

Connecting Medicaid dental clients to services

A public-private partnership

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6168; Section 211(61); Chapter 357; Laws of 2020

June 30, 2021

Legislative summary

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) is submitting this report in response to the budget proviso in ESSB 6168; Section 211(61); Chapter 357; Laws of 2020, which states:

“\$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 is provided solely for the authority to develop a public private partnership with a state-based oral health foundation to connect Medicaid patients to dental services and reduce barriers to accessing care. The authority shall submit a progress report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2021.”

Background

HCA has not yet developed the public-private partnership, because:

1. HCA would need to enter into a non-essential personal service contract to develop the public-private partnership with a state-based oral health foundation (i.e., the Arcora Foundation); and
2. On May 13, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued directive 20-05, which included a freeze on signing non-essential personal service contracts, effective May 18, 2020.

Next steps

The Governor rescinded directive 20-05 on April 28, 2021. HCA is now working to develop the public-private partnership. In lieu of the progress report due June 30, 2021, HCA will submit a progress report on the public-private partnership, pursuant to ESSB 5092; Section 211(59); Chapter 334; Laws of 2021:

“Appropriations for fiscal years 2022 and 2023] are provided solely for the authority to continue a public-private partnership with a state-based oral health foundation to connect Medicaid patients to dental services and reduce barriers to accessing care. The authority shall submit a progress report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2022.”

Contact

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