



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
Olympia, WA 98504-5000

September 14, 2005

Senator James Hargrove, Chair  
Senate Human Services and Corrections  
Post Office Box 40424  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0424

Dear Senator Hargrove:

This is to inform you that while the Department of Social and Health Services did not receive the requested funding necessary to complete the full assessment required by Chapter 166, Laws of 2004 (E2SSB 6358) we will be providing studies that meet the majority of final report requirements. The legislation provides:

"The department of social and health services, in consultation with the appropriate committees of the legislature, shall assess the current and needed residential capacity for crisis response and ongoing treatment services for persons in need of treatment for mental disorders and chemical dependency. In addition to considering the demand for persons with either a mental disorder or chemical dependency, the assessment shall consider the demand for services for mentally ill offenders, and persons with co-occurring disorders, mental disorders caused by traumatic brain injury or dementia, and drug induced psychosis. An initial report assessing the types, number, and location of needed mental health crisis response and emergency treatment beds, both in community hospital-based and in other settings, shall be submitted to appropriate committees of the legislature by November 1, 2004. A final report assessing the types, number, and location of beds needed for mental health and chemical dependency emergency, transitional, and ongoing treatment shall be submitted to appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2005. Both reports shall set forth the projected costs and benefits of alternative strategies and timelines for addressing identified needs."

[Chapter 166, Laws of 2004 (ESSSB 6358) ]

The department provided the initial report (November 1, 2004) to the legislature as required. This report, *Capacity and Demand Study for Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital and Community Residential Beds Adults & Children* (November 2004), provided significant findings and recommendations regarding the inpatient and residential capacity needs in Washington State. The department requested funding to provide additional information on the needs of the specified populations – "persons with either a mental disorder or chemical dependency, the assessment shall consider the demand for services for mentally ill offenders, and persons with co-occurring disorders, mental disorders caused by traumatic brain injury or dementia, and drug induced psychosis" – but this funding was not provided.



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The department is currently conducting a study, with a somewhat more limited scope than required by Chapter 166 Laws of 2004, which will provide much of the information requested. This study will describe client profiles pertaining to (1) individuals who currently reside in Western and Eastern State Hospitals whom no longer require the need for psychiatric inpatient hospitalization but cannot be placed in current long-term care settings due to the current payment and staffing structure; and (2) those difficult to place individuals who have been or are at risk of being in the state hospital system, including those who are or at risk of being homeless. These individuals may be older persons with dementia, adults with a developmental disability or traumatic brain injury, or adults with chemical dependency and medical or behavioral issues that may require a longer term care commitment on the part of the state. It will also include an analysis that illustrates a variety of models currently in use in various states for serving the needs of one or more of the target populations, including payment information for these models, in order to complete a comparison with the program model and payment model that is currently in operation in Washington. The report will suggest new service models and new payment models that serves the needs of the target populations and may propose amendments to the state of Washington's involuntary treatment act laws (chapter 71.05 of the RCW), if necessary.

In addition the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse is preparing a separate report assessing both the need for and cost of providing additional emergency, transitional, and ongoing treatment beds for both adults and youth. This report will take into account the newly provided treatment expansion funds and the new pilot programs in integrated crisis response/secure detoxification authorized under Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5763. Projections will be made regarding both the number of new treatment beds still needed and the cost of providing them in the 2007-2009 Biennium.

I believe that these reports will be helpful to the legislature as it continues to address these complex matters. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Robin Arnold-Williams  
Secretary

cc: Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee