

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

FIRST REPRINT

A.B. 346

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; 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



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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 available 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 within the limits of funding available from gifts, grants, donations,
35 contributions or other money, within the limits of funding available from
36 gifts, grants, donations, contributions or other money, establish a pilot
37 program in southern Nevada for the provision of a program of intensive
38 and integrated community services to adults who are seriously mentally ill
39 and homeless.

40 2. The Administrator shall establish standards of service for the pilot
41 program. The standards must ensure that adults in southern Nevada who
42 are seriously mentally ill and homeless are identified and services provided
43 to assist them to live independently, work and reach their potential as
44 productive residents of Nevada. The standards must include, without



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1 limitation, a service planning process with regard to such adults that
2 includes:

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

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

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

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

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

31 (1) Live in the most independent, least restrictive housing feasible in
32 the region;

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

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

37 (4) Access an appropriate level of academic education or vocational
38 training;

39 (5) Obtain an adequate income;

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

42 (7) Access necessary physical health care and maintain the best
43 possible physical health;

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

46 (9) Reduce or eliminate the distress caused by the symptoms of
47 mental illness.

48 3. If a pilot program is established pursuant to subsection 1, the
49 Administrator shall, not later than 3 months after making his determination



1 to establish the program, develop and issue a request for proposals from all
2 interested persons to operate the program.

3 4. The Administrator shall review all bids received pursuant to the
4 request for proposals and shall award a contract for the operation of the
5 program to the bidder who the Administrator determines is the most
6 qualified to operate the program.

7 5. The criteria for the awarding of the contract must include, without
8 limitation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (2) Alcohol and drug abuse services;

27 (3) Other health care;

28 (4) Housing assistance;

29 (5) Federal income and housing support; and

30 (6) Veterans' services.

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

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

33 (2) Psychiatric evaluations;

34 (3) Mental health services, including, without limitation, individual
35 and group therapy;

36 (4) The monitoring of their medications; and

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

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

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

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

44 **Sec. 2.** 1. The person to whom the contract is awarded shall submit
45 reports at the times and in the manner prescribed by the Administrator of
46 the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the
47 Department of Human Resources to the Southern Nevada Regional
48 Planning Coalition, the board of county commissioners of Clark County,
49 the city council of each city whose residents are being served by the



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1 program, and the Administrator. The reports must include such
2 performance indicators as specified by the Administrator, including,
3 without limitation:

4 (a) The number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
5 who have been contacted by the program, and the number of such adults
6 who:

7 (1) Have been provided services; and

8 (2) Have refused services.

9 (b) Of the number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
10 who have been provided services under the program, the number of such
11 adults who have received:

12 (1) Psychological assessments;

13 (2) Medical evaluations; and

14 (3) Medication.

15 (c) The percentage by which the hospitalization, incarceration and
16 homelessness of the adults who have been provided services under the
17 program has decreased since they began to receive such services.

18 (d) All other information required by the Administrator to assist him in
19 preparing his report to the Nevada Legislature pursuant to section 3 of this
20 act.

21 2. If a pilot program is established pursuant to subsection 1 of section
22 1 of this act, the Administrator shall report to the Interim Finance
23 Committee at its first meeting next following January 31, 2002, on the
24 status of, and the funding for, the pilot program, and on the reports
25 submitted to him pursuant to subsection 1.

26 **Sec. 3.** If a pilot program is established pursuant to subsection 1 of
27 section 1 of this act, the Administrator of the Division of Mental Health
28 and Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources shall,
29 on or before February 1, 2003, submit a report on the progress of the pilot
30 program to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal
31 to the 72nd session of the Nevada Legislature. The report must include,
32 without limitation, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in
33 providing successful outreach services, reducing homelessness, reducing
34 costs and the use of beds in hospital emergency rooms, and reducing
35 crimes committed by adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless,
36 and may include such other measures of success as determined by the
37 Administrator to be relevant. The evaluation must include as much of the
38 following information as possible:

39 1. The number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
40 who are being served through the pilot program and the number of those
41 adults who:

42 (a) Have been able to maintain housing;

43 (b) Have been able to maintain taking appropriate medication and
44 whose behavior has been stabilized through the use of such medication;

45 (c) Continue to receive mental health services and remain in the
46 program; and

47 (d) Receive extensive community mental health services, which
48 includes having a designated mental health case manager or
49 multidisciplinary treatment team, and a personal services plan.



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1 2. The extent to which the hospitalization of adults who are seriously
2 mentally ill and homeless has been reduced or avoided.

3 3. The number of adults who are seriously mentally ill and homeless
4 who are being served by the pilot program who are participating in
5 employment service programs, including, without limitation, competitive
6 employment.

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

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

16 **Sec. 4.** The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of
17 the Department of Human Resources may apply for and accept any gifts,
18 grants, donations, contributions or other money from any source to be used
19 to enter into a contract for the operation of a pilot program established
20 pursuant to subsection 1 of section 1 of this act.

21 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

