

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD)

Program eligibility expansion

Substitute Senate Bill 5976; Section 1(5); Chapter 242; Laws of 2020

December 15, 2020; December 15, 2021

Legislative summary

The Washington State Health Authority (HCA) is submitting this report in response to Substitute Senate Bill 5976; Section 1(5); Chapter 242; Laws of 2020.

“On or before December 15, 2020, and on or before 5 December 15, 2021, the authority, in consultation with any organizations administering the program, shall provide a report, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, to the health care and fiscal committees of the legislature, to include: (a) The number of dentists, primary care providers, and dental hygienists participating in the program; and (b) The number of eligible children (with disabilities) who received treatment through the program.”

Background

HCA does not have the data to report, because the ABCD program expansion has not yet occurred. Prior to expanding the program, HCA needed to receive approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to use federal funds for the ABCD program expansion. CMS provided that approval on April 26, 2021. HCA is currently developing rules for the program expansion before implementation occurs during the first quarter of calendar year 2022.

Next steps

HCA will submit a progress report on the ABCD program expansion, pursuant to Substitute Senate Bill 5092; Section 211(51); Chapter 334; Laws of 2021:

“[Appropriations to HCA] are provided solely for contracting with the office of equity to implement chapter 293, Laws of 2020 (baby, child dentistry access). By November 15, 2021, the authority shall submit a report to the appropriate committees to the legislature describing its progress implementing chapter 293, Laws of 2020 (baby, child dentistry access) and chapter 242, Laws of 2020 (access to baby and child dentistry for children with disabilities).”

Contact

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