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**SENATE BILL 5903**

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**State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Darneille, Warnick, Das, Nguyen, and O'Ban

AN ACT Relating to implementing policies related to children's mental health as reviewed and recommended by the children's mental health work group; amending RCW 28B.20.445, 28B.30.357, and 43.216.745; adding a new section to chapter 28A.310 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.20 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 71.34 RCW; creating new sections; repealing 2018 c 175 s 12 (uncodified); providing a contingent effective date; and providing expiration dates.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) The legislature finds that the children's mental health work group established in chapter 96, Laws of 2016 reported recommendations related to increasing access to mental health services for children and youth and that many of those recommendations were adopted by the 2017 and 2018 legislatures. The legislature further finds that additional work is needed to improve mental health support for children and families and that the children's mental health work group was reestablished for this purpose in chapter 175, Laws of 2018.

(2) The legislature finds that there is a workforce shortage of behavioral health professionals and that increasing medicaid rates to a level that is equal to medicare rates will increase the number of providers who will serve children and families on medicaid. Further, the legislature finds that there is a need to increase the cultural and linguistic diversity among children's behavioral health professionals and that hiring practices, professional training, and high-quality translations of accreditation and licensing exams should be implemented to incentivize this diversity in the workforce.

(3) Therefore, the legislature intends to implement the recommendations adopted by the children's mental health work group in January 2019, in order to improve mental health care access for children and their families.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28A.310 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Each educational service district must provide to the school districts in its region behavioral health coordination that, at a minimum, includes:

(a) Providing support for school district development and implementation of plans for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students as required under RCW 28A.320.127;

(b) Facilitating partnerships and coordination between school districts, public schools, and existing regional and local systems of behavioral health care services and supports in order to increase student and family access to these services and supports;

(c) Assisting school districts and public schools in building capacity to identify and support students in need of behavioral health care services and to link students and families with community-based behavioral health care services;

(d) Identifying, sharing, and integrating, to the extent practicable, behavioral and physical health care service delivery models;

(e) Providing medicaid billing related training, technical assistance, and coordination between school districts; and

(f) Guidance in implementing best practices in response to, and to recover from, the suicide or attempted suicide of a student.

(2) Funds appropriated pursuant to this section must be used solely for the purposes outlined in this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, beginning July 1, 2019, the health care authority shall collaborate with the University of Washington department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Seattle children's hospital, and the office of the superintendent of public instruction, to develop a plan to implement a two-year pilot program called the partnership access line for schools.

(2) The pilot program must be implemented by January 1, 2020, and shall support two educational service districts selected by the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

(3) Elements of the pilot program must include:

(a) Developing a general behavioral health support curriculum appropriate for the roles of school staff;

(b) Delivering behavioral health trainings for school counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, teachers, and administrators with content designed specifically for these roles;

(c) Providing school staff who have participated in training under this section access to telephone consultation with psychologists and psychiatrists to support school staff in managing children with challenging behaviors; and

(d) Providing timely crisis management appointments, delivered in person or through interactive audio and video technology, between partnership access line clinical staff and school staff when assessed as clinically appropriate by the partnership access line and when similar support is not immediately available in the local community.

(4) By December 1, 2022, the health care authority shall submit a report to the governor and the legislature describing the services delivered through the pilot program and recommending whether the pilot program should continue or be made permanent.

(5) This section expires December 30, 2022.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28A.415 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, school districts must use one of the professional learning days funded under RCW 28A.150.415 to train school district staff in mental health first aid, suicide prevention, social-emotional learning, trauma-informed care, and antibullying strategies.

(2) Funds appropriated pursuant to this section must be used solely for the purposes outlined in this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28A.300 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall provide mental health literacy and healthy relationships instructional materials for school districts to use as guidelines for student instruction in these subjects.

(2) Funds appropriated pursuant to this section must be used solely for the purposes outlined in this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 28B.20 RCW to read as follows:

Subject to availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the University of Washington shall establish certificate programs in evidence-based practices for behavioral health care professionals as follows:

(1)(a) The University of Washington school of social work, in collaboration with the University of Washington department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, shall establish a certificate program in evidence-based practices that have been shown to be effective in treating adolescents and young adults with mental health disorders, including:

(i) Dialectical behavior therapy; and

(ii) The wellness recovery action plan.

(b) The certificate program must be designed for graduate students pursuing a master of social work degree.

(2)(a) The University of Washington department of psychology, in collaboration with the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, school of social work, and continuum college, shall establish a certificate program in evidence-based practices that have been shown to be effective in treating adolescents and young adults with mental health disorders, including:

(i) Evidence-based parenting interventions;

(ii) Evidence-based treatments for anxiety and mood disorders; and

(iii) Trauma-focused cognitive behavior therapy.

(b) The certificate program must be designed for licensed behavioral health care professionals who wish to receive additional education in evidence-based practices.

