

CHAPTER 136.

[S. B. 261.]

MENTAL HEALTH.

AN ACT relating to mental health; providing for establishment of psychiatric outpatient clinics in state hospitals; establishing local or community mental health committees and a mental health program; and amending chapter 43.19 RCW by adding five new sections thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Chapter 43.19 RCW is amended by adding five new sections to read as follows: New sections.

SEC. 2. The department of public institutions or its successor shall cooperate with other departments of state government and its political subdivisions in the following manner: Department of public institutions to cooperate with other departments and political subdivisions.

(1) By disseminating educational information relating to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, mental disorders or mental deficiency.

(2) Upon request therefor, by advising public officers, organizations and agencies interested in the mental health of the people of the state.

SEC. 3. The department of public institutions is hereby authorized to establish and maintain psychiatric outpatient clinics at such of the several state mental institutions as the director shall designate for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses, deficiencies or disorders, and the services of such clinics shall be available to any citizen of the state in need thereof, when determined by a physician that such services are not otherwise available, subject to the rules of the department. Psychiatric outpatient clinics.

SEC. 4. The department and the several state hospitals for the mentally ill shall cooperate with local mental health programs by providing necessary information, recommendations relating to proper after care for patients paroled or discharged from such in- Department of public institutions to cooperate with local programs.

stitutions and shall also supply the services of psychiatrists, psychologists and other persons specialized in mental illness as they are available.

Duties of
local agencies.

SEC. 5: The board of health in any health district created under the provisions of chapter 70.46 RCW; and in all counties not having a health district, the county board of health; and in cities of the first class, the city health department, or a combined city-county health department as provided in chapter 70.08 RCW (hereinafter called "the local health department") shall:

(1) Cooperate with the patient's physician and the several state hospitals for the mentally ill, in providing necessary after care services for patients who leave the state hospitals for the mentally ill on a parole or discharge basis. The local health department in cooperation with the local county or district medical society shall coordinate, plan and develop consultative and other necessary supporting services for such patients.

(2) Cooperate with the county or district medical society, in coordinating, planning, and developing consultative and other services with respect to persons who have emotional or mental problems or persons who appear to be in need of specialized help because of such problems: *Provided*, That the community mental health program shall cooperate with any juvenile delinquency prevention program of the division of children and youth services.

(3) Establish, in cooperation with the county or district medical society, a community mental health committee for the geographical area within the local health department jurisdiction. The committee shall be composed of available representatives from the county or district medical society, the courts, law enforcement agencies, public and private school authorities, public assistance department, the clergy, and other organized groups interested in the

field of mental health. Such committee shall meet and organize within three months after the effective date of this act, and shall hold at least two meetings each year. Such committee with the assistance of the county or district medical society and the local health department shall study the causes and incidence of emotional and mental illness and disorders in the community and may develop a local mental health program and formulate plans for prevention, discovery and treatment of such disorders consistent with the findings of the study and in conjunction with the services of the outpatient clinics of the several state hospitals whenever such services are available in the local community.

(4) In cooperation with the county or district medical society and the local mental health committee, conduct such educational and related work as will tend to encourage the development of a sound mental health program, and in so doing may have consultation and assistance from the state department of health.

SEC. 6. The local health department may employ specialized staff to assist in carrying out the local mental health program and may apply to the state department of health for financial assistance from appropriations to the department for this purpose.

Staff of local
health
departments.

Passed the Senate March 1, 1955.

Passed the House March 8, 1955.

Approved by the Governor March 14, 1955.