

SB 6251: Coordinating Regional Behavioral Crisis Response and Suicide Prevention Services

WHAT DOES SB 6251 DO?

- Requires Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (BH-ASOs) to establish coordination within the behavioral health response system in their regional service area.
- Allows BH-ASOs to convene regional stakeholders, including lived experience, to develop protocols for the regional behavioral health crisis response system.
- The Department of Health (DOH) and Health Care Authority (HCA) must provide support to BH-ASOs in developing protocols
- Requires 988 contact hubs to enter data-sharing agreements with regional crisis lines that include real-time information sharing.

TALKING POINTS

- Currently behavioral health crisis services are siloed and may not coordinate with each other or the state, leading to unrealized gaps in the system.
- Regional crisis centers, first responders, and local behavioral health service centers don't have well-established communication systems, posing challenges in providing services to callers.
- The current system can be daunting and difficult to navigate for people trying to access services. Many people give up in frustration, unable to get the care they need.
- This bill aims to coordinate the crisis response system between local BH-ASOs and state agencies (HCA and DOH) allowing for improved services for people in crisis.
- Creates real-time information sharing to streamline and optimize crisis response.
- Allows regional BH-ASOs to develop a crisis response system that is responsive to the needs of their local communities.
- We need a behavioral health crisis system that is easy to navigate, easier to access, and meets the unique needs of every community in Washington state.



CONTACT:

ANNA NEPOMUCENO, PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR: ANEPOMUCENO@NAMIWA.ORG

MICHAEL TRANSUE, CONTRACT LOBBYIST: CMJTRANSUE@TRANSUE.ONMICROSOFT.COM