
SENATE BILL 5488

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Hatfield and Keiser

Read first time 01/27/11. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to facilitating integration of behavioral health
2 care into primary care by reducing regulatory barriers; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) Representatives from the department
6 of social and health services and the department of health shall
7 examine the best regulatory practices that will facilitate and support
8 integration of primary care and behavioral health care in a county
9 located in southwest Washington with a population between one hundred
10 thousand and one hundred fifty thousand. These representatives shall
11 form a committee with representatives of a public health agency, mental
12 health treatment agency, and drug abuse prevention agency in such a
13 county to review the regulatory practices that have an impact on
14 integration, including impacts on mental health, chemical dependency,
15 and federal qualified health centers. This review must include:

16 (i) Streamlined and simplified electronic data management and
17 reporting through a single-data management system that facilitates:
18 Tracking of clients across primary care and behavioral health settings

1 and communication across care delivery systems; caseload-based care
2 management and consultation; outcome tracking and evidence-based,
3 measurement-based care; and performance-based contracting;

4 (ii) Consolidation of licensing procedures across systems;

5 (iii) Provision of blended and flexible funding; and

6 (iv) Simplified and consistent administrative procedures concerning
7 access to care which empower treatment professionals to authorize
8 appropriate treatment interventions.

9 (b) The committee shall provide a preliminary report to the
10 governor and appropriate committees of the legislature on December 1,
11 2011. This report must include a description of barriers and
12 timetables applicable to the implementation of the best regulatory
13 practices to support integration in such a county, and an assessment of
14 whether these practices would be feasible or beneficial if they were to
15 be implemented across the state. The committee shall provide a final
16 report on December 1, 2012.

17 (2) The department of social and health services shall: (a)
18 Complete the process it has undertaken for the purpose of developing
19 integrated rules or legislation for chemical dependency, problem
20 gambling, and community mental health agencies by December 1, 2011; and

21 (b) expand its process to include an analysis of the barriers to
22 integration with rules or legislation applicable to federal qualified
23 health centers seeking to offer integrated primary and behavioral
24 health care by December 1, 2012.

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