
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1608

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Leonard, Winsley, Rasmussen, Beck, Anderson, Hargrove, Brekke, Bowman, Dorn, Hine, Rust, Riley, Spanel, H. Myers, Dellwo, Phillips, Haugen, Jacobsen, Jones, R. King, Pruitt, Basich, R. Johnson, Van Luven, Holland, Valle, Paris, Belcher, Sheldon and O'Brien). Read first time March 4, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to children's services; amending RCW 13.32A.040,
2 74.13.032, and 74.13.035; adding a new section to chapter 13.40 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; adding new sections to
4 chapter 43.20A RCW; creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the number of
7 group home beds for children has declined dramatically since 1980. This
8 decline has resulted in the placement of children who need residential
9 group care in family foster homes, crisis residential centers, interim
10 care programs, residential treatment centers, and other programs not
11 designed for residential group care. This misuse of the out-of-home
12 care system has resulted in personal injury and property damage to
13 those operating family foster homes, the lack of availability of
14 services intended by the legislature for runaways and families in

1 conflict, and harm to the children whose needs required residential
2 group care.

3 The legislature also finds that the current administration of
4 services to runaway youth, at-risk youth, and families in conflict is
5 inconsistent across the state and that services and programs intended
6 for this population have been used inappropriately and contrary to the
7 requirements of state law.

8 To remedy this state of affairs, the legislature declares that it
9 intends to provide a full continuum of care for children in need of
10 state assistance.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of social and health
12 services shall conduct an assessment of the children in its care to
13 determine the appropriate level of residential and treatment services
14 required by these children. The assessment shall be based on a
15 statistically valid sample of all children in the department's care.
16 The department shall report the results of the assessment to the
17 appropriate standing committees of the legislature by September 15,
18 1992. The department shall submit recommendations to the appropriate
19 standing committees of the legislature on reallocating funds for
20 children's services by December 1, 1992.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** After March 1, 1993, all children
22 requiring residential and treatment services through the department
23 shall be assessed to determine the appropriate level of services
24 required. The assessment procedure shall be the same regardless of the
25 residential and treatment services ultimately provided by the
26 department.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall ensure that the
2 administration of chapter 13.32A RCW and applicable portions of chapter
3 74.13 RCW relating to runaway youth, at-risk youth, and families in
4 conflict is consistent in all areas of the state and in accordance with
5 statutory requirements.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The department of social and health services shall implement a
9 therapeutic family home program for up to fifteen youth in the custody
10 of the department under chapter 13.34 RCW. The program shall develop
11 and maintain a mutually reinforcing relationship between the youth and
12 the therapeutic staff associated with the program.

13 **Sec. 6.** RCW 13.32A.040 and 1990 c 276 s 4 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 Families who are in conflict or who are experiencing problems with
16 at-risk youth may request family reconciliation services from the
17 department. Such services shall be provided to alleviate personal or
18 family situations which present a serious and imminent threat to the
19 health or stability of the child or family and to maintain families
20 intact wherever possible. Family reconciliation services shall be
21 designed to develop skills and supports within families to resolve
22 problems related to at-risk youth or family conflicts and may include
23 but are not limited to referral to services for suicide prevention,
24 psychiatric or other medical care, or psychological, welfare, legal,
25 educational, or other social services, as appropriate to the needs of
26 the child and the family. Family reconciliation services shall be
27 available in all communities of the state. Family reconciliation
28 services shall be available during evenings and weekends.

1 **Sec. 7.** RCW 74.13.032 and 1979 c 155 s 78 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The department shall establish, by contracts with private
4 vendors, not less than eight regional crisis residential centers, which
5 shall be structured group care facilities licensed under rules adopted
6 by the department. (~~Each regional center shall have an average of at
7 least four adult staff members and in no event less than three adult
8 staff members to every eight children.~~) The staff shall be trained so
9 that they may effectively counsel juveniles admitted to the centers,
10 provide treatment, supervision, and structure to the juveniles, and
11 carry out the responsibilities outlined in RCW 13.32A.090.

12 (2) The department shall, in addition to the regional facilities
13 established under subsection (1) of this section, establish not less
14 than thirty additional crisis residential centers pursuant to contract
15 with licensed private group care or specialized foster home facilities.
16 The staff at the facilities shall be trained so that they may
17 effectively counsel juveniles admitted to the centers, provide
18 treatment, supervision, and structure to the juveniles, and carry out
19 the responsibilities stated in RCW 13.32A.090. The responsibilities
20 stated in RCW 13.32A.090 may, in any of the centers, be carried out by
21 the department.

