

245.4661 PILOT PROJECTS; ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Authorization for pilot projects.** The commissioner of human services may approve pilot projects to provide alternatives to or enhance coordination of the delivery of mental health services required under the Minnesota Comprehensive Adult Mental Health Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 245.461 to 245.486.

Subd. 2. **Program design and implementation.** The pilot projects shall be established to design, plan, and improve the mental health service delivery system for adults with serious and persistent mental illness that would:

(1) provide an expanded array of services from which clients can choose services appropriate to their needs;

(2) be based on purchasing strategies that improve access and coordinate services without cost shifting;

(3) incorporate existing state facilities and resources into the community mental health infrastructure through creative partnerships with local vendors; and

(4) utilize existing categorical funding streams and reimbursement sources in combined and creative ways, except appropriations to regional treatment centers and all funds that are attributable to the operation of state-operated services are excluded unless appropriated specifically by the legislature for a purpose consistent with this section or section 246.0136, subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. **Program evaluation.** Evaluation of each project will be based on outcome evaluation criteria negotiated with each project prior to implementation.

Subd. 4. **Notice of project discontinuation.** Each project may be discontinued for any reason by the project's managing entity or the commissioner of human services, after 90 days' written notice to the other party.

Subd. 5. **Planning for pilot projects.** (a) Each local plan for a pilot project, with the exception of the placement of a Minnesota specialty treatment facility as defined in paragraph (c), must be developed under the direction of the county board, or multiple county boards acting jointly, as the local mental health authority. The planning process for each pilot shall include, but not be limited to, mental health consumers, families, advocates, local mental health advisory councils, local and state providers, representatives of state and local public employee bargaining units, and the department of human services. As part of the planning process, the county board or boards shall designate a managing entity responsible for receipt of funds and management of the pilot project.

(b) For Minnesota specialty treatment facilities, the commissioner shall issue a request for proposal for regions in which a need has been identified for services.

(c) For purposes of this section, "Minnesota specialty treatment facility" is defined as an intensive rehabilitative mental health service under section 256B.0622, subdivision 2, paragraph (b).

Subd. 6. **Duties of commissioner.** (a) For purposes of the pilot projects, the commissioner shall facilitate integration of funds or other resources as needed and requested by each project. These resources may include:

(1) community support services funds administered under Minnesota Rules, parts 9535.1700 to 9535.1760;

(2) other mental health special project funds;

(3) medical assistance, general assistance medical care, MinnesotaCare and group residential housing if requested by the project's managing entity, and if the commissioner determines this would be consistent with the state's overall health care reform efforts;

(4) regional treatment center resources consistent with section 246.0136, subdivision 1; and

(5) funds transferred from section 246.18, subdivision 8, for grants to providers to participate in mental health specialty treatment services, awarded to providers through a request for proposal process.

(b) The commissioner shall consider the following criteria in awarding start-up and implementation grants for the pilot projects:

(1) the ability of the proposed projects to accomplish the objectives described in subdivision 2;

(2) the size of the target population to be served; and

(3) geographical distribution.

(c) The commissioner shall review overall status of the projects initiatives at least every two years and recommend any legislative changes needed by January 15 of each odd-numbered year.

(d) The commissioner may waive administrative rule requirements which are incompatible with the implementation of the pilot project.

(e) The commissioner may exempt the participating counties from fiscal sanctions for noncompliance with requirements in laws and rules which are incompatible with the implementation of the pilot project.

(f) The commissioner may award grants to an entity designated by a county board or group of county boards to pay for start-up and implementation costs of the pilot project.

Subd. 7. **Duties of county board.** The county board, or other entity which is approved to administer a pilot project, shall:

(1) administer the project in a manner which is consistent with the objectives described in subdivision 2 and the planning process described in subdivision 5;

(2) assure that no one is denied services for which they would otherwise be eligible; and

(3) provide the commissioner of human services with timely and pertinent information through the following methods:

(i) submission of mental health plans and plan amendments which are based on a format and timetable determined by the commissioner;

(ii) submission of social services expenditure and grant reconciliation reports, based on a coding format to be determined by mutual agreement between the project's managing entity and the commissioner; and

(iii) submission of data and participation in an evaluation of the pilot projects, to be designed cooperatively by the commissioner and the projects.

Subd. 8. **Budget flexibility.** The commissioner may make budget transfers that do not increase the state share of costs to effectively implement the restructuring of adult mental health services.

History: *1999 c 245 art 5 s 21; 2005 c 98 art 3 s 6; 1Sp2005 c 4 art 2 s 2; art 5 s 4,5; 2013 c 107 art 4 s 1,2; 2013 c 108 art 4 s 2,3*