist. This definition includes substance abusers, people with mental illness, and sex offenders who are homeless.

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- 1 (13) "HOPE center" means an agency licensed by the secretary to provide temporary residential placement and other services to street 2 youth. A street youth may remain in a HOPE center for thirty days 3 while services are arranged and permanent placement is coordinated. 4 No street youth may stay longer than thirty days unless approved by 5 6 the department and any additional days approved by the department 7 must be based on the unavailability of a long-term placement option. A street youth whose parent wants him or her returned to home may 8 remain in a HOPE center until his or her parent arranges return of 9 the youth, not longer. All other street youth must have court 10 11 approval under chapter 13.34 or 13.32A RCW to remain in a HOPE center 12 up to thirty days.
- 13 (14) "Housing authority" means any of the public corporations 14 created by chapter 35.82 RCW.

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- (15) "Housing continuum" means the progression of individuals along a housing-focused continuum with homelessness at one end and homeownership at the other.
- (16) "Interagency council on homelessness" means a committee appointed by the governor and consisting of, at least, policy level representatives of the following entities: (a) The department of commerce; (b) the department of corrections; (c) the department of social and health services; (d) the department of veterans affairs; and (e) the department of health.
- (17) "Local government" means a county government in the state of Washington or a city government, if the legislative authority of the city affirmatively elects to accept the responsibility for housing homeless persons within its borders.
- (18) "Local homeless housing task force" means a voluntary local committee created to advise a local government on the creation of a local homeless housing plan and participate in a local homeless housing program. It must include a representative of the county, a representative of the largest city located within the county, at least one homeless or formerly homeless person, such other members as may be required to maintain eligibility for federal funding related to housing programs and services and if feasible, a representative of a private nonprofit organization with experience in low-income housing.
- 38 (19) "Long-term private or public housing" means subsidized and 39 unsubsidized rental or owner-occupied housing in which there is no 40 established time limit for habitation of less than two years.

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1 (20) "Performance measurement" means the process of comparing 2 specific measures of success against ultimate and interim goals.

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- (21) "Secure facility" means a crisis residential center, or portion thereof, that has locking doors, locking windows, or a secured perimeter, designed and operated to prevent a child from leaving without permission of the facility staff.
- 7 (22) "Semi-secure facility" means any facility including, but not limited to, crisis residential centers or specialized foster family 8 homes, operated in a manner to reasonably assure that youth placed 9 there will not run away. Pursuant to rules established by the 10 department, the facility administrator shall establish reasonable 11 12 hours for residents to come and go from the facility such that no residents are free to come and go at all hours of the day and night. 13 To prevent residents from taking unreasonable actions, the facility 14 administrator, where appropriate, may condition a resident's leaving 15 16 the facility upon the resident being accompanied by the administrator 17 or the administrator's designee and the resident may be required to 18 notify the administrator or the administrator's designee of any 19 intent to leave, his or her intended destination, and the probable time of his or her return to the center. 20
- 21 (23) "Staff secure facility" means a structured group care 22 facility licensed under rules adopted by the department of social and 23 health services with a ratio of at least one adult staff member to 24 every two children.
 - (24) "Washington homeless census" means an annual statewide census conducted as a collaborative effort by towns, cities, counties, community-based organizations, and state agencies, with the technical support and coordination of the department, to count and collect data on all homeless individuals in Washington.
 - (25) "Washington homeless client management information system" means a database of information about homeless individuals in the state used to coordinate resources to assist homeless clients to obtain and retain housing and reach greater levels of self-sufficiency or economic independence when appropriate, depending upon their individual situations.
- 36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.185C.180 and 2011 c 239 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:
- 38 (1) In order to improve services for the homeless, the 39 department, within amounts appropriated by the legislature for this

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specific purpose, shall implement the Washington homeless client management information system for the ongoing collection and updates of information about all homeless individuals in the state.

