

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 22, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 13, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1770

Introduced by Senator Chesbro

February 23, 2000

An act to add Section ~~5600.8~~ *5600.10* to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1770, as amended, Chesbro. Mental health: client and family member empowerment programs.

Existing law, the Bronzan-McCorquodale Act, provides for the organization and finance of community mental health services for the mentally disordered in every county through locally administered and locally controlled community mental health programs.

This bill would require, in any year in which funds are provided for this purpose in the annual Budget Act, the State Department of Mental Health, pursuant to a request-for-proposal process, to provide grants to county mental health departments for mental health client and family member empowerment programs that meet criteria specified in the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares
2 all of the following:
3 (a) Persons with mental disabilities and their family
4 members make significant contributions to the
5 development and delivery of a high-quality and cohesive
6 mental health system in California.
7 (2) The delivery of appropriate mental health services
8 and supports to persons with mental disabilities,
9 including services and supports that address the needs of
10 differing cultures, ages, and genders, is improved by the
11 involvement of clients and family members in the
12 development of treatment and service plans.
13 (3) The effectiveness of mental health treatment and
14 services is enhanced when clients and family members
15 are afforded choices about methods of delivery.
16 (4) The recovery of clients in the mental health system
17 and the quality of life of these clients and their family
18 members is enhanced by peer and family support.
19 (5) Education, training, and access to information is
20 necessary to ensure that clients and family members
21 participate in the mental health system to their fullest
22 capacity.
23 (6) As part of their participation in the mental health
24 system, clients and family members should serve as
25 respected members of mental health boards and
26 commissions, making recommendations and developing
27 policy. In order to maximize their contributions to the
28 mental health community, these individuals must have
29 access to information and training.
30 (7) Empowerment activities for clients and family
31 members, including programs run by these individuals,
32 should be an integral part of the system of care in each
33 county.
34 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to improve the
35 role and leadership of mental health system clients and
36 their family members in the development,
37 implementation, and oversight of mental health policies
38 in California, as well as the exercise of consumer choice



1 in the determination of mental health treatment and
2 service programs.

3 SEC. 2. Section ~~5600.8~~ *5600.10* is added to the Welfare
4 and Institutions Code, to read:

5 ~~5600.8.—~~

6 *5600.10.* (a) The department shall issue a request for
7 proposals in order to establish and expand empowerment
8 programs for mental health clients and their family
9 members by not later than September 1 in any year in
10 which funds are provided in the annual Budget Act for
11 this purpose. The department shall make grants to county
12 mental health departments on the basis of proposals
13 meeting the criteria set forth in this section.

14 (b) The department shall implement the requests for
15 proposals and award grants in consultation with a
16 working group of individuals with a stake in the mental
17 health system, including clients and family members. The
18 group shall consist of at least 30 percent clients and 30
19 percent family members.

20 (c) Proposals submitted pursuant to this section shall
21 describe how they will result in greater respect for client
22 and family member autonomy in the mental health
23 system as well as how they will increase the ability of
24 clients and family members to make informed decisions.

25 (d) Proposals submitted under this section shall
26 describe how clients and family members played a
27 substantive role in the development of these strategies.

28 (e) Proposals solicited pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
29 be submitted by any county mental health department in
30 partnership with local organizations run by clients or
31 family members, or both. Multiple counties may also
32 submit proposals in partnership with local organizations
33 run by clients or family members. Community-based
34 organizations led by clients and family members may
35 subcontract with the county to fulfill components of the
36 proposals. Proposals may include, but are not limited to,
37 any of the following:

38 (1) A description of how the proposal will result in the
39 establishment, expansion, or improvement of training or



1 access to information and referral services for clients and
2 family members.

3 (2) A description of how the proposal will result in the
4 establishment, expansion, or improvement of the
5 meaningful role of clients and family members in local
6 policy development, implementation, and oversight
7 activities.

8 (3) A description of how the proposal will result in the
9 establishment, expansion, or improvement of the use of
10 clients and family members in staff positions within
11 county departments or community-based service
12 agencies.

13 (4) A description of how the proposal will result in the
14 establishment or expansion of self-help and other
15 client-run programs.

16 (5) A description of how the proposal will result in the
17 establishment of family-run educational or support
18 activities.

19 (6) A description of how the proposal will result in
20 services and supports that are appropriate to differing
21 cultures, ages, and genders.

22 (f) In order to ensure the appropriate monitoring and
23 oversight occurs, the department, in consultation with
24 the working group, shall develop a process by which
25 grantees submit reports to the department. The
26 department shall use these reports to provide
27 information to the Legislature by April 1 of each year in
28 which programs are funded regarding the
29 implementation of client and family empowerment
30 programs.

31 (g) Proposals submitted pursuant to subdivision (b)
32 shall describe how the county will continue to implement
33 their client and family member empowerment plan after
34 the state grant funding authorized by this section is
35 terminated.

