

Senate Bill No. 1770

Passed the Senate August 30, 2000

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 28, 2000

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2000, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

└

CHAPTER _____

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1770, 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.

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

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Persons with mental disabilities and their family members make significant contributions to the development and delivery of a high-quality and cohesive mental health system in California.

(2) The delivery of appropriate mental health services and supports to persons with mental disabilities, including services and supports that address the needs of differing cultures, ages, and genders, is improved by the involvement of clients and family members in the development of treatment and service plans.

(3) The effectiveness of mental health treatment and services is enhanced when clients and family members are afforded choices about methods of delivery.



(4) The recovery of clients in the mental health system and the quality of life of these clients and their family members is enhanced by peer and family support.

(5) Education, training, and access to information is necessary to ensure that clients and family members participate in the mental health system to their fullest capacity.

(6) As part of their participation in the mental health system, clients and family members should serve as respected members of mental health boards and commissions, making recommendations and developing policy. In order to maximize their contributions to the mental health community, these individuals must have access to information and training.

(7) Empowerment activities for clients and family members, including programs run by these individuals, should be an integral part of the system of care in each county.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to improve the role and leadership of mental health system clients and their family members in the development, implementation, and oversight of mental health policies in California, as well as the exercise of consumer choice in the determination of mental health treatment and service programs.

SEC. 2. Section 5600.10 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

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

(b) The department shall implement the requests for proposals and award grants in consultation with a working group of individuals with a stake in the mental health system, including clients and family members. The



group shall consist of at least 30 percent clients and 30 percent family members.

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

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

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

(1) A description of how the proposal will result in the establishment, expansion, or improvement of training or access to information and referral services for clients and family members.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Approved _____, 2000

Governor

