
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5779

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2017 Regular Session

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services, Mental Health & Housing (originally sponsored by Senators Brown and O'Ban)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to behavioral health integration in primary care;
2 amending RCW 74.09.010, 74.09.495, and 70.320.020; adding new
3 sections to chapter 74.09 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW
4 18.205.040; and providing contingent effective dates.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Health transformation in Washington state
7 requires a multifaceted approach to implement sustainable solutions
8 for the integration of behavioral and physical health. Effective
9 integration requires a holistic approach and cannot be limited to one
10 strategy or model. Bidirectional integration of primary care and
11 behavioral health is a foundational strategy to reduce health
12 disparities and provide better care coordination for patients
13 regardless of where they choose to receive care.

14 An important component to health care integration supported both
15 by research and experience in Washington is primary care behavioral
16 health, a model in which behavioral health providers, sometimes
17 called behavioral health consultants, are fully integrated in primary
18 care. The primary care behavioral health model originated more than
19 two decades ago, has become standard practice nationally in patient
20 centered medical homes, and has been endorsed as a viable integration
21 strategy by Washington's Dr. Robert J. Bree Collaborative.

1 Primary care settings are a gateway for many individuals with
2 behavioral health and primary care needs. An estimated one in four
3 primary care patients have an identifiable behavioral health need and
4 as many as seventy percent of primary care visits are impacted by a
5 psychosocial component. A behavioral health consultant engages
6 primary care patients and their caregivers on the same day as a
7 medical visit, often in the same exam room. This warm hand-off
8 approach fosters coordinated whole-person care, increases access to
9 behavioral health services, and reduces stigma and cultural barriers
10 in a cost-effective manner. Patients are provided evidence-based
11 brief interventions and skills training, with more severe needs being
12 effectively engaged, assessed, and referred to appropriate
13 specialized care.

14 While the benefits of primary care behavioral health are not
15 restricted to children, the primary care behavioral health model also
16 provides a unique opportunity to engage children who have a strong
17 relationship with primary care, identify problems early, and assure
18 healthy development. Investment in primary care behavioral health
19 creates opportunities for prevention and early detection that pay
20 dividends throughout the life cycle.

21 The legislature also recognizes that for individuals with more
22 complex behavioral health disorders, there are tremendous barriers to
23 accessing primary care. Whole-person care in behavioral health is an
24 evidence-based model for integrating primary care into behavioral
25 health settings where these patients already receive care. Health
26 disparities among people with behavioral health disorders have been
27 well-documented for decades. People with serious mental illness or
28 substance use disorders continue to experience multiple chronic
29 health conditions and dramatically reduced life expectancy while also
30 constituting one of the highest-cost and highest-risk populations.
31 Two-thirds of premature deaths are due to preventable or treatable
32 medical conditions such as cardiovascular, pulmonary, and infectious
33 diseases, and forty-four percent of all cigarettes consumed
34 nationally are smoked by people with serious mental illness.

35 The whole-person care in behavioral health model allows
36 behavioral health providers to take responsibility for managing the
37 full array of physical health needs, providing routine basic health
38 screening, and ensuring integrated primary care by actively
39 coordinating with or providing on-site primary care services.

1 Providers in Washington need guidance on how to effectively
2 implement bidirectional integration models in a manner that is also
3 financially sustainable. Payment methodologies must be scrutinized to
4 remove nonessential restrictions and limitations that restrict the
5 scope of practice of behavioral health professionals, impede same-day
6 billing for behavioral health and primary care services, abet billing
7 errors, and stymie innovation that supports wellness and health
8 integration.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) By August 1, 2017, the authority must complete a review of
12 payment codes available to health plans and providers related to
13 primary care and behavioral health. The review must include
14 adjustments to payment rules if needed to facilitate bidirectional
15 integration. The review must involve stakeholders and include
16 consideration of the following principles to the extent allowed by
17 federal law:

18 (a) Payment rules must allow professionals to operate within the
19 full scope of their practice;

20 (b) Payment rules should allow medically necessary behavioral
21 health services for covered patients to be provided in any setting;

22 (c) Payment rules should allow medically necessary primary care
23 services for covered patients to be provided in any setting;