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- (2) Information about homeless individuals for the Washington homeless client management information system shall come from the Washington homeless census and from state agencies and community organizations providing services to homeless individuals and families.
- (a) Personally identifying information about homeless individuals for the Washington homeless client management information system may only be collected after having obtained informed, reasonably time limited (i) written consent from the homeless individual to whom the information relates, or (ii) telephonic consent from the homeless individual, provided that written consent is obtained at the first time the individual is physically present at an organization with access to the Washington homeless client management information system. Safeguards consistent with federal requirements on data collection must be in place to protect homeless individuals' rights regarding their personally identifying information.
- (b) Data collection under this subsection shall be done in a manner consistent with federally informed consent guidelines regarding human research which, at a minimum, require that individuals receive:
- 24 (i) Information about the expected duration of their 25 participation in the Washington homeless client management 26 information system;
 - (ii) An explanation of whom to contact for answers to pertinent questions about the data collection and their rights regarding their personal identifying information;
- (iii) An explanation regarding whom to contact in the event of injury to the individual related to the Washington homeless client management information system;
- 33 (iv) A description of any reasonably foreseeable risks to the 34 homeless individual; and
- (v) A statement describing the extent to which confidentiality of records identifying the individual will be maintained.
- 37 (c) The department must adopt policies governing the appropriate 38 process for destroying Washington homeless client management 39 information system paper documents containing personally identifying

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information when the paper documents are no longer needed. The policies must not conflict with any federal data requirements.

- (d) Any unaccompanied youth thirteen years of age or older may give consent for the collection of his or her personally identifying information under this section. As used in this subsection (2), "unaccompanied" has the definition in RCW 43.330.702.
- (3) The Washington homeless client management information system shall serve as an online information and referral system to enable local governments and providers to connect homeless persons in the database with available housing and other support services. Local governments shall develop a capacity for continuous case management, including independent living plans, when appropriate, to assist homeless persons.
- (4) The information in the Washington homeless client management information system will also provide the department with the information to consolidate and analyze data about the extent and nature of homelessness in Washington state, giving emphasis to information about the extent and nature of homelessness in Washington state among families with children.
- 20 (5) The system may be merged with other data gathering and 21 reporting systems and shall:
 - (a) Protect the right of privacy of individuals;
- 23 (b) Provide for consultation and collaboration with all relevant 24 state agencies including the department of social and health 25 services, experts, and community organizations involved in the 26 delivery of services to homeless persons; and
 - (c) Include related information held or gathered by other state agencies.
 - (6) Within amounts appropriated by the legislature, for this specific purpose, the department shall evaluate the information gathered and disseminate the analysis and the evaluation broadly, using appropriate computer networks as well as written reports.
 - (7) The Washington homeless client management information system shall be implemented by December 31, 2009, and updated with new homeless client information at least annually.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.185C.250 and 2015 c 69 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:
- 38 (1)(a) The administrator of a crisis residential center may 39 convene a multidisciplinary team, which is to be locally based and

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administered, at the request of a child placed at the center or the child's parent.

- (b) If the administrator has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a child in need of services and the parent is unavailable or unwilling to continue efforts to maintain the family structure, the administrator shall immediately convene a multidisciplinary team.
- (c) A parent may disband a team twenty-four hours, excluding weekends and holidays, after receiving notice of formation of the team under (b) of this subsection unless a petition has been filed under RCW 13.32A.140. If a petition has been filed the parent may not disband the team until the hearing is held under RCW 13.32A.179. The court may allow the team to continue if an out-of-home placement is ordered under RCW 13.32A.179(3). Upon the filing of an at-risk youth or dependency petition the team shall cease to exist, unless the parent requests continuation of the team or unless the out-of-home placement was ordered under RCW 13.32A.179(3).
- (2) The ((administrator)) department shall request participation of appropriate state agencies to assist in the coordination and delivery of services through the multidisciplinary teams. Those agencies that agree to participate shall provide the ((secretary)) director of the department or the director's designee all information necessary to facilitate forming a multidisciplinary team and the ((administrator)) director or the director's designee shall provide this information to the administrator of each crisis residential center.
- (3) The administrator shall also seek participation from representatives of mental health and drug and alcohol treatment providers as appropriate.
- (4) A parent shall be advised of the request to form a multidisciplinary team and may select additional members of the multidisciplinary team. The parent or child may request any person or persons to participate including, but not limited to, educators, law enforcement personnel, court personnel, family therapists, licensed health care practitioners, social service providers, youth residential placement providers, other family members, church representatives, and members of their own community. The administrator shall assist in obtaining the prompt participation of persons requested by the parent or child.

