

FINAL BILL REPORT

2SHB 1929

C 175 L 24
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Supporting young adults following inpatient behavioral health treatment.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Cortes, Eslick, Ortiz-Self, Leavitt, Duerr, Ramel, Slatter, Taylor, Orwall, Ryu, Reed, Simmons, Ormsby, Fey, Callan, Peterson, Timmons, Kloba, Macri, Street, Gregerson, Doglio, Paul, Chopp, Mena, Goodman, Lekanoff, Reeves, Fosse, Pollet and Davis).

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

The Health Care Authority (Authority) provides medical care services to eligible low-income state residents and their families, primarily through the Medicaid program.

Coverage for medical services is provided through fee-for-service arrangements and managed care systems. Managed care is a prepaid, comprehensive system for delivering a complete medical benefits package that is available for eligible families, children under age 19, low-income adults, certain disabled individuals, and pregnant women.

In January 2017 the Authority received federal waiver approval for the Foundational Community Supports Program which provides supported employment and supported housing services to Medicaid clients. Supported employment services are services that help individuals with barriers to employment to obtain and keep a job, including employment assessments; assistance with applications, community resources, and employer outreach; and education, training, and coaching necessary to maintain employment. Supported employment services do not pay for wages and wage enhancements. Supported housing services are services that help individuals obtain and keep housing, including supports that assess housing needs, identify appropriate resources, and develop the independent living skills necessary to remain in stable housing.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Authority's supported housing services do not pay for rent or other costs related to room and board costs. Through the Apple Health and Homes Program, the Department of Commerce provides housing resources and combines them with supported employment and supported housing services for Medicaid clients through the Authority. In addition, the 2023-25 Operating Budget includes funds for the Authority to contract with an entity to provide community providers that serve unaccompanied youth and young adults with information and support related to safe housing and support services for youth exiting inpatient behavioral health facilities.

Summary:

The Post-Inpatient Housing Program for Young Adults (Program) is established within the Health Care Authority (Authority). The purpose of the Program is to provide supportive transitional housing with behavioral health supports with a focus on securing long-term housing for young adults exiting inpatient behavioral health treatment. The Program is subject to appropriated funds.

The Program is available to persons ages 18 to 24 who: (1) are exiting inpatient behavioral health treatment or have exited behavioral health treatment and are engaged in a recovery plan; and (2) have not secured long-term housing.

Under the Program, the Authority must provide funding to at least one community-based organization, tribe, or tribal organization to operate residential programs with 6 to 10 beds to serve eligible persons for up to 90 days. At least two residential programs must be created with at least one on each side of the state. The residential programs must engage peers in the support and recovery of Program participants. The residential programs must create a developmentally and culturally responsive environment that values healing and recovery and supports the ongoing healing of Program participants. The residential programs must be voluntary for participants and may not be a secure facility, facilities that limits residents' ingress or egress, or facilities where individuals may be detained. The community-based organizations may choose which eligible persons to serve.

The Authority must also provide flexible funding to support the immediate needs of Program participants to assist with housing stability, education, or employment or to meet basic needs. Uses of flexible funding includes items such as car repair or transportation assistance, rental application fees, security deposits, and short-term rental assistance.

The Authority must contract for behavioral health support services for Program participants, including on-site and community-based behavioral health support, peer support, and medication management.

The Authority must consult with a transition support provider during the community-based organization selection process. A "transition support provider" is defined as a community-

based organization that: (1) provides information and support services related to safe housing and support services for youth exiting inpatient behavioral health treatment; and (2) organizes community housing providers, tribes or tribal organizations, inpatient behavioral health discharge planners, and young persons with lived experience of behavioral health conditions or unaccompanied homelessness. The Authority must provide funding to the transition support provider to consult with and train the residential programs, conduct return-to-community planning for Program participants, and contact former Program participants.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 97 0

Senate 46 0

Effective: June 6, 2024