24 (d) Payment rules and provider communications related to payment
25 should facilitate integration of physical and behavioral health
26 services through multifaceted models, including primary care
27 behavioral health, whole-person care in behavioral health,
28 collaborative care, and other models;

29 (e) Payment rules should be designed liberally to encourage
30 innovation and ease future transitions to more integrated models of
31 payment and more integrated models of care;

32 (f) Payment rules should allow health and behavior codes to be
33 reimbursed for all patients in primary care settings as provided by
34 any licensed behavioral health professional operating within their
35 scope of practice, including but not limited to psychiatrists,
36 psychologists, psychiatric advanced registered nurse professionals,
37 physician assistants working with a supervising psychiatrist,
38 psychiatric nurses, mental health counselors, social workers,
39 chemical dependency professionals, chemical dependency professional

1 trainees, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselor
2 associates under the supervision of a licensed clinician;

3 (g) Payment rules should allow health and behavior codes to be
4 reimbursed for all patients in behavioral health settings as provided
5 by any licensed health care provider within the provider's scope of
6 practice;

7 (h) Payment rules which limit same-day billing for providers
8 using the same provider number, require prior authorization for low-
9 level or routine behavioral health care, or prohibit payment when the
10 patient is not present should be implemented only when consistent
11 with national coding conventions and consonant with accepted best
12 practices in the field.

13 (2) Concurrent with the review described in subsection (1) of
14 this section, the authority must create matrices listing the
15 following codes available for provider payment through medical
16 assistance programs: All behavioral health-related codes; and all
17 physical health-related codes available for payment when provided in
18 licensed behavioral health agencies. The authority must clearly
19 explain applicable payment rules in order to increase awareness among
20 providers, standardize billing practices, and reduce common and
21 avoidable billing errors. The authority must disseminate this
22 information in a manner calculated to maximally reach all relevant
23 plans and providers. The authority must update the provider billing
24 guide to maintain consistency of information.

25 (3) The authority must inform the governor and relevant
26 committees of the legislature by letter of the steps taken pursuant
27 to this section and results achieved once the work has been
28 completed.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) By August 1, 2017, the authority must complete a review of
32 payment codes available to health plans and providers related to
33 primary care and behavioral health. The review must include
34 adjustments to payment rules if needed to facilitate bidirectional
35 integration. The review must involve stakeholders and include
36 consideration of the following principles to the extent allowed by
37 federal law:

38 (a) Payment rules must allow professionals to operate within the
39 full scope of their practice;

1 (b) Payment rules should allow medically necessary behavioral
2 health services for covered patients to be provided in any setting;

3 (c) Payment rules should allow medically necessary primary care
4 services for covered patients to be provided in any setting;

5 (d) Payment rules and provider communications related to payment
6 should facilitate integration of physical and behavioral health
7 services through multifaceted models, including primary care
8 behavioral health, whole-person care in behavioral health,
9 collaborative care, and other models;

10 (e) Payment rules should be designed liberally to encourage
11 innovation and ease future transitions to more integrated models of
12 payment and more integrated models of care;

13 (f) Payment rules should allow health and behavior codes to be
14 reimbursed for all patients in primary care settings as provided by
15 any licensed behavioral health professional operating within their
16 scope of practice, including but not limited to psychiatrists,
17 psychologists, psychiatric advanced registered nurse professionals,
18 physician assistants working with a supervising psychiatrist,
19 psychiatric nurses, mental health counselors, social workers,
20 substance use disorder professionals, substance use disorder
21 professional trainees, marriage and family therapists, and mental
22 health counselor associates under the supervision of a licensed
23 clinician;

24 (g) Payment rules should allow health and behavior codes to be
25 reimbursed for all patients in behavioral health settings as provided
26 by any licensed health care provider within the provider's scope of
27 practice;

28 (h) Payment rules which limit same-day billing for providers
29 using the same provider number, require prior authorization for low-
30 level or routine behavioral health care, or prohibit payment when the
31 patient is not present should be implemented only when consistent
32 with national coding conventions and consonant with accepted best
33 practices in the field.

