

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill amends chapter 256B, the medical assistance chapter, to allow services provided by a mental health certified peer review specialist to be reimbursable under medical assistance when provided to consumers of intensive rehabilitative mental health services or adult rehabilitative mental health services.

Section

1 Mental health certified peer review specialist. Adds § 256B.0615.

Subd. 1. Scope. States that services provided by a certified peer review specialist are covered services under medical assistance, subject to federal approval, when the recipients are eligible for intensive rehabilitative mental health services under section 256B.0622 or adult rehabilitative mental health services under section 256B.0623.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Instructs the commissioner of human services to establish a certified peer review specialist program that provides nonclinical peer support tailored to the needs of the consumer and serving as a component of wrap around services. The service is to promote socialization and recovery, among other things.

Subd. 3. Eligibility. Provides that peer support services may be made available to consumers of intensive rehabilitative mental health services or adult rehabilitative

Section

mental health services.

Subd. 4. Peer support specialist program providers. Instructs the commissioner of human services to develop a certification process in accord with federal guidelines, so that services of certified peer review specialists are eligible for reimbursement under the medical assistance program. Provides that peer support programs may be freestanding or within existing mental health community provider centers.

Subd. 5. Certified peer specialist training and certification. Instructs the commissioner of human services to develop training and a certification process for peer specialists. To be considered for peer specialist training an individual must have had a primary diagnosis of mental illness and be a current or former consumer of mental health services and must demonstrate leadership and advocacy skills along with a strong dedication to recovery. Instructs the commissioner to develop continuing education workshops.

- 2 **Definitions.** Amends § 256B.0622, subdivision 2. Clarifies professionals who are members of a treatment team, and adds certified peer specialists to the definition of "treatment team".
- 3 **Qualifications of provider staff.** Amends § 256B.0623, subdivision 5. Adds certified peer specialists, working under the supervision of a mental health professional, as eligible providers of adult rehabilitative mental health services.