

Proviso 74: Teaching clinic enhancement rates

Overview

The funding for Fiscal Year 2022 is provided for The Health Care Authority to convene a workgroup to develop recommendations for a teaching clinic enhancement rate for Behavioral Health Agencies that provide training and supervising to students and those seeking their certification or license. This should include:

- Developing standards for classifying a behavioral health agency as a teaching clinic
- Cost methodology to determine a teaching clinic enhancement rate
- A timeline for implementation

Proviso 74 workgroup

The workgroup membership must include representatives from:

- The Department of Health
- The Office of the Governor
- The Washington Workforce Training and Education board
- The Washington Council for Behavioral Health
- Licensed and certified Behavioral Health agencies
- Higher Education Institutions

Goal

Community behavioral health agencies routinely experience turnover rates of between thirty and fifty percent while average vacancy rates run three to five months to fill clinical positions. The goal of Proviso 74 is to develop a funding mechanism that recognizes and compensates community behavioral health agencies for

performing a significant training function required for behavioral health workers to obtain their educational degree and clinical licensure. A service that benefits the entire behavioral health system.

Community mental health and substance use disorder treatment agencies often serve as training sites for professionals seeking supervision hours to meet licensure requirements, but stakeholders consistently report that the true costs incurred in this arrangement are not fully reimbursed, and may be a net drain on these already lean community organizations. Too often, clinicians leave for better paying jobs with lower acuity patients after completing their facility-sponsored supervision requirements.

The lack of compensation for serving as a training site, combined with high staff turnover adversely impact the ability of these sites to meet the needs of individuals who need behavioral health services. Recognizing and compensating sites for this function may help community-based agencies provide more training opportunities, and may also lead to better retention. Providing compensation for this role would partially address reductions in standard clinical productivity as a result of time spent supervising new workers, enabling better absorption of the costs of high turnover.

Legislative report

The Health Care Authority must submit a report of the work group's recommendations to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature. Proviso workgroup requested an extension of the due date to implement provider surveys and conduct actuarial analysis. Request date is March 30, 2022



Funding

SFY 2022 - \$150,000 of the State General Fund

Questions?

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