

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 346—ASSEMBLYMEN TIFFANY, LESLIE, BERMAN, GIBBONS, ANGLE, BACHE, BEERS, BROWN, CEGAVSKE, CHOWNING, COLLINS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, GOLDWATER, HETTRICK, KOIVISTO, LEE, MANENDO, MARVEL, MCCLAIN, MORTENSON, NEIGHBORS, PARKS, PRICE, VON TOBEL AND WILLIAMS

MARCH 13, 2001

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Provides for establishment of pilot program in southern Nevada for provision of program of intensive and integrated community services to adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless. (BDR S-990)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to mental illness; providing for the establishment of a pilot program in southern Nevada for the provision of a program of intensive and integrated community services to adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

- 1 WHEREAS, Recent estimates indicate that there are more than 7,000
- 2 adults in southern Nevada who are homeless and that more than 31 percent
- 3 of those adults have a severe and persistent mental illness; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless who do
- 5 not have access to the services they need or who are not able to utilize
- 6 those services because of their mental illness are much more likely to enter
- 7 the criminal justice system and be incarcerated or to require hospitalization
- 8 and emergency medical services than such adults who receive extensive
- 9 community services; and
- 10 WHEREAS, The recovery of adults who are seriously mentally ill and
- 11 homeless and their financial means are important for all levels of
- 12 government, business and the community; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless may
- 14 receive services from many different state and county agencies, particularly
- 15 those agencies that provide services relating to criminal justice,
- 16 employment, housing, public welfare, health and mental health; and



1 WHEREAS, A system of care for adults who are seriously mentally ill
2 and homeless is vital for successful management of mental health care in
3 Nevada; and

4 WHEREAS, A system of care which ensures culturally competent care
5 for adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless in the most
6 appropriate, least restrictive manner is necessary to achieve the desired
7 outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, A comprehensive and coordinated system of care includes
9 community-based treatment, outreach services and other early intervention
10 strategies, case management, and the coordination of services that are
11 provided by governmental agencies and which are required by adults who
12 are seriously mentally ill and homeless; and

13 WHEREAS, The availability of transitional and permanent housing is
14 critical to the successful treatment and stabilization of adults who are
15 seriously mentally ill and homeless; and

16 WHEREAS, This community-oriented approach to mental health care
17 will save public money by reducing expenses incurred by law enforcement
18 agencies in arresting or transporting for treatment adults who are seriously
19 mentally ill and homeless, curtailing expensive hospital stays, and helping
20 to get such adults off the streets and into stabilizing treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, A regional pilot program is the most cost-efficient method of
22 developing and testing the most effective manner of delivering intensive
23 and integrated community services to adults who are seriously mentally ill
24 and homeless in this state; and

25 WHEREAS, The funding provided for such a pilot program must be
26 sufficient to provide mental health services, medically necessary
27 medications to treat severe mental illnesses, services for the prevention and
28 treatment of alcohol abuse, supportive housing and other housing
29 assistance, coordination of vocational rehabilitation services, assistance in
30 accessing veterans' services and other health care and in obtaining federal
31 income and housing support; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

32 **Section 1.** 1. The Administrator of the Division of Mental Health
33 and Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources shall
34 establish a pilot program in southern Nevada for the provision of a program
35 of intensive and integrated community services to adults who are seriously
36 mentally ill and homeless.

37 2. The Administrator shall establish standards of service for the pilot
38 program. The standards must ensure that adults in southern Nevada who
39 are seriously mentally ill and homeless are identified and services provided
40 to assist them to live independently, work and reach their potential as
41 productive residents of Nevada. The standards must include, without
42 limitation, a service planning process with regard to such adults that
43 includes:

44 (a) The determination of the number of clients to be served under the
45 program and the services that will be provided to meet their needs.



1 (b) Plans for services to be provided under the program, including
2 outreach services, mental health services, substance abuse services,
3 transitional housing or other housing assistance, vocational rehabilitation,
4 veterans' services and coordination of and access to medications. The plans
5 must also contain evaluation strategies, which must consider cultural and
6 linguistic differences, and factors such as gender, age and the special needs
7 of minorities, and provide for the utilization of personnel with the cultural
8 background and linguistic skills necessary to remove barriers to mental
9 health services resulting cultural differences, including the limited ability
10 of a client to speak English.

11 (c) The provision of services that are client-directed and which employ
12 psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery principles.

13 (d) The requirement that each client be provided with a designated
14 mental health case manager who, or a multidisciplinary treatment team
15 which, is responsible for providing needed services to the client or ensuring
16 that the client receives such services. The responsibilities of the case
17 manager or treatment team must include a complete assessment of the
18 needs of the client, the development, with the participation of the client and
19 any other persons requested by the client, of a personal services plan for
20 the client, the referral of the client to all appropriate community services,
21 and necessary advocacy on behalf of the client to ensure that the client
22 receives the services agreed to in his personal services plan.

23 (e) The requirement that a personal services plan ensure that the client
24 receive, to the extent practicable, services that are appropriate for the
25 client's age, gender and cultural background, and which are designed to
26 enable the client to:

27 (1) Live in the most independent, least restrictive housing feasible in
28 the region;

29 (2) Engage in the highest level of work or productive activity
30 appropriate to his abilities and experience;

31 (3) Create and maintain a support system consisting of friends, family
32 and participation in community activities;

33 (4) Access an appropriate level of academic education or vocational
34 training;

35 (5) Obtain an adequate income;

36 (6) Self-manage his illness and exert as much control as possible over
37 both the day-to-day and long-term decisions which affect his life;

38 (7) Access necessary physical health care and maintain the best
39 possible physical health;

40 (8) Reduce or eliminate antisocial or criminal behavior and thereby
41 reduce or eliminate his contact with the criminal justice system; and

42 (9) Reduce or eliminate the distress caused by the symptoms of
43 mental illness.

44 3. The Administrator shall, on or before October 1, 2001, develop and
45 issue a request for proposals from all interested persons to operate the
46 program.

47 4. The Administrator shall review all bids received pursuant to the
48 request for proposals and shall award a contract for the operation of the



1 program to the bidder who the Administrator determines is the most
2 qualified to operate the program.

3 5. The criteria for the awarding of the contract must include, without
4 limitation:

5 (a) An applicant's plan for providing a program of intensive and
6 integrated community services to adults who are seriously mentally ill and
7 homeless in a cost appropriate manner;

8 (b) The local population to be served, the ability of the applicant to
9 administer an effective program of such services, and the degree to which
10 local agencies and mental health advocates will support and collaborate
11 with the applicant in its provision of services; and

12 (c) The number of anticipated contacts with adults who are homeless or
13 at risk of homelessness, and the number of such adults who are seriously
14 mentally ill and who are likely to be successfully referred for treatment and
15 to remain in treatment until successfully discharged.

16 6. The contract must require the person to whom it is awarded to:

17 (a) Coordinate the eligibility of adults who are seriously mentally ill and
18 homeless for social services.

19 (b) Coordinate the access of adults who are seriously mentally ill and
20 homeless to:

21 (1) Medically necessary medications to treat severe mental illnesses;

22 (2) Alcohol and drug abuse services;

23 (3) Other health care;

24 (4) Housing assistance;

25 (5) Federal income and housing support; and

26 (6) Veterans' services.

27 (c) Provide adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless with:

28 (1) Intensive outreach services to identify and engage eligible clients;

29 (2) Psychiatric evaluations;

30 (3) Mental health services, including, without limitation, individual
31 and group therapy;

32 (4) The monitoring of their medications; and

33 (5) Intensive personal case management 24 hours a day, 7 days a
34 week.

35 (d) Refer adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless to
36 programs that offer vocational rehabilitation.

37 (e) Perform all other duties specified by the Administrator in the request
38 for proposals.

39 (f) Employ sufficient employees to carry out the contract.

40 **Sec. 2.** 1. The person to whom the contract is awarded shall submit
41 reports at the times and in the manner prescribed by the Administrator of
42 the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the
43 Department of Human Resources to the Southern Nevada Regional
44 Planning Coalition, the board of county commissioners of Clark County,
45 the city council of each city whose residents are being served by the
46 program, and the Administrator. The reports must include such
47 performance indicators as specified by the Administrator, including,
48 without limitation:



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- 1 (a) The number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
2 who have been contacted by the program, and the number of such adults
3 who:
4 (1) Have been provided services; and
5 (2) Have refused services.
- 6 (b) Of the number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
7 who have been provided services under the program, the number of such
8 adults who have received:
9 (1) Psychological assessments;
10 (2) Medical evaluations; and
11 (3) Medication.
- 12 (c) The percentage by which the hospitalization, incarceration and
13 homelessness of the adults who have been provided services under the
14 program has decreased since they began to receive such services.
- 15 (d) All other information required by the Administrator to assist him in
16 preparing his report to the Nevada Legislature pursuant to section 3 of this
17 act.
- 18 2. The Administrator shall report quarterly to the Interim Finance
19 Committee concerning the success of the program and the reports
20 submitted to him pursuant to subsection 1.
- 21 **Sec. 3.** The Administrator of the Division of Mental Health and
22 Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources shall, on
23 or before February 1, 2003, submit a report concerning the pilot program to
24 the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 72nd
25 session of the Nevada Legislature. The report must include, without
26 limitation, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in providing
27 successful outreach services, reducing homelessness, reducing costs and
28 the use of beds in hospital emergency rooms, and reducing crimes
29 committed by adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless, and may
30 include such other measures of success as determined by the Administrator
31 to be relevant. The evaluation must include as much of the following
32 information as possible:
- 33 1. The number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
34 who are being served through the pilot program and the number of those
35 adults who:
36 (a) Have been able to maintain housing;
37 (b) Have been able to maintain taking appropriate medication and
38 whose behavior has been stabilized through the use of such medication;
39 (c) Continue to receive mental health services and remain in the
40 program; and
41 (d) Receive extensive community mental health services, which
42 includes having a designated mental health case manager or
43 multidisciplinary treatment team, and a personal services plan.
- 44 2. The extent to which the hospitalization of adults who are seriously
45 mentally ill and homeless has been reduced or avoided.
- 46 3. The number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
47 who are being served by the pilot program who are participating in
48 employment service programs, including, without limitation, competitive
49 employment.



1 4. The effect of the pilot program on the number of adults who are
2 seriously mentally ill and homeless who are being served by the pilot
3 program who have been arrested or incarcerated, including the extent to
4 which the incarceration of such adults has been reduced or avoided on both
5 the state and local level.

6 5. The number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
7 who were contacted in outreach efforts provided through the pilot program
8 who appear to be severely mentally ill and who have refused treatment
9 after completion of all applicable outreach measures.

10 **Sec. 4.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the state general fund
11 to the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the
12 Department of Human Resources to be used to enter into a contract for the
13 operation of the pilot program established pursuant to section 1 of this act:

14 For the fiscal year 2001-2002..... \$1,000,000

15 For the fiscal year 2002-2003..... \$1,000,000

16 2. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at
17 the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for
18 expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal years and reverts to the
19 state general fund as soon as all payments of money committed have been
20 made.

21 **Sec. 5.** 1. This section and sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act become
22 effective upon passage and approval.

23 2. Section 4 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2001.

