
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 40—ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE

PREFILED FEBRUARY 4, 2005

Referred to Concurrent Committees on
Health and Human Services and Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning community triage centers. (BDR 40-905)

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 health; requiring the licensure of community triage centers by the State Board of Health; authorizing an allegedly mentally ill person to be admitted to a community triage center for medical care before his emergency admission to a mental health facility under certain circumstances; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the State Board of Health to regulate and license medical facilities and defines the types of medical facilities which must be licensed and regulated. (NRS 449.0151, 449.037)

This bill creates an additional type of medical facility, a community triage center, which must be regulated and licensed by the State Board of Health. A community triage center is defined as a facility that provides 24-hour medical assessment and short-term monitoring of mentally ill persons or abusers of alcohol or drugs. This bill requires the State Board of Health to adopt regulations, standards and licensing procedures for these centers.

This bill appropriates money from the State General Fund to the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources for establishing a mental health and substance abuse screening and stabilization component at two community triage centers. A community triage center in Clark County will receive \$500,000, and a community triage center in Washoe County will receive \$100,000. The provision pertaining to the appropriation becomes effective upon passage of this bill.



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

Section 1. Chapter 449 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

“Community triage center” means a facility that provides on a 24-hour basis medical assessments of and short-term monitoring services for mentally ill persons and abusers of alcohol or drugs in a manner which does not require that the assessments and services be provided in a licensed hospital.

Sec. 2. NRS 449.001 is hereby amended to read as follows:

449.001 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 449.0015 to 449.019, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

Sec. 3. NRS 449.0151 is hereby amended to read as follows:

449.0151 “Medical facility” includes:

1. A surgical center for ambulatory patients;
2. An obstetric center;
3. An independent center for emergency medical care;
4. An agency to provide nursing in the home;
5. A facility for intermediate care;
6. A facility for skilled nursing;
7. A facility for hospice care;
8. A hospital;
9. A psychiatric hospital;
10. A facility for the treatment of irreversible renal disease;
11. A rural clinic;
12. A nursing pool;
13. A facility for modified medical detoxification;
14. A facility for refractive laser surgery; ~~and~~
15. A mobile unit ~~H~~; *and*
16. *A community triage center.*

Sec. 4. NRS 433A.165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

433A.165 1. Before an allegedly mentally ill person may be transported to a public or private mental health facility pursuant to NRS 433A.160, the person must:

(a) First be examined by a licensed physician or physician assistant or an advanced practitioner of nursing to determine whether the person has a medical problem, other than a psychiatric problem, which requires immediate treatment; and

(b) If such treatment is required, be admitted for the appropriate medical care:

(1) To a hospital if the person is in need of emergency services or care; or



(2) To *a community triage center* or another appropriate medical facility if the person is not in need of emergency services or care.

2. The examination and any transfer of the person from a facility when the person has an emergency medical condition and has not been stabilized must be conducted in compliance with:

(a) The requirements of 42 U.S.C. § 1395dd and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and must involve a person authorized pursuant to federal law to conduct such an examination or certify such a transfer; and

(b) The provisions of NRS 439B.410.

3. The cost of the examination must be paid by the county in which the allegedly mentally ill person resides if services are provided at a county hospital located in that county or a hospital or other medical facility designated by that county, unless the cost is voluntarily paid by the allegedly mentally ill person or, on his behalf, by his insurer or by a state or federal program of medical assistance.

4. The county may recover all or any part of the expenses paid by it, in a civil action against:

(a) The person whose expenses were paid;

(b) The estate of that person; or

(c) A responsible relative as prescribed in NRS 433A.610, to the extent that financial ability is found to exist.

5. The cost of treatment, including hospitalization, for an indigent must be paid pursuant to NRS 428.010 by the county in which the allegedly mentally ill person resides.

6. The Division shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section, including, without limitation, regulations that:

(a) Define "emergency services or care" as that term is used in this section; and

(b) Prescribe the type of *appropriate* medical facility that a person may be admitted to pursuant to subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1.

7. As used in this section ~~{, "medical"}~~ :

(a) *"Community triage center" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 1 of this act; and*

(b) *"Medical facility" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.0151.*

Sec. 5. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services of the Department of Human Resources:



1 1. The sum of \$500,000 for the establishment of a mental
2 health and substance abuse screening and stabilization component
3 for a community triage center to be operated in Clark County.

4 2. The sum of \$100,000 for the establishment of a mental
5 health and substance abuse screening and stabilization component
6 for a community triage center to be operated in Washoe County.

7 **Sec. 6.** Any remaining balance of an appropriation made by
8 section 5 of this act must not be committed for expenditure after
9 June 30, 2006, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or
10 before September 15, 2006.

11 **Sec. 7.** 1. This section and sections 5 and 6 of this act
12 become effective upon passage and approval.

13 2. Sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act become effective upon
14 passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and on
15 July 1, 2005, for all other purposes.

