
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6510

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council (BHPOC), by December 1, 2021, to develop a document for each mental health region describing the resources available to children with psychiatric disabilities and behavioral health disorders. BHPOC must do so in consultation with the departments of Children and Families (DCF), Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Public Health and DCF's Youth Suicide Advisory Board.

Under the bill, the council must (1) distribute the documents electronically to each licensed hospital that has an emergency department; (2) make them available on the council's website; and (3) starting December 1, 2022, annually review them and distribute and post any updates.

The bill also requires hospital emergency departments, starting on January 1, 2022, to provide a copy of one or more of the documents to the parents or guardians of children who (1) exhibit symptoms consistent with a psychiatric disability or behavioral health disorder or (2) the department evaluated as a result of exhibiting such symptoms. The hospital emergency department must do so upon discharging the child. Under the bill, documents must be specifically developed for the mental health region or regions where the hospital is located and where the child lives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DOCUMENT DESCRIBING AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Under the bill, each document must provide information on mental

health evaluation and treatment resources available to children with psychiatric disabilities and behavioral health disorders in their respective mental health region.

The documents must contain contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and a list of evaluation and treatment providers, including mobile crisis intervention services providers. The list must include the providers' physical locations, if applicable; types of services offered; and contact information.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/11/2021)