

**RCW 71.24.435 Behavioral health system—Improvement strategy.**

(1) The systems responsible for financing, administration, and delivery of publicly funded mental health and substance use disorder services to adults must be designed and administered to achieve improved outcomes for adult clients served by those systems through increased use and development of evidence-based, research-based, and promising practices, as defined in RCW 71.24.025. For purposes of this section, client outcomes include: Improved health status; increased participation in employment and education; reduced involvement with the criminal justice system; enhanced safety and access to treatment for forensic patients; reduction in avoidable utilization of and costs associated with hospital, emergency room, and crisis services; increased housing stability; improved quality of life, including measures of recovery and resilience; and decreased population level disparities in access to treatment and treatment outcomes.

(2) The authority must implement a strategy for the improvement of the behavioral health system. [2019 c 325 § 5010; 2014 c 225 § 64; 2013 c 338 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.20A.895.]

**Effective date—2019 c 325:** See note following RCW 71.24.011.

**Effective date—2014 c 225:** See note following RCW 71.24.016.

**Effective date—2014 c 225 § 1:** "Section 1 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 4, 2014]." [2014 c 225 § 111.]