
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6547

AS RECOMMENDED BY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Passed Legislature - 1994 Regular Session

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 single 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 appropriated funds used to provide mental
9 health services. Assessment must be made regarding the feasibility of
10 also including federal and local funds into the single system of
11 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 adult and children clients
15 according to chapter 71.24 RCW must be used to measure the performance
16 of mental health service providers and regional support networks. Such
17 outcomes shall focus on stabilizing out-of-home and hospital care,
18 increasing stable community living, increasing age-appropriate
19 activities, achieving family and consumer satisfaction with services,
20 and system efficiencies;

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

27 (5) The involvement of mental health consumers and their
28 representatives in the pilot projects. Mental health consumers and
29 their representatives will be involved in the development of outcome
30 standards for mental health clients and other related aspects of the
31 pilot projects; and

32 (6) An independent evaluation component to measure the success of
33 the projects.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The project established in section 2 of this
35 act must be implemented by July 1, 1995, in at least two regional
36 support networks, with annual progress reports submitted to the
37 appropriate committees of the legislature beginning November 1, 1994,
38 and in all regional support networks state-wide with full

1 implementation of the most effective and efficient practices identified
2 by the evaluation in section 2 of this act no later than July 1, 1997.
3 In addition, the department of social and health services, the
4 participating regional support networks, and the local mental health
5 service providers shall report to the appropriate policy and fiscal
6 committees of the legislature on the need for any changes in state
7 statute, rule, policy, or procedure, and any change in federal statute,
8 regulation, policy, or procedure to ensure the purposes specified in
9 section 1 of this act are carried out.

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

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

Passed the Senate March 9, 1994.

Passed the House March 9, 1994.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 1994.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 1, 1994.