(3) Participants in the certificate programs under this section are eligible to apply for the health professional loan repayment and scholarship program under chapter 28B.115 RCW.

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.20.445 and 2018 c 175 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:

Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the child and adolescent psychiatry residency program at the University of Washington shall offer ((~~one~~)) two additional twenty-four month residency positions that ((~~is~~)) are approved by the accreditation council for graduate medical education to ((~~one~~)) two residents specializing in child and adolescent psychiatry. The ((~~residency~~)) residencies must each include a minimum of twelve months of training in settings where children's mental health services are provided under the supervision of experienced psychiatric consultants and must be located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

**Sec.**  RCW 28B.30.357 and 2017 c 202 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, Washington State University shall offer ((~~one~~)) two twenty-four month residency positions that ((~~is~~)) are approved by the accreditation council for graduate medical education to ((~~one~~)) two residents specializing in child and adolescent psychiatry. The ((~~residency~~)) residencies must each include a minimum of twelve months of training in settings where children's mental health services are provided under the supervision of experienced psychiatric consultants and must be located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) The health care authority shall collaborate with the University of Washington and a professional association of licensed community behavioral health agencies to develop a statewide plan to implement evidence-based coordinated specialty care programs that provide early identification and intervention for psychosis in licensed and certified community behavioral health agencies. The health care authority must submit the statewide plan to the governor and the legislature by March 1, 2020. The statewide plan must include:

(a) Analysis of existing benefit packages, payment rates, and resource gaps, including needs for nonmedicaid resources;

(b) Development of a discrete benefit package and case rate for coordinated specialty care;

(c) Identification of costs for statewide start-up, training, and community outreach;

(d) Determination of the number of coordinated specialty care teams needed in each regional service area; and

(e) A timeline for statewide implementation.

(2) This section expires June 30, 2020.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the University of Washington shall convene a work group of educators and researchers to develop a statewide multitiered system of school supports that includes academic, social-emotional, and behavioral supports. The work group must include representatives of: Public K-12 schools; school districts; educational service districts; the office of the superintendent of public instruction; the department of children, youth, and families; and public universities. The University of Washington must submit the findings and recommendations of the work group to the governor and the legislature by November 1, 2020.

(2) This section expires December 31, 2020.

**Sec.**  RCW 43.216.745 and 2017 c 202 s 5 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall establish a child care consultation program linking child care providers with evidence-based, trauma-informed, and best practice resources regarding caring for infants and young children who present behavioral concerns or symptoms of trauma. The department may contract with an entity with expertise in child development and early learning programs in order to operate the child care consultation program.

((~~(2)~~)) (b) In establishing and operating the program, the department or contracted entity shall: ((~~(a)~~)) (i) Assist child care providers in recognizing the signs and symptoms of trauma in children; ((~~(b)~~)) (ii) provide support and guidance to child care staff; ((~~(c)~~)) (iii) consult and coordinate with parents, other caregivers, and experts or practitioners involved with the care and well-being of the young children; and ((~~(d)~~)) (iv) provide referrals for children who need additional services.

(2)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall develop an infant and early childhood mental health consultation model for children ages birth to five and provide the model to the governor and the legislature by November 1, 2019.

(b) In the development of the model, the department must consult with public and private partners, including tribal representatives, to ensure the model meets community needs in a culturally competent manner.

(c) The model must include:

(i) A workforce development plan that addresses initial training and ongoing professional development for infant and early childhood mental health consultants in accordance with nationally recognized competencies in the field;

(ii) Consultation standards that are informed by current evidence in the field, trauma-informed, and culturally competent;

(iii) A program evaluation protocol for outcome measurement; and

(iv) A plan for a data tracking system for consultation activities.

(d) The department must phase in service delivery by providing the model in at least two regions by July 1, 2020, followed by full statewide implementation by December 31, 2023.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 71.34 RCW to read as follows:

Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the health care authority must provide an online training for behavioral health providers regarding state law and best practices when providing behavioral health services to children, youth, and families. The training must be free for providers and must include information related to parent-initiated treatment, minor-initiated treatment, and other treatment services provided under this chapter.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 71.34 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the authority must conduct an annual survey of a sample group of parents, youth, and behavioral health providers to measure the impacts of implementing policies resulting from the enactment of chapter . . . (House Bill No. . . . (H-1175.4/19)), Laws of 2019 (including any later amendments or substitutes) during the first three years of implementation. The first survey must be complete by July 1, 2020, followed by subsequent annual surveys completed by July 1, 2021, and by July 1, 2022. The authority must report on the results of the surveys annually to the governor and the legislature beginning November 1, 2020. The final report is due November 1, 2022, and must include any recommendations for statutory changes identified as needed based on survey results.

(2) This section expires December 31, 2022.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Section 13 of this act takes effect only if chapter . . . (House Bill No. . . . (H-1175.4/19)), Laws of 2019 (including any later amendments or substitutes) is enacted by the effective date of this section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  2018 c 175 s 12 (uncodified) is repealed.

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