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Referred: Health, Education and Social
Services, Judiciary and Finance

5-0524A

BY HALFORD AND FAHRENKAMP
BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
MENTAL HEALTH TRUST LAND

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 97

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the chronically mentally ill."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 47.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

9 Sec. 47.30.545. TREATMENT OF THE CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL. The
10 department shall provide for community based and locally or regionally
11 coordinated care and treatment of the chronically mentally ill.

12 Sec. 47.30.546. COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE CHRONICALLY
13 MENTALLY ILL. Communities that provide eligible mental health ser-
14 vices for the chronically mentally ill may receive funds from the
15 department for the following program elements:

16 (1) a short-term residential treatment program for indivi-
17 duals experiencing an acute episode or a situational crisis requiring
18 temporary removal from their home environment;

19 (2) a long-term residential treatment program with a full
20 day treatment component for persons who require intensive support;

21 (3) a transitional residential treatment program designed
22 for persons who are able to take part in programs in the general
23 community, but who, without continued support, would be at risk of
24 returning to a hospital;

25 (4) a semi-supervised, independent, but structured living
26 arrangement for persons who, without some support and structure, would
27 be at risk of returning to the hospital;

28 (5) a day treatment program capable of providing services
29 for clients whose residential needs are being met, but who require
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1 additional or extended treatment services;

2 (6) supported work and vocational training programs that
3 provide opportunities for clients to experience the benefits of mean-
4 ingful and productive work experiences with graduated levels of skill
5 and energy required;

6 (7) socialization centers designed to serve a broad range
7 of clients, as well as persons living in the community in general.

8 Sec. 47.30.547. STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE
9 CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL. Communities providing mental health ser-
10 vices for the chronically mentally ill shall meet and maintain the
11 following treatment standards:

12 (1) facilities shall consist of small residential or day
13 treatment centers, in as close to a normal home or non-institutional
14 environment as possible without sacrificing client safety or care;

15 (2) staffing patterns shall reflect the cultural, linguis-
16 tic, and other social characteristics of the community, and shall
17 incorporate multidisciplinary professional staff to meet client diag-
18 nostic and treatment needs;

19 (3) programs shall be designed to encourage self-sufficient
20 and independent functioning through prevocational and vocational
21 training;

22 (4) programs shall promote client participation in plan-
23 ning, operating, and evaluating daily treatment and rehabilitation;

24 (5) programs shall be designed to coordinate with the
25 social service system as a whole and in particular shall be designed
26 to include the following three elements:

27 (A) emergency or crisis care in an emergency center or
28 at home by an emergency response team;

29 (B) an acute hospital for evaluation, diagnosis,

1 treatment, and referral of persons who are in need of acute care;
2 and

3 (C) a case management system in which the case manager
4 serves as a coordinator of the various elements of the system and
5 as an advocate for the clients in the system; all case managers
6 shall be under direct supervision of a psychiatrist or psycholo-
7 gist, or a mental health clinician with a master's degree in a
8 field related to mental health;

9 (6) programs shall contain standards for staff training,
10 including training in community outreach services and orientation in
11 cross-cultural issues.

12 * Sec. 2. AS 47.30.550 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, the department shall
14 purchase 100 percent of the eligible costs of services provided for
15 the chronically mentally ill, subject to the availability of state
16 funds to the department for implementing AS 47.30.520 - 47.30.620.

17 * Sec. 3. AS 47.30.570 is amended to read:

18 Sec. 47.30.570. ELIGIBLE COSTS; MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL EFFORT.
19 The department shall adopt regulations specifying the types of ser-
20 vices and program costs eligible for state participation. These regu-
21 lations shall include

22 (1) a provision excluding capital expenditures as eligible
23 costs; [AND]

24 (2) a requirement that the community entity contractor or
25 applicant agrees as a condition of contract approval that it will not
26 supplant existing local funding [FUND] support of community mental
27 health services with funds received under AS 47.30.520 - 47.30.620 and
28 that it will continue local funding support of community mental health
29 services, in any year in which it contracts with the department, at a

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level that is at least equal to the local funding support in the previous year;

(3) a provision that costs of services provided to the chronically mentally ill under AS 47.30.550(b) that are payable by insurance, indemnity, or other third-party may not be included as eligible costs.