House Bill 2417

Sponsored by Representatives SANchez, MARSH, SOllMAN; Representatives REArDON, REYNOLDS, Senators GElsER, WAGNER (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Requires Department of Human Services to administer program to provide matching grants to cities or counties to operate mobile crisis intervention teams.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to crisis intervention resources; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Human Services shall administer a program to provide 50 percent matching grants to cities or counties to fund mobile crisis intervention team programs as described in this section.

(2) A mobile crisis intervention team is a two-person team consisting of a nurse or an emergency medical services provider, as defined in ORS 682.025, and a crisis worker. Mobile crisis intervention teams rely on trauma-informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to:

(a) Facilitate conflict resolution;
(b) Conduct welfare checks;
(c) Provide substance abuse interventions;
(d) Address suicide threats; and
(e) Address nonemergency medical issues.

(3) 9-1-1 operators are trained to recognize calls with behavioral health components and route such calls to the mobile crisis intervention team. The team will respond by:

(a) Assessing the situation;
(b) Providing immediate stabilization in the case of an urgent medical need or behavioral health crisis;
(c) Providing information and referrals; and
(d) Transporting the individual, if necessary, for treatment.

(4) A grantee may elect to staff the crisis worker position with:

(a) Any of the following professionals:
(A) An individual with a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or counseling;
(B) An individual with a master's degree in social work licensed under ORS 675.530;
(C) A clinical social worker licensed under ORS 675.530;
(D) A professional counselor with clinical experience licensed under ORS 675.530;
(E) A licensed nurse practitioner with a specialty in psychiatric mental health; or
(F) An individual with training equivalent to an individual listed in this paragraph, as
specified by the department in grant solicitations; or

(b) An individual with at least a bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, counseling or a related field specified by the department in grant solicitations who is supervised by a licensed social worker with a master's degree or a licensed clinical social worker.

(5) To qualify for a grant under this section, a city or county must have:

(a)(A) At least one sobering facility registered under ORS 430.262;
(B) At least one shelter facility for every 65,000 residents;
(C) At least one crisis respite center; and
(D) Local law enforcement willing to engage in the effort; or

(b) An equivalent level of services and resources as specified by the department in grant solicitations.

(6) A city or county that does not meet the requirements of subsection (5)(a) of this section may qualify for up to $300,000 in matching grants to invest in:

(a) Establishing at least one sobering facility, at least one shelter facility for every 65,000 residents and at least one crisis center; or

(b) Addressing other needs of the city or county for behavioral health supports, as approved by the department.

(7) The Oregon Health Authority shall seek a waiver of Medicaid laws or any other form of approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that is necessary to secure federal financial participation in the costs of providing grants under this section or the costs of operating mobile crisis intervention teams.

SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of $10,000,000, which shall be expended for:

(1) Providing grants to cities or counties to operate mobile crisis intervention teams under section 1 of this 2021 Act; and

(2) Funding one full-time equivalent position for the City of Eugene to provide support for the city's mobile crisis intervention team.

SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect July 1, 2021.