Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SERVICE INTEGRATION ADMINISTRATION



Criminal Incompetency

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)
GF-State	(\$275,000)	(\$275,000)	(\$550,000)
Total	(\$461,000)	(\$461,000)	(\$922,000)

REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration (BHSIA) is submitting the following reduction option to reduce approximately 50 percent of the funding for program administration and oversight of HB 1114 addressing violent, legally incompetent, and mentally ill individuals' released to the community where they could potentially commit further acts of violence due to the offender's mental condition and/or developmental disability.

REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL

This program provides for coordination with mental health professionals, RSNs, and state hospital staff to develop an effective, efficient program to meet the treatment needs of violent, legally incompetent, and mentally ill individuals' discharged from the state hospitals back into the community. The fiscal note estimated that there would be approximately 42 individuals who would be eligible for the program. However, the program currently has fewer than 20 participants.

The project provides substantial monitoring of the discharged individuals and includes individualized funding for housing and other essential needs not covered by other forms of public assistance. Funding for housing is a critical component of the project, given that this population is notoriously difficult to house and very few landlords are willing to rent to these individuals.

A reduction to this program will result in fewer discharges from the state hospital for this population. Additionally, when these individuals are released there will be a greater potential that the consumer could re-offend, committing additional acts of violence due to their mental condition and/or developmental disability.

By implementing this reduction, BHSIA expects to decrease funds for monitoring and oversight. Client and staff impact is low; however, public safety could be at risk. The individuals in this program would be at risk for incarceration and/or hospitalization.



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When fully implemented, the program would have required amendments to RSN contracts, RSN staff participation, and a review of each case by the Public Safety Review Panel.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

The following stakeholders would have concerns about the reduction to this program: Public Safety Groups, the Public Safety Review Panel, State Law Enforcement Officials, Victim/Witness Groups, and Regional Support Networks.

