

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SHB 2287

Establishing a Criminal Justice System Diversion Center Pilot Project

(2017-2018 Legislative Sessions)

Evidence indicates that SHB 2287 has potential to reduce recidivism for individuals with previous involvement in the criminal justice system and behavioral health needs, which in turn has the potential to improve health outcomes. The intended populations for the pilot project, as specified in the bill, disproportionately experience negative behavioral health outcomes and homelessness; therefore improving health outcomes for these populations would likely decrease health disparities.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Representatives Hayes, Ortiz-Self, Eslick, Ryu, Harmsworth, Sells, Petersen, Van Werven, Pellicciotti, Klippert, Goodman, Kloba, Tarleton, Fey, Santos, Smith, Tharinger, Dolan, Valdez, Stanford, Appleton, Lovick, Doglio, Griffey, Stonier, and Gregerson

Summary of Bill:

- Directs the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to administer grant funding for two residential pilot programs (one east and one west of the crest of the Cascade Mountain Range) that serve certain individuals who are encountered by law enforcement or who are being released from jail.
- Requires that the pilot project use skilled staff to perform specified services (e.g., needs assessments, recovery support and planning) and be sited in locations that provide convenient access to relevant programming (e.g., housing, employment, and behavior health).
- Directs each grant recipient to establish approximately 40 residential beds for short term placements of up to 90 days.
- Prioritizes placement of intended populations including: “1) individuals referred by law enforcement who are suspected of having committed a non-violent crime and whose behavior is suspected to have been influenced by a behavioral health issue; 2) individuals referred by social workers embedded with law enforcement agencies who have previous involvement in the criminal justice system and who are awaiting an inpatient residential treatment bed or are working toward self-sufficiency following inpatient treatment; and 3) individuals with behavioral health issues who are being released from jail and are working with reentry services to address housing and other needs.”
- Establishes minimum reporting requirements related to recidivism, behavioral health services, housing stability, and recovery services.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in SHB 2287:

- A fair amount of evidence that a criminal justice diversion center pilot project would likely reduce criminal justice contact (recidivism) among individuals with previous involvement in the criminal justice system (justice-involved) with behavioral health needs.
- Strong evidence that reducing criminal justice contact for justice-involved individuals with behavioral health needs would likely lead to improved health outcomes.
- Very strong evidence that improving health outcomes for justice-involved individuals with behavioral health needs would likely decrease health disparities for veterans, communities of color, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2018-04-HB2287.pdf>

For more information contact:
(360)-236-4109 | hir@sboh.wa.gov
or go to sboh.wa.gov

