
SENATE BILL 6024

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Snyder

Read first time 02/23/95. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to regional support networks; and amending RCW
2 71.24.300.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 71.24.300 and 1994 c 204 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 A county authority or a group of county authorities (~~whose~~
7 ~~combined population is no less than forty thousand~~) may enter into a
8 joint operating agreement to form a regional support network. Upon the
9 request of a tribal authority or authorities within a regional support
10 network the joint operating agreement or the county authority shall
11 allow for the inclusion of the tribal authority to be represented as a
12 party to the regional support network. The roles and responsibilities
13 of the county and tribal authorities shall be determined by the terms
14 of that agreement including a determination of membership on the
15 governing board and advisory committees, the number of tribal
16 representatives to be party to the agreement, and the provisions of law
17 and shall assure the provision of culturally competent services to the
18 tribes served. The state mental health authority may not determine the
19 roles and responsibilities of county authorities as to each other under

1 regional support networks by rule, except to assure that all duties
2 required of regional support networks are assigned and that a single
3 authority has final responsibility for all available resources and
4 performance under the regional support network's contract with the
5 secretary.

6 (1) Regional support networks shall within three months of
7 recognition submit an overall six-year operating and capital plan,
8 timeline, and budget and submit progress reports and an updated
9 two-year plan biennially thereafter, to assume within available
10 resources all of the following duties (~~by July 1, 1995~~), instead of
11 those presently assigned to counties under RCW 71.24.045(1):

12 (a) Administer and provide for the availability of all resource
13 management services, residential services, and community support
14 services.

15 (b) Administer and provide for the availability of all
16 investigation, transportation, court-related, and other services
17 provided by the state or counties pursuant to chapter 71.05 RCW.

18 (c) (~~By July 1, 1993,~~) Provide within the boundaries of each
19 regional support network evaluation and treatment services for at least
20 eighty-five percent of persons detained or committed for periods up to
21 seventeen days according to chapter 71.05 RCW. Regional support
22 networks with populations of less than one hundred fifty thousand may
23 contract to purchase evaluation and treatment services from other
24 networks. Insofar as the original intent of serving persons in the
25 community is maintained, the secretary is authorized to approve
26 exceptions on a case-by-case basis to the requirement to provide
27 evaluation and treatment services within the boundaries of each
28 regional support network. Such exceptions are limited to contracts
29 with neighboring or contiguous regions. For regional support networks
30 that are created after June 30, 1991, the requirements of (c) of this
31 subsection must be met by July 1, (~~1995~~) 1996.

32 (d) (~~By July 1, 1993,~~) Administer a portion of funds appropriated
33 by the legislature to house mentally ill persons in state institutions
34 from counties within the boundaries of any regional support network,
35 with the exception of mentally ill offenders, and provide for the care
36 of all persons needing evaluation and treatment services for periods up
37 to seventeen days according to chapter 71.05 RCW in appropriate
38 residential services, which may include state institutions. The
39 regional support networks shall reimburse the state for use of state

1 institutions at a rate equal to that assumed by the legislature when
2 appropriating funds for such care at state institutions during the
3 biennium when reimbursement occurs. The duty of a state hospital to
4 accept persons for evaluation and treatment under chapter 71.05 RCW is
5 limited by the responsibilities assigned to regional support networks
6 under this section. For regional support networks that are created
7 after June 30, 1991, the requirements of (d) of this subsection must be
8 met by July 1, (~~1995~~) 1996.

9 (e) Administer and provide for the availability of all other mental
10 health services, which shall include patient counseling, day treatment,
11 consultation, education services, employment services as defined in RCW
12 71.24.035, and mental health services to children as provided in this
13 chapter.

14 (f) Establish standards and procedures for reviewing individual
15 service plans and determining when that person may be discharged from
16 resource management services.

17 (2) Regional support networks shall assume all duties assigned to
18 county authorities by this chapter and chapter 71.05 RCW.

19 (3) A regional support network may request that any state-owned
20 land, building, facility, or other capital asset which was ever
21 purchased, deeded, given, or placed in trust for the care of the
22 mentally ill and which is within the boundaries of a regional support
23 network be made available to support the operations of the regional
24 support network. State agencies managing such capital assets shall
25 give first priority to requests for their use pursuant to this chapter.

26 (4) Each regional support network shall appoint a mental health
27 advisory board which shall review and provide comments on plans and
28 policies developed under this chapter. The composition of the board
29 shall be broadly representative of the demographic character of the
30 region and the mentally ill persons served therein. Length of terms of
31 board members shall be determined by the regional support network.

32 (5) Regional support networks shall assume all duties specified in
33 their plans and joint operating agreements through biennial contractual
34 agreements with the secretary. Such contracts may include agreements
35 to provide periods of stable community living and work or other day
36 activities for specific chronically mentally ill persons who have
37 completed commitments at state hospitals on ninety-day or one hundred
38 eighty-day civil commitments or who have been residents at state
39 hospitals for no less than one hundred eighty days within the previous

1 year. Periods of stable community living may involve acute care in
2 local evaluation and treatment facilities but may not involve use of
3 state hospitals.

4 (6) Counties or groups of counties participating in a regional
5 support network are not subject to RCW 71.24.045(~~(+7)~~)(6). The office
6 of financial management shall consider information gathered in studies
7 required in this chapter and information about the experience of other
8 states to propose a mental health services administrative cost lid to
9 the 1993 legislature which shall include administrative costs of
10 licensed service providers, the state psychiatric hospitals and the
11 department.

12 (7) (~~By November 1, 1991, and~~) As part of each biennial plan
13 (~~thereafter,~~) each regional support network shall establish and
14 submit to the state, procedures and agreements to assure access to
15 sufficient additional local evaluation and treatment facilities to meet
16 the requirements of this chapter while reducing short-term admissions
17 to state hospitals. These shall be commitments to construct and
18 operate, or contract for the operation of, freestanding evaluation and
19 treatment facilities or agreements with local evaluation and treatment
20 facilities which shall include (a) required admission and treatment for
21 short-term inpatient care for any person enrolled in community support
22 or residential services, (b) discharge planning procedures, (c)
23 limitations on admissions or transfers to state hospitals, (d) adequate
24 psychiatric supervision, (e) prospective payment methods, and (f)
25 contractual assurances regarding referrals to local evaluation and
26 treatment facilities from regional support networks.

27 (8) Regional support networks may receive technical assistance from
28 the housing trust fund and may identify and submit projects for housing
29 and housing support services to the housing trust fund established
30 under chapter 43.185 RCW. Projects identified or submitted under this
31 subsection must be fully integrated with the regional support network
32 six-year operating and capital plan, timeline, and budget required by
33 subsection (1) of this section.

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