
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6547

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Human Services (originally sponsored by Senators Sheldon, Niemi, Prentice and Anderson)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to mental health systems accountability; and adding
2 new sections to chapter 71.24 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the current
5 complex set of rules and regulations, audited and administered at
6 multiple levels of the mental health system, focus primarily on the
7 process of providing mental health services and do not sufficiently
8 address consumer and system outcomes. To this extent, the legislature
9 finds that the intent of RCW 71.24.015 related to reduced
10 administrative layering, duplication, and reduced administrative costs
11 need much more aggressive action.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of social and health services
13 shall establish a comprehensive and collaborative project within
14 regional support networks and with local mental health service
15 providers aimed at creating innovative and streamlined community mental
16 health service delivery systems, in order to carry out the purposes set
17 forth in section 1 of this act and to capture the diversity of the
18 community mental health service delivery system.

1 The project must accomplish the following:

2 (1) Identification, review, and cataloging of all rules,
3 regulations, duplicative administrative and monitoring functions, and
4 other requirements that currently lead to inefficiencies in the
5 community mental health service delivery system and, if possible,
6 eliminate the requirements;

7 (2) The systematic and incremental development of a single system
8 of accountability for all state-appropriated funds used to provide
9 mental health services. Assessment must be made regarding the
10 feasibility of also including federal and local funds into the single
11 system of accountability;

12 (3) The elimination of process regulations and related contract and
13 reporting requirements. In place of the regulations and requirements,
14 a set of outcomes for mental health clients according to chapter 71.24
15 RCW must be used to measure the performance of mental health service
16 providers;

17 (4) Evaluation of the feasibility of contractual agreements between
18 the department of social and health services and regional support
19 networks and mental health service providers that link financial
20 incentives to the success or failure of mental health service providers
21 and regional support networks to meet outcomes established for mental
22 health service clients; and

23 (5) An independent evaluation component to measure the success of
24 the projects.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The project established in section 2 of this
26 act must be implemented by July 1, 1995, in at least six regional
27 support networks, with annual progress reports submitted to the
28 appropriate committees of the legislature beginning November 1, 1994,
29 and in all regional support networks state-wide with full
30 implementation no later than July 1, 1997. In addition, the department
31 of social and health services, the participating regional support
32 networks, and the local mental health service providers shall report to
33 the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature on the
34 need for any changes in state statute, rule, policy, or procedure, and
35 any change in federal statute, regulation, policy, or procedure to
36 ensure the purposes specified in section 1 of this act are carried out.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** To carry out the purposes specified in
2 section 1 of this act, the department of social and health services is
3 encouraged to utilize its authority to immediately eliminate any
4 unnecessary rules, regulations, standards, or contracts, to immediately
5 eliminate duplication of audits or any other unnecessarily duplicated
6 functions, and to seek any waivers of federal or state rules or
7 regulations necessary to achieve the purpose of streamlining the mental
8 health system and infusing it with incentives that reward efficiency,
9 positive outcomes for clients, and quality services.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each
11 added to chapter 71.24 RCW.

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