

Subject Access to mental health services; providers of mental health services

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Overview

This bill modifies various statutes to increase patient access to mental health services provided by clinical mental health trainees, to train additional providers of mental health services, and to expand the types of mental health services funded with adult mental health grants. It also appropriates money for these purposes.

Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | <p>Mental health services.</p> <p>Adds subd. 3c to § 62A.15. Requires a group policy or subscriber contract that covers mental health treatment or services provided by a mental health professional to also cover treatment and services provided by a clinical trainee practicing in compliance with the medical assistance requirements for covering services provided by a clinical trainee.</p> <p>Makes this section effective January 1, 2020, and applicable to policies and contracts offered, issued, or renewed on or after that date.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Denial of benefits.</p> <p>Amends § 62A.15, subd. 4. If a health carrier denies a payment claim for mental health services provided by a licensed mental health professional or clinical trainee, requires the denial to be made by, under the direction of, or subject to review by a licensed mental health professional.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Definitions.</p> <p>Amends § 62J.692, subd. 1. Makes a clinical medical education program that trains marriage and family therapists or professional clinical counselors eligible to receive grant funds under the medical education and research costs (MERC) program administered by the commissioner of health.</p> |

| Section | Description |
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| 4 | <p>Application process.</p> <p>Amends § 62J.692, subd. 3. Adds a clinical medical education program that trains marriage and family therapists or professional clinical counselors to the types of programs that may apply for MERC funds.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Expansion grant program.</p> <p>Amends § 144.1506, subd. 2. Under current law, a primary care residency program is eligible for a training grant from the commissioner of health for a residency slot for a three-year period. If a residency program lasts longer than three years, this section allows training grants to be awarded for the duration of the residency, but prohibits training grants from exceeding an average of \$100,000 per residency slot per year.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Practicum incentive payments.</p> <p>Adds subd. 4 to § 245.464. Directs the commissioner of human services to consult with stakeholders and develop a payment mechanism and criteria for payments to mental health providers who demonstrate commitment to providing students with practicum opportunities that focus on evidence-based treatment interventions.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Services and programs.</p> <p>Amends § 245.4661, subd. 9. Makes traditional healing provided to American Indians eligible for funding from adult mental health grants.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Mental health training program for pediatric residents.</p> <p>Requests that the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota develop a clinical mental health training program for pediatric residents, located in outpatient child psychiatric care clinics. Establishes criteria for the training program.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Appropriations.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Mental health training program. Appropriates money in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to plan, design, and implement the mental health training program for pediatric residents.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Health professional education loan forgiveness program. Increases appropriations in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the health professional education loan forgiveness program, and dedicates a portion of those appropriations to loan forgiveness for mental health professionals practicing in underserved urban areas and in clinical locations where at least 50 percent of the clients are covered by medical assistance.</p> |

| Section | Description |
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| | <p>Subd. 3. Adult mental health grants. Makes a blank appropriation in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for adult mental health grants for traditional healing provided to American Indians.</p> |
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