

Family Initiated Treatment (FIT) Expansion

Survey results impact report

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1874; Section 24; Chapter 381, Laws of 2019

[RCW 71.34.3871](#)

November 1, 2021

Legislative summary

The Adolescent Behavioral Health Care Access Act E2SHB 1874 (2019) directs the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to do a yearly survey to “measure the impacts of implementing policies resulting from chapter 381, laws of 2019 during the first three years of implementation.” HCA is submitting this report in accordance with section 24 of this legislation, and with [RCW 71.34.3871](#):

“The Authority must report on the results of the surveys annually to the governor and the legislature beginning November 1, 2020. The final report is due November 1, 2022, and must include any recommendations for statutory changes identified as needed based on survey results.”

Background

The 2020 survey was launched in the spring, early in the COVID-19 global pandemic. The timing of the survey’s release, within the pandemic, impacted engagement levels with respondents, especially with youth and parents/caregivers. HCA identified the need to increase survey engagement in the 2020 report aiming to ensure that the survey would accurately inform and identify system impacts related to the 2018 adolescent access to care act.

HCA faced challenges and was unsuccessful at completing the Family Initiated Treatment (FIT) system impacts survey for the fiscal year 2021 due to technological system changes inside the agency, focused on improving security.

Next steps

Following agency system changes, HCA’s Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) has begun work to contract with Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Research and Data Analysis (RDA) who will provide expert consultation and technical assistance on survey development, methodology, and uses. This may include technical assistance in framing survey questions, developing survey sampling and administration plans, formatting online survey instruments, and planning analysis as we re-tool after losing initial algorithms in the original surveys.

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The bill required HCA to implement the survey annually through 2022 and make final recommendations at that time. We plan to do that and continue the survey through 2024, with the intention of continuing to inform policy based on outcomes to ensure insight into rollout and impacts, post COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact Enos Mbajah, prenatal to 25 school-age supervisor, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery at enos.mbajah@hca.wa.gov.