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Overview

This bill, if enacted, would establish the mental health innovation grant program and the mental health innovation account. This account would be funded by revenue generated from county payments for cost of care provided at regional treatment centers (RTCs) and community behavioral health hospitals (CBHHs) under section 246.54, which currently goes to the general fund. Money in the account would be disbursed for the purposes of the grant program. The bill specifies how and when grants would be awarded, and appropriates money to start the grant program.

Section

1 Grant program; mental health innovation.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the following terms: community mental health center, community partnership, eligible applicant, intensive residential treatment services, and metropolitan area.

“Eligible applicant” includes a county, facility or organization providing community support and day treatment services, community mental health center, hospital, or community partnership.

Subd. 2. Grants authorized. Authorizes the commissioner to award grants to eligible applicants to plan, establish, or operate programs to improve community-based outpatient mental health services. Specifies that half of grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the metropolitan area, and half outside the area, and that criteria grants must be published by September 1, 2017.

Section

Subd. 3. Allocation of grants. Specifies application deadlines and what applications must contain. Lists guidelines for the commissioner to establish criteria, and relevant factors for the commissioner to consider. Lists preference for grant awards in the following order: intensive residential treatment services, mental health urgent care centers, community mental health centers, other innovative projects.

Subd 4. Awarding of grants. Instructs commissioner to notify grantees by December 15, 2017, and disburse funds by January 1, 2018, and each year thereafter.

- 2 **Collections deposited in the general fund.** Amends § 246.18, subd. 4 to remove the requirement that receipts from collection efforts for RTCs and CBHHs (county payments) be deposited in the general fund.
- 3 **Mental health innovation account.** Amends § 246.18 by adding subdivision 4a, establishing the mental health innovation account in the special revenue fund. Payments from counties for cost of care provided at RTCs and CBHHs under section 246.54 that currently go to the general fund would instead go to this account. This account would fund the mental health innovation grant program after the initial appropriation.
- 4 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2018 to the commissioner to administer the mental health innovation grant program.