34 (2) Concurrent with the review described in subsection (1) of
35 this section, the authority must create matrices listing the
36 following codes available for provider payment through medical
37 assistance programs: All behavioral health-related codes; and all
38 physical health-related codes available for payment when provided in
39 licensed behavioral health agencies. The authority must clearly
40 explain applicable payment rules in order to increase awareness among

1 providers, standardize billing practices, and reduce common and
2 avoidable billing errors. The authority must disseminate this
3 information in a manner calculated to maximally reach all relevant
4 plans and providers. The authority must update the provider billing
5 guide to maintain consistency of information.

6 (3) The authority must inform the governor and relevant
7 committees of the legislature by letter of the steps taken pursuant
8 to this section and results achieved once the work has been
9 completed.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) For children who are eligible for medical assistance and who
13 have been identified as requiring mental health treatment, the
14 authority must oversee the coordination of resources and services
15 through (a) the managed health care system as defined in RCW
16 74.09.325 and (b) tribal organizations providing health care
17 services. The authority must ensure the child receives treatment and
18 appropriate care based on their assessed needs, regardless of whether
19 the referral occurred through primary care, school-based services, or
20 another practitioner.

21 (2) The authority must require each managed health care system as
22 defined in RCW 74.09.325 and each behavioral health organization to
23 develop and maintain adequate capacity to facilitate child mental
24 health treatment services in the community or transfers to a
25 behavioral health organization, depending on the level of required
26 care. Managed health care systems and behavioral health organizations
27 must:

28 (a) Follow up with individuals to ensure an appointment has been
29 secured;

30 (b) Coordinate with and report back to primary care provider
31 offices on individual treatment plans and medication management, in
32 accordance with patient confidentiality laws;

33 (c) Provide information to health plan members and primary care
34 providers about the behavioral health resource line available twenty-
35 four hours a day, seven days a week; and

36 (d) Maintain an accurate list of providers contracted to provide
37 mental health services to children and youth. The list must contain
38 current information regarding the providers' availability to provide

1 services. The current list must be made available to health plan
2 members and primary care providers.

3 (3) This section expires June 30, 2020.

4 **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.09.010 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 10 s 8 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.

9 (2) "Bidirectional integration" means integrating behavioral
10 health services into primary care settings and integrating primary
11 care services into behavioral health settings.

12 (3) "Children's health program" means the health care services
13 program provided to children under eighteen years of age and in
14 households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level as
15 annually defined by the federal department of health and human
16 services as adjusted for family size, and who are not otherwise
17 eligible for medical assistance or the limited casualty program for
18 the medically needy.

19 (~~(3)~~) (4) "Chronic care management" means the health care
20 management within a health home of persons identified with, or at
21 high risk for, one or more chronic conditions. Effective chronic care
22 management:

23 (a) Actively assists patients to acquire self-care skills to
24 improve functioning and health outcomes, and slow the progression of
25 disease or disability;

26 (b) Employs evidence-based clinical practices;

27 (c) Coordinates care across health care settings and providers,
28 including tracking referrals;

29 (d) Provides ready access to behavioral health services that are,
30 to the extent possible, integrated with primary care; and

31 (e) Uses appropriate community resources to support individual
32 patients and families in managing chronic conditions.

33 (~~(4)~~) (5) "Chronic condition" means a prolonged condition and
34 includes, but is not limited to:

35 (a) A mental health condition;

36 (b) A substance use disorder;

37 (c) Asthma;

38 (d) Diabetes;

39 (e) Heart disease; and

1 (f) Being overweight, as evidenced by a body mass index over
2 twenty-five.

3 ~~((+5))~~ (6) "County" means the board of county commissioners,
4 county council, county executive, or tribal jurisdiction, or its
5 designee.

6 ~~((+6))~~ (7) "Department" means the department of social and
7 health services.

8 ~~((+7))~~ (8) "Department of health" means the Washington state
9 department of health created pursuant to RCW 43.70.020.

10 ~~((+8))~~ (9) "Director" means the director of the Washington state
11 health care authority.

