State Hospital Ward Closures Overview

Senate Ways and Means Committee
February 13, 2001
Work Session on the Governor’s proposal to reduce the size of the state psychiatric hospitals

- Committee staff overview of current mental health system, and budgetary aspects of the proposal.

- DSHS presentation on the specifics of the proposal: who, why, how, when, where?

- Feedback from knowledgeable groups: community mental health system; hospital staff; advocates for people with mental illness.
The state-funded mental health system has two primary components.

1999-01 Operating Budget
(All Funds, In Millions)

- **State-Operated Hospitals**: $328
- **Contracted Community Services**: $653
- **All Other***: $37

*includes Special Commitment Center, special projects, and central administration.
Regional Support Networks are the prime contractors for community mental health services

39 counties organized into 14 RSN’s are responsible for:

- Crisis response services.
- Hospital admissions, discharge coordination, and follow-up care.
- Mental health services for 800,000 Medicaid recipients ($110 million/year for drugs paid directly by DSHS).
- Services for other chronically mentally ill and seriously disturbed persons, to the extent funds are available.
- Service coordination with criminal justice, substance abuse, long-term care, developmental disabilities, children’s services, health care and public school systems.
About 46,000 people per month receive state-supported community mental health services

- About 70% are Medicaid enrollees.
- Other 30% probably on GAU; low-income uninsured; homeless & not engaged with any system; and undocumented persons.
- 23% prioritized as acutely mentally ill, 36% as chronically mentally ill.
Washington has two state-operated psychiatric hospitals

✓ Eastern State Hospital in Medical Lake (near Spokane)

310 patients.
700 FTE employees.
$40 million annual budget ($17 million state, balance federal Medicaid, Medicare, & insurance).

✓ Western State Hospital in Lakewood (near Tacoma)

1,000 patients.
2,000 FTE Employees.
$116 million annual budget ($57 million state).
The state hospitals serve persons who have been judicially committed into DSHS’s care

- 97% of geriatric and adult unit residents have been civilly-committed to DSHS care as a danger to themselves or others.
- RSN's pay part of the cost if geriatric and adult census exceeds 1,011.
- Forensic units evaluate competency for trial, & provide ongoing treatment for felony offenders judged incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity.
- Forensic capacity not reduced under the Governor’s proposal.
The average number of persons served in the state hospitals has decreased by about 170 (12%) over the past decade.

- Adult family home arson: DD census starts to increase.
- Kingdome stabbing: adult census starts to increase.
- Significant initial increases in RSN funding.
- Legislature authorizes closure of hospital beds, with part of GF-S savings to RSN’s.
The Governor’s budget proposes reducing the state hospital population by 447 during the first 15 months of next biennium.
The Western State Hospital population would be reduced by 40%, and the Eastern State Hospital population by 10%, by October 2002.
The number of beds available for civil commitments would be reduced by about 45%
New community services would replace the hospital beds, for a projected savings of $15 million next biennium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding for New Community Services</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aging &amp; Adult Services</td>
<td>$7.8</td>
<td>$15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol and Substance Abuse</td>
<td>$6.1</td>
<td>$6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New RSN Services</td>
<td>$3.5</td>
<td>$3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$17.4</td>
<td>$25.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Reduction in Hospital Expenditures                  | ($32.6)| ($40.9)|

| Net Anticipated Savings                              | ($15.3)| ($15.0)|

Dollars in Millions