

Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD) report and status assessment

Second Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5536 Section 24(2); Chapter 1, Laws of 2023

June 30, 2024

Legislative summary

Second Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill (2E2SSB) 5536, section 24, codified as **RCW 71.24.909**, instructs the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to contract with Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to study the short-term implementation and long-term effectiveness of the Recovery Navigator programs authorized under **RCW 71.24.115** and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion programs authorized under **RCW 71.24.589**. It also directs HCA to provide data to WSIPP for these reports (Sec 24§3) and to establish an expedited approval process for WSIPP studies that are directed by the legislature (Sec 24§4).

The legislative assignment requires findings from this assessment to be submitted to the governor and relevant committees of the legislature by June 30, 2024. However, the Legislature did not dedicate any funding for this work in the 2023 operating budget.

Background

Report requirements

RCW 71.24.909 instructs HCA to contract with WSIPP to review the analysis of the law enforcement assisted diversion standards fidelity index, conducted by an independent research scientist having expertise in law enforcement assisted diversion evaluation. The statute specifies that the report should include findings for each standard assessed, for each recovery navigator program in each behavioral health administrative services organization region. In addition, the report is to describe the utilization of technical support from the law enforcement-assisted diversion national support bureau by recovery navigator program contractors, the authority, and behavioral health administrative services organizations, and to identify barriers to achieving fidelity to core principles.

Additionally, the language directs WSIPP to describe law enforcement-assisted diversion programs in Washington state that are not affiliated with recovery navigator programs and could include recommendations for changes to recovery navigator programs reported by recovery navigator program administrators, stakeholders, or participants.

HCA, behavioral health administrative services organizations, and other recovery navigator program administrators are required to cooperate with WSIPP in conducting this assessment.

Current status

Obtained funding and an updated timeline

HCA, in conjunction with WSIPP submitted a Decision Package to request additional financial resources in the 2024 Supplemental budget to obtain the funding necessary to carry out the work directed by [RCW 71.24.909](#).

During the 2024 Legislative session, the Governor's budget allocated \$141,000 for this project for Fiscal Year 2025. This funding was confirmed in the conference budget passed on March 6, 2024. HCA and WSIPP met on March 14 to discuss the contracting process and updated timeline. The contract is anticipated to be executed by July 1, 2024, and WSIPP indicated that the study is expected to be completed by June 30, 2025.

Contact

For questions relating to this report, please contact [Tony Walton – Adult Substance Use Disorder Section Manager](#).