12 ~~((+9))~~ (10) "Full benefit dual eligible beneficiary" means an
13 individual who, for any month: Has coverage for the month under a
14 medicare prescription drug plan or medicare advantage plan with part
15 D coverage; and is determined eligible by the state for full medicaid
16 benefits for the month under any eligibility category in the state's
17 medicaid plan or a section 1115 demonstration waiver that provides
18 pharmacy benefits.

19 ~~((+10))~~ (11) "Health home" or "primary care health home" means
20 coordinated health care provided by a licensed primary care provider
21 coordinating all medical care services, and a multidisciplinary
22 health care team comprised of clinical and nonclinical staff. The
23 term "coordinating all medical care services" shall not be construed
24 to require prior authorization by a primary care provider in order
25 for a patient to receive treatment for covered services by an
26 optometrist licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW. Primary care health
27 home services shall include those services defined as health home
28 services in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396w-4 and, in addition, may include, but
29 are not limited to:

30 (a) Comprehensive care management including, but not limited to,
31 chronic care treatment and management;

32 (b) Extended hours of service;

33 (c) Multiple ways for patients to communicate with the team,
34 including electronically and by phone;

35 (d) Education of patients on self-care, prevention, and health
36 promotion, including the use of patient decision aids;

37 (e) Coordinating and assuring smooth transitions and follow-up
38 from inpatient to other settings;

39 (f) Individual and family support including authorized
40 representatives;

1 (g) The use of information technology to link services, track
2 tests, generate patient registries, and provide clinical data; and

3 (h) Ongoing performance reporting and quality improvement.

4 ~~((+11))~~ (12) "Internal management" means the administration of
5 medical assistance, medical care services, the children's health
6 program, and the limited casualty program.

7 ~~((+12))~~ (13) "Limited casualty program" means the medical care
8 program provided to medically needy persons as defined under Title
9 XIX of the federal social security act, and to medically indigent
10 persons who are without income or resources sufficient to secure
11 necessary medical services.

12 ~~((+13))~~ (14) "Medical assistance" means the federal aid medical
13 care program provided to categorically needy persons as defined under
14 Title XIX of the federal social security act.

15 ~~((+14))~~ (15) "Medical care services" means the limited scope of
16 care financed by state funds and provided to persons who are not
17 eligible for medicaid under RCW 74.09.510 and who are eligible for
18 the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program authorized in RCW
19 74.62.030 or the essential needs and housing support program pursuant
20 to RCW 74.04.805.

21 ~~((+15))~~ (16) "Multidisciplinary health care team" means an
22 interdisciplinary team of health professionals which may include, but
23 is not limited to, medical specialists, nurses, pharmacists,
24 nutritionists, dieticians, social workers, behavioral and mental
25 health providers including substance use disorder prevention and
26 treatment providers, doctors of chiropractic, physical therapists,
27 licensed complementary and alternative medicine practitioners, home
28 care and other long-term care providers, and physicians' assistants.

29 ~~((+16))~~ (17) "Nursing home" means nursing home as defined in RCW
30 18.51.010.

31 ~~((+17))~~ (18) "Poverty" means the federal poverty level
32 determined annually by the United States department of health and
33 human services, or successor agency.

34 ~~((+18))~~ (19) "Primary care behavioral health" means a health
35 care integration model in which behavioral health care is colocated,
36 collaborative, and integrated within a primary care setting.

37 (20) "Primary care provider" means a general practice physician,
38 family practitioner, internist, pediatrician, ~~((osteopath))~~
39 osteopathic physician, naturopath, physician assistant, osteopathic

1 physician assistant, and advanced registered nurse practitioner
2 licensed under Title 18 RCW.

3 ~~((19))~~ (21) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and
4 health services.

5 (22) "Whole-person care in behavioral health" means a health care
6 integration model in which primary care services are integrated into
7 a behavioral health setting either through colocation or community-
8 based care management.

9 **Sec. 6.** RCW 74.09.495 and 2016 c 96 s 3 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 To better assure and understand issues related to network
12 adequacy and access to services, the authority and the department
13 shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by
14 December 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, on the status of access to
15 behavioral health services for children birth through age seventeen
16 using data collected pursuant to RCW 70.320.050.