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- 1 (5) When an administrator of a crisis residential center requests 2 the formation of a team, the state agencies must respond as soon as 3 possible.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.185C.260 and 2015 c 69 s 13 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) A law enforcement officer shall take a child into custody:
- 7 (a) If a law enforcement agency has been contacted by the parent 8 of the child that the child is absent from parental custody without 9 consent; or
 - (b) If a law enforcement officer reasonably believes, considering the child's age, the location, and the time of day, that a child is in circumstances which constitute a danger to the child's safety or that a child is violating a local curfew ordinance; or
- 14 (c) If an agency legally charged with the supervision of a child 15 has notified a law enforcement agency that the child has run away 16 from placement; or
 - (d) If a law enforcement agency has been notified by the juvenile court that the court finds probable cause exists to believe that the child has violated a court placement order issued under this chapter or chapter 13.34 RCW or that the court has issued an order for law enforcement pick-up of the child under this chapter or chapter 13.34 RCW.
 - (2) Law enforcement custody shall not extend beyond the amount of time reasonably necessary to transport the child to a destination authorized by law and to place the child at that destination. Law enforcement custody continues until the law enforcement officer transfers custody to a person, agency, or other authorized entity under this chapter, or releases the child because no placement is available. Transfer of custody is not complete unless the person, agency, or entity to whom the child is released agrees to accept custody.
 - (3) If a law enforcement officer takes a child into custody pursuant to either subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section and transports the child to a crisis residential center, the officer shall, within twenty-four hours of delivering the child to the center, provide to the center a written report detailing the reasons the officer took the child into custody. The center shall provide the department of social and health services with a copy of the officer's report if the youth is a dependent.

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- 1 (4) If the law enforcement officer who initially takes the 2 juvenile into custody or the staff of the crisis residential center 3 have reasonable cause to believe that the child is absent from home 4 because he or she is abused or neglected, a report shall be made 5 immediately to the department of social and health services.
 - (5) Nothing in this section affects the authority of any political subdivision to make regulations concerning the conduct of minors in public places by ordinance or other local law.

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- 9 (6) If a law enforcement officer has a reasonable suspicion that 10 a child is being unlawfully harbored in violation of RCW 13.32A.080, 11 the officer shall remove the child from the custody of the person 12 harboring the child and shall transport the child to one of the 13 locations specified in RCW 43.185C.265.
- 14 (7) No child may be placed in a secure facility except as 15 provided in this chapter.
- 16 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.185C.280 and 2015 c 69 s 16 are each amended to read as follows:
- 18 (1) The administrator of a designated crisis residential center 19 shall perform the duties under subsection (3) of this section:
- 20 (a) Upon admitting a child who has been brought to the center by 21 a law enforcement officer under RCW 43.185C.265;
- (b) Upon admitting a child who has run away from home or has requested admittance to the center;
 - (c) Upon learning from a person under RCW 13.32A.082 that the person is providing shelter to a child absent from home; or
 - (d) Upon learning that a child has been placed with a responsible adult pursuant to RCW 43.185C.265.
 - (2) Transportation expenses of the child shall be at the parent's expense to the extent of his or her ability to pay, with any unmet transportation expenses assumed by the crisis residential center.
 - (3) When any of the circumstances under subsection (1) of this section are present, the administrator of a center shall perform the following duties:
- 34 (a) Immediately notify the child's parent of the child's 35 whereabouts, physical and emotional condition, and the circumstances 36 surrounding his or her placement;
- 37 (b) Initially notify the parent that it is the paramount concern 38 of the family reconciliation service personnel to achieve a 39 reconciliation between the parent and child to reunify the family and

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1 inform the parent as to the procedures to be followed under this 2 chapter;

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- (c) Inform the parent whether a referral to children's protective services has been made and, if so, inform the parent of the standard pursuant to RCW 26.44.020(1) governing child abuse and neglect in this state; and either
- (d)(i) Arrange transportation for the child to the residence of the parent, as soon as practicable, when the child and his or her parent agrees to the child's return home or when the parent produces a copy of a court order entered under this chapter requiring the child to reside in the parent's home; or
- (ii) Arrange transportation for the child to: (A) An out-of-home placement which may include a licensed group care facility or foster family when agreed to by the child and parent; or (B) a certified or licensed mental health or chemical dependency program of the parent's choice.
- 17 (4) If the administrator of the crisis residential center 18 performs the duties listed in subsection (3) of this section <u>for a</u> 19 <u>dependent child</u>, he or she shall also notify the department of social 20 and health services that a <u>dependent</u> child has been admitted to the 21 crisis residential center.
- 22 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.185C.285 and 2015 c 69 s 17 are each amended to 23 read as follows:

The administrator of a crisis residential center shall notify parents((,)) and the appropriate law enforcement agency((, and the department of social and health services)) immediately as to any unauthorized leave from the center by a child placed at the center.

