Proviso 40: Criminal background Check

Purpose

Proviso 40 examines the impact of criminal background check in behavioral health employment settings. To complete the examination, the Health Care Authority convened a task force to:

- Examine the impacts of the Secretary's List of Disqualifying Crimes and Negative Actions,

- Consider how expanding the role of Certified Peer Counselors into emergency services and first responder roles may support the increasing demand for behavioral health workers,

- Examine the potential benefits of developing an educational program for Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity (CROP) for incarcerated individuals approaching release from state prisons.

Results of these examinations were used to produce a report with considerations for the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature.

Proviso 40 taskforce

The task force membership must include representatives from:
- The Office of the Attorney General
- The Department of Health
- The Department of Social and Health Services
- The Office of the Governor
- Others appointed by the authority; including Behavioral Health Employers and those with lived experience.

The taskforce was encouraged to considered relevant information and recommendations the workgroup created under SHB 1411 – Health Care Workforce. These recommendations are due in 2023, so could not be considered in the Proviso 40 report.

Goal

The goal of the Proviso 40: Criminal Background task force is to reduce barriers in developing and retaining a robust Behavioral Health workforce while maintain patient safety measures.

Legislative report

The Health Care Authority must submit a legislative report of the task force's recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature. Due to the legislature January 1, 2022.

Funding

SFY 2021 - $100,000 of Federal Funding available

Questions?

Steve Perry – Workforce Development Manager
Steve.perry@hca.wa.gov