17 (1) At a minimum, the report must include the following
18 components broken down by age, gender, and race and ethnicity:

19 ~~((1))~~ (a) The percentage of discharges for patients ages six
20 through seventeen who had a visit to the emergency room with a
21 primary diagnosis of mental health or alcohol or other drug
22 dependence during the measuring year and who had a follow-up visit
23 with any provider with a corresponding primary diagnosis of mental
24 health or alcohol or other drug dependence within thirty days of
25 discharge;

26 ~~((2))~~ (b) The percentage of health plan members with an
27 identified mental health need who received mental health services
28 during the reporting period; and

29 ~~((3))~~ (c) The percentage of children served by behavioral
30 health organizations, including the types of services provided.

31 (2) The report must also include the number of children's mental
32 health providers available in the previous year, the languages spoken
33 by those providers, and the overall percentage of children's mental
34 health providers who were actively accepting new patients.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
38 specific purpose, in order to increase the availability of behavioral

1 health services and incentivize adoption of the primary care
2 behavioral health model, the authority must establish a methodology
3 and rate which provides increased reimbursement to providers for
4 behavioral health services provided to patients in primary care
5 settings.

6 **Sec. 8.** RCW 70.320.020 and 2014 c 225 s 107 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The authority and the department shall base contract
9 performance measures developed under RCW 70.320.030 on the following
10 outcomes when contracting with service contracting entities:
11 Improvements in client health status and wellness; increases in
12 client participation in meaningful activities; reductions in client
13 involvement with criminal justice systems; reductions in avoidable
14 costs in hospitals, emergency rooms, crisis services, and jails and
15 prisons; increases in stable housing in the community; improvements
16 in client satisfaction with quality of life; and reductions in
17 population-level health disparities.

18 (2) The performance measures must demonstrate the manner in which
19 the following principles are achieved within each of the outcomes
20 under subsection (1) of this section:

21 (a) Maximization of the use of evidence-based practices will be
22 given priority over the use of research-based and promising
23 practices, and research-based practices will be given priority over
24 the use of promising practices. The agencies will develop strategies
25 to identify programs that are effective with ethnically diverse
26 clients and to consult with tribal governments, experts within
27 ethnically diverse communities and community organizations that serve
28 diverse communities;

29 (b) The maximization of the client's independence, recovery, and
30 employment;

31 (c) The maximization of the client's participation in treatment
32 decisions; and

33 (d) The collaboration between consumer-based support programs in
34 providing services to the client.

35 (3) In developing performance measures under RCW 70.320.030, the
36 authority and the department shall consider expected outcomes
37 relevant to the general populations that each agency serves. The
38 authority and the department may adapt the outcomes to account for
39 the unique needs and characteristics of discrete subcategories of

1 populations receiving services, including ethnically diverse
2 communities.

3 (4) The authority and the department shall coordinate the
4 establishment of the expected outcomes and the performance measures
5 between each agency as well as each program to identify expected
6 outcomes and performance measures that are common to the clients
7 enrolled in multiple programs and to eliminate conflicting standards
8 among the agencies and programs.

9 (5)(a) The authority and the department shall establish timelines
10 and mechanisms for service contracting entities to report data
11 related to performance measures and outcomes, including phased
12 implementation of public reporting of outcome and performance
13 measures in a form that allows for comparison of performance measures
14 and levels of improvement between geographic regions of Washington.

15 (b) The authority and the department may not release any public
16 reports of client outcomes unless the data (~~(have [has])~~) has been
17 deidentified and aggregated in such a way that the identity of
18 individual clients cannot be determined through directly identifiable
19 data or the combination of multiple data elements.

20 (6) The authority and department must establish a performance
21 measure to be integrated into the statewide common measure set which
22 tracks effective integration practices of behavioral health services
23 in primary care settings.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. RCW 18.205.040 (Use of title) and 2014 c
25 225 s 108, 2008 c 135 s 17, & 1998 c 243 s 4 are each repealed.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. Section 2 of this act takes effect only
27 if Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1340 (including any later
28 amendments or substitutes) is not signed into law by the governor by
29 the effective date of this section.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. Section 3 of this act takes effect only
31 if Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1340 (including any later
32 amendments or substitutes) is signed into law by the governor by the
33 effective date of this section.

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