22 Crisis residential facilities shall be operated as semi-secure
23 facilities.

24 **Sec. 8.** RCW 74.13.035 and 1979 c 155 s 81 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 Crisis residential centers shall compile yearly records which shall
27 be transmitted to the department and which shall contain information
28 regarding population profiles of the children admitted to the centers

1 during each past calendar year. Such information shall include but
2 shall not be limited to the following:

3 (1) The number, age, and sex of children admitted to custody;

4 (2) Who brought the children to the center;

5 (3) Services provided to children admitted to the center;

6 (4) The circumstances which necessitated the children being brought
7 to the center;

8 (5) The ultimate disposition of cases;

9 (6) The number of children admitted to custody who ran away from
10 the center and their ultimate disposition, if any;

11 (7) Length of stay.

12 The department may require the provision of additional information and
13 may require each center to provide all such necessary information in a
14 uniform manner.

15 ~~((A center may, in addition to being licensed as such, also be
16 licensed as a family foster home or group care facility and may house
17 on the premises juveniles assigned for foster or group care.))~~

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The legislature finds that a destructive
19 lifestyle of drug and street gang activity is rapidly becoming
20 prevalent among some of the state's youths. A significant portion of
21 these gang and drug-involved youths are African American youths as well
22 as the youths of other ethnic and cultural minority groups. Gang and
23 drug-involved youths are more likely to become addicted to drugs or
24 alcohol, live in poverty, experience high unemployment, be
25 incarcerated, and die of violence than other youths.

26 The legislature also finds that the treatment needs of gang and
27 drug-involved youths who are committed to the custody of the division
28 of juvenile rehabilitation in the department of social and health
29 services are not being met by existing programs. These youths can

1 benefit from the establishment of programs that seek to restore
2 physical, mental, and spiritual health; instill an interest in
3 learning; teach respect for others; foster self-esteem and pride; and
4 foster the establishment of positive ties with the community.
5 Therefore, the legislature directs the department of social and health
6 services to establish a three-step transitional treatment program for
7 gang and drug-involved youths in the custody of the department under
8 chapter 13.40 RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 13.40 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The department of social and health services shall contract
12 with a community-based nonprofit organization to establish a three-step
13 transitional treatment program for gang and drug-involved juvenile
14 offenders committed to the custody of the department under chapter
15 13.40 RCW. The program shall provide six to twenty-four months of
16 treatment. The program shall emphasize the principles of self-
17 determination, unity, collective work and responsibility, cooperative
18 economics, and creativity. The three-step program shall be culturally
19 relevant and appropriate and shall include:

20 (a) A culturally relevant and appropriate institution-based program
21 which shall provide comprehensive drug and alcohol services, individual
22 and family counseling, and a wilderness experience of constructive
23 group living, rigorous physical exercise, and academic studies;

24 (b) A culturally relevant and appropriate community-based
25 structured group living program which shall focus on individual goals,
26 positive community involvement, coordinated drug and alcohol treatment,
27 coordinated individual and family counseling, academic and vocational
28 training, and employment in apprenticeship, internship, and
29 entrepreneurial programs; and

1 (c) A culturally relevant and appropriate transitional group living
2 program which shall provide support services, academic services, and
3 coordinated individual and family counseling.

4 (2) Participation in the program shall be on a voluntary basis.

5 (3) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the
6 three-step transitional treatment program.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** (1) The department of social and health
8 services shall contract with an independent research organization to
9 conduct an evaluation of the model program established under section 10
10 of this act. The research organization shall assess whether the
11 program is operating in a culturally relevant and appropriate manner.
12 The evaluation shall include an analysis of the race and ethnicity of
13 juvenile offenders served, the offenses for which the youths were
14 committed, the services provided, the effects of the program on
15 educational and vocational achievement, and the rate of recidivism for
16 these youth. The evaluation shall also include a determination of the
17 program's applicability to other types of juvenile offenders.

18 (2) The organization selected shall provide a preliminary report on
19 the model program to appropriate standing committees of the senate and
20 house of representatives by September 15, 1992. A final report shall
21 be submitted to appropriate standing committees of the senate and house
22 of representatives by January 15, 1993.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 3 and 4 of this act are each
24 added to chapter 43.20A RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The sum of six hundred thousand dollars,
26 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
27 biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the department

1 of social and health services for the purpose of establishing a
2 therapeutic family home program under section 5 of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** The sum of two million two hundred
4 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
5 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
6 fund to the department of social and health services for the purposes
7 of establishing a three-step transitional treatment program under
8 section 10 of this act.