The administrator shall also notify the department of social and health services immediately as to any unauthorized leave from the center by a dependent child placed at the center.

- Sec. 8. RCW 43.185C.295 and 2015 c 69 s 19 are each amended to read as follows:
- (1) The department shall establish, through performance-based contracts with private or public vendors, regional crisis residential centers with semi-secure facilities. These facilities shall be structured group care facilities licensed under rules adopted by the department of social and health services and shall have an average of

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at least four adult staff members and in no event less than three adult staff members to every eight children.

- (2) Crisis residential centers must record client information into a homeless management information system specified by the department.
- (3) Within available funds appropriated for this purpose, the department shall establish, through performance-based contracts with private or public vendors, regional crisis residential centers with secure facilities. These facilities shall be facilities licensed under rules adopted by the department. These centers may also include semi-secure facilities and to such extent shall be subject to subsection (1) of this section.
- (4) The department shall, in addition to the facilities established under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, establish additional crisis residential centers pursuant to performance-based contracts with licensed private group care facilities.
- (5) The department is authorized to allow contracting entities to include a combination of secure or semi-secure crisis residential centers as defined in RCW 13.32A.030 and/or HOPE centers pursuant to RCW 43.185C.315 in the same building or structure. The department shall permit the colocation of these centers only if the entity operating the facility agrees to designate a particular number of beds to each type of center that is located within the building or structure.
- (6) The staff at the facilities established under this section shall be trained so that they may effectively counsel juveniles admitted to the centers, provide treatment, supervision, and structure to the juveniles that recognize the need for support and the varying circumstances that cause children to leave their families, and carry out the responsibilities stated in RCW 43.185C.280.
- 32 (7) The secure facilities located within crisis residential 33 centers shall be operated to conform with the definition in RCW 34 13.32A.030. The facilities shall have an average of no less than one 35 adult staff member to every ten children. The staffing ratio shall 36 continue to ensure the safety of the children.
 - (8) If a secure crisis residential center is located in or adjacent to a secure juvenile detention facility, the center shall be operated in a manner that prevents in-person contact between the residents of the center and the persons held in such facility.

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Sec. 9. RCW 43.185C.320 and 2015 c 69 s 23 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

To be eligible for placement in a HOPE center, a minor must be either a street youth, as that term is defined in this chapter, or a youth who, without placement in a HOPE center, will continue to participate in increasingly risky behavior. Youth may also self-refer to a HOPE center. Payment for a HOPE center bed is not contingent upon prior approval by the department((; however, approval from the department of social and health services is needed if the youth is dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW)).

- **Sec. 10.** RCW 43.185C.325 and 1999 c 267 s 21 are each amended to 12 read as follows:
 - (1) The department shall provide technical assistance in preparation of grant proposals for HOPE centers ((and)) to nonprofit organizations unfamiliar with and inexperienced in submission of requests for proposals to the department.
- 17 (2) The department of social and health services shall provide
 18 technical assistance in preparation of grant proposals for
 19 responsible living skills programs to nonprofit organizations
 20 unfamiliar with and inexperienced in submission of requests for
 21 proposals to the department of social and health services.
- **Sec. 11.** RCW 43.185C.330 and 1999 c 267 s 22 are each amended to 23 read as follows:
- (1) The department shall consider prioritizing, on an ongoing basis, the awarding of contracts for HOPE centers ((and responsible living skills programs)) to providers who have not traditionally been awarded contracts with the department.
- 28 (2) The department of social and health services shall consider
 29 prioritizing, on an ongoing basis, the awarding of contracts for
 30 responsible living skills programs to providers who have not
 31 traditionally been awarded contracts with the department of social
 32 and health services.

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