

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 713 (Mullin)

As Amended March 28, 2019

Majority vote

SUMMARY:

Modifies parameters governing the Early Psychosis Intervention Plus (EPI Plus) Program authorized in statute. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Deletes the requirement that implementation of the program be contingent on at least \$500,000 of non-state funds into the Early Psychosis and Mood Disorder (EPMD) Detection and Intervention Fund (EPMD fund), thus allowing state funds to be the funding source for the program.
- 2) Deletes the prohibition on General Fund (GF) appropriations for purposes of the program.

COMMENTS:

Mental Health Services Act – Early Psychosis Intervention Efforts. With the passage of AB 1315 (Mullin), Chapter 414, Statutes of 2017, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) has taken steps to further the goal of establishing a program to enhance existing early psychosis programs and to expand the number of programs throughout California. MHSOAC has established the required Advisory Committee to assist the Commission in developing the program, the EPMD fund has been established to receive revenues and the MHSOAC has begun to work with state, local and national leaders on the issue of early psychosis treatment and interventions. As part of that work, MHSOAC has facilitated a multi-county collaborative that has resulted in the commitment of \$10 million in public and private funds to support improvements in existing early psychosis programs and the development of a technical assistance, research and evaluation strategy to support those programs.

Early Psychosis Research and Treatment Funding. The Governor's proposed 2019-20 Budget includes a one-time augmentation of \$25 million (including up to \$1 million limited-term resources for state operations) to Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide grants to qualified grantees to identify and support appropriate interventions for California youth experiencing the signs of early psychosis. Grantees must utilize grant funds to:

- 1) Improve access to youth, young adults and their families who are at risk or experiencing psychotic symptoms or diagnosed with a psychotic disorder;
- 2) Demonstrate programmatic effectiveness in client outcomes, including both clinical and non-clinical measures;
- 3) Support families with a family member (youth or young adult) with early psychosis or psychotic disorder through education, counseling and case management;
- 4) Improve an individual's experience in accessing services and building their capacity to support their own recovery and function;

- 5) Describe outreach strategies on identifying and reaching youth, young adults, and impacted families, including a diversity of California populations that reflect different ethnic, sexual orientation, racial, religious, economic status and other marginalized populations;
- 6) Demonstrate sustainability for the period after the grant monies have been expended, including a plan for linking patients with ongoing care needs to other public programs such as Medi-Cal; and,
- 7) Reduce a youth or young adult's unnecessary hospitalization or interaction with public safety officials such as juvenile hall or jail.

According to the Author:

This bill facilitates the implementation of the EPI Plus program established through AB 1315, by removing the original requirement for the inclusion of \$500,000 in non-state funding into the EPMD fund before the program could begin and removing the prohibitions against the EPMD receiving GF monies. Removing this original funding requirement will allow counties to immediately start receiving funding from existing resources that will allow them to provide essential mental health services to residents.

Arguments in Support:

The Steinberg Institute, states that in 2017, the Governor signed AB 1315 seeking to expand resources for early psychosis intervention and serious mood disorder services. AB 1315 created a first-of-its-kind program in California dedicated to funding evidence-based intervention and treatments that have proven effective in arresting conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar and other mood disorders before they become disabling. However, the legislation requires that non-state funding must be deposited first into the EPMD fund before implementation of the program. Unfortunately, this requirement has been an impediment to implementation.

Arguments in Opposition:

There is no registered opposition.

FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, ongoing cost pressure, likely in the millions of dollars annually, to fund program grants to eligible counties (Early Psychosis Detection and Intervention Fund, comprised of revenues potentially from the GF, federal funds, or private funds). The program allows for the donation of private and other funds for the purpose, but in absence of such funds, there would be cost pressure on the GF.

Further, administrative costs, potentially of about \$100,000 to the MHSOAC (Early Psychosis Detection and Intervention Fund; Commission administrative funds pursuant to the Mental Health Services Act may be able to be transferred to the fund, or otherwise used to pay for the administrative costs).

VOTES:

ASM HEALTH: 15-0-0

YES: Wood, Mayes, Aguiar-Curry, Bigelow, Bonta, Burke, Carrillo, Flora, Limón, McCarty, Nazarian, Ramos, Rodriguez, Santiago, Waldron

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 18-0-0

YES: Gonzalez, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonta, Brough, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Diep, Eggman, Fong, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Maienschein, Obernolte, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Robert Rivas

UPDATED:

VERSION: March 28, 2019

CONSULTANT: Judith Babcock / HEALTH / (916) 319-2097

